



# Introduction

## Building Structures that Last

05

Formal Spanish	2
Formal English	2
*Informal Spanish	2
Informal English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3
Cultural Insight	4

\* Audio Conversation



## Formal Spanish

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AMANDA Buen día ¿Qué tal, César?  
CÉSAR Muy bien, Amanda, gracias. ¿Y a usted, cómo le va?  
AMANDA Me va bien, felizmente.  
CÉSAR ¡Qué bueno verla después de tanto tiempo!  
AMANDA De igual manera.

## Formal English

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AMANDA Good day. How are you, César?  
CÉSAR Very well, Amanda, thank you. And how is it going for you?  
AMANDA It's going well, fortunately.  
CÉSAR It is great to see you after such a long time!  
AMANDA Likewise.

## Informal Spanish

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AMANDA ¡Hola! ¿Qué tal, César?  
CÉSAR Todo bien, Amanda, gracias. ¿Y a ti, cómo te va?  
AMANDA Me va bien, felizmente.  
CÉSAR ¡Qué bueno verte después de tanto tiempo!  
AMANDA De igual manera.  
[Click here for entire dialogue.](#)

## Informal English

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AMANDA Hey! What's going on, César?  
CÉSAR Everything is going well, Amanda, thanks. And how's it going for you?  
AMANDA It's going well, fortunately.  
CÉSAR It's great to see you after such a long time!  
AMANDA Likewise.



## Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
ir	to go	verb	<i>Latin, ire (to go)</i>
ver	to see	verb	<i>Latin, vidēre (to see, to look at)</i>
tanto, -a	so much, so many	adjective, adverb, masc. noun	<i>Latin, tantus (as much, so much)</i>
tiempo	time	masc. noun	<i>Latin, tempus (a division or section in time or space)</i>

### Sample Sentences

Me va bien. It's going well for me.

Siempre nos vemos. We always see each other.

Me gusta tanto que quiero repetir. I like it so much that I want to have seconds.

No hay mucho tiempo para estudiar. There is not much time to study.

### Grammar Points

In today's lesson, we looked at the verb "ir", when it's used in the question "¿cómo te va?" (how is it going for you?) and the answer "me va bien" (it's going well for me). These expressions are indispensable for two reasons: 1) they are very common and anyone speaking Spanish is bound to run into them; and 2) the word order here is very characteristic of the Spanish language and, therefore, can be used as a model.

Let's look a little more closely at the question:

¿[Cómo] + [te] + [va]?  
[How] + [for you] + [does it go]?

You're probably wondering why we can translate the word "te" as "for you". The reason is because "te" is what we call an *indirect object pronoun*. This means that it "indirectly" receives the action of the verb, but really, that's another topic. You can check it out in many other lessons and especially in the Grammar Bank.

Now, onto the answer:

[Me] + [va] + [bien].  
[For me] + [it goes] + [well].



So, it's pretty clear that learning Spanish is going to mean building a new framework in which you'll learn to make constructions (simple at first and later complex) in order to give you a foundation. From there, you'll be able to build and build and construct on your own.

## Cultural Insight

In today's lesson conversation, we see the phrase "me va bien, felizmente" (it's going well for me, fortunately). This last word really brings out a predominant attitude that one can expect to find in Latin America: gratitude. Expressions of thanks are very common, and you're likely to see this attitude take shape in parts of speech as basic as a response like "I'm doing well, fortunately". In English, if someone were to respond this way, we might think "what was wrong?", but in Spanish, this is common practice. Knowing these kinds of insider tips will allow you to really interact with people in the Spanish-speaking world. As soon as they see that you've taken some time to learn some of their customs, they'll be much more likely to spend time talking to you and getting to know you.

