

Una gran celebración

Let's party! Family celebrations are a popular reason for Spanish speakers to reach out and stay connected. Birthdays (*los cumpleaños*) are important social events that bring families and friends together. They are often celebrated with music, eating, and dancing and may last until the early morning hours.

In several Spanish-speaking countries, a girl's fifteenth birthday (*la quinceañera*, *la fiesta de quince*, or *los quince años*) is a very special occasion, as it marks the fact that the girl is now a young woman. Traditions for this coming-of-age celebration include a religious ceremony, followed by a reception or a formal dance at home or in a banquet hall. The girl makes a grand entrance with her father, who might make a formal speech to mark the occasion. Then father and daughter share a waltz. The guest of honor may have a court composed of maids of honor and their escorts, potentially dressed in formal attire. Today, while many girls prefer a special gift rather than a formal dance, the tradition of *la quinceañera* is still very prevalent in many parts of the Spanish-speaking world as well as in various regions of the United States. Boys celebrate their fifteenth birthday like any other *cumpleaños*, with an informal party, an outing, or a special dinner with their family. And everybody loves a birthday cake with candles accompanied, of course, by the "Happy Birthday" song.



Mi papá y yo en mi quinceañera

Búsqueda: quinceañera

Comparaciones

Research online to learn more about how teenagers in the Spanish-speaking world celebrate birthdays. How does it differ from country to country? Compare to how teens celebrate in your culture.

Productos **Conéctate:** la música

While some Spanish-speaking cultures have their own birthday songs sung in varying rhythms, for example "Las Mañanitas," others have developed Spanish lyrics set to the tune of "Happy Birthday."

¡Cumpleaños feliz!
 (Melodía de "Happy Birthday")

Cumpleaños feliz.
 Cumpleaños feliz.
 Que los sigas cumpliendo
 ¡hasta el año tres mil!

(Happy birthday, happy birthday.
 May you continue having birthdays
 until the year 3000!)

14 **Comprensión**

1. How do Spanish speakers reach out and stay connected?
2. Describe a *quinceañera*.
3. How does a boy's fifteenth birthday compare to a girl's?

15 **Analiza**

1. What do you think of coming-of-age milestones like the *quinceañera*? Do we have something similar in the United States?
2. If you lived in a Spanish-speaking culture, how would you choose to celebrate your fifteenth birthday? Why?



Hola, ¿qué tal?

Abrazos, besos y más

Do you kiss and hug family members and friends when you greet them? How do Spanish speakers start the communication process? You now know the right words—but what about the gestures? Greeting others in an informal situation can be quite expressive in Spanish-speaking cultures. When greeting friends and relatives, men commonly exchange a handshake (*un apretón de manos*) accompanied by a hug (*un abrazo*) as they pat each other on the back. Women and girls give each other a light kiss (*un beso*) on the cheek (or on both cheeks in Spain), even if they have just been introduced for the first time. Men and women who know each other may also exchange a kiss on the cheek. Meanwhile, the verbal exchange may include inquiries as to the person's well-being as well as that of family members.

The same gestures are often repeated when saying good-bye, accompanied by greetings to pass on to family members or mutual friends. The next time you see people greeting in Spanish, listen—and watch—to see how they communicate.

🔍 Búsqueda: nonverbal communication in the latino world

Perspectivas

Although they look like gestures of familiarity, *el abrazo* and *el beso* are considered common forms of greeting among Spanish speakers, even for an initial introduction. What value(s) can you infer from this practice?

16 Comprensión

Indicate *sí* or *no* for each statement about greetings and good-byes in Spanish-speaking countries.

1. Words are very important in a greeting, but so are gestures.
2. Men exchange hugs when they greet and/or are introduced to someone.
3. Girls greet each other with a kiss on the cheek, but women use a handshake instead.
4. Gestures used in good-byes are very different from those used in greetings.
5. Good-byes often include references to family members or friends.

17 Analiza

What one word or phrase might best describe the main characteristic of greetings in a Spanish-speaking culture?



¡Mucho gusto!

Comparaciones

Compare and contrast how you greet family members and friends with the way Spanish speakers generally greet theirs.

Gramática A1

Making Introductions: *te, le, les*

Follow these guidelines when you wish to introduce people:

- | | | |
|------------|--|---|
| te | (to one person, informal) | Laura, te presento a Gabriel. |
| le | (to one person, formal) | Sra. Durán, le presento a María. |
| les | (to two or more people, informal and formal) | Luis y José, les presento a Margarita. |

Note: When speaking **about** someone with a title, use the definite article *el, la, los, las*.

Emilia, **te presento** a *la* Sra. Ayala.

Remember that you have several responses to choose from when meeting someone, among them: **Encantado/a, Mucho gusto, Tanto gusto, or El gusto es mío.**

Un poco más

Two titles of respect in addition to *Sr., Sra., and Srta.* are **don** (masculine) and **doña** (feminine). They do not require a definite article and are used with a person's first name when talking to or about adults you know very well: **Don** Diego, **le presento** a **doña** Teresa.

7 ¿Quiénes son?

Skill Building: Interpretive Reading

Completa las presentaciones con **te, le** o **les**, según corresponda (as needed).

- Jorge, __ presento al Sr. Francisco Ortiz.
- Profesor Vallejo, __ presento a doña Marina.
- Rodolfo y Ana, __ presento al Sr. Rodríguez.
- Doña Ana, __ presento a la Srta. Medina.
- Sr. y Sra. Gaviria, __ presento a don Carlos.
- Paco y Antonio, __ presento al Sr. Pedraza.
- Rodrigo y Pablo, __ presento a Diana y a Catalina.
- Rosario, __ presento a don Carlos y a Ernesto.
- Don Miguel, __ presento a mi amiga Pilar.
- Papá, __ presento a los Gómez.

8 Presentaciones

Skill Building: Interpretive Viewing and Listening

Indica la letra de la foto que corresponde con lo que oyes.



A



B



C



D

Gramática A1

3 En la fiesta

At a party, how would you introduce the guests? Complete the following introductions logically with the words *te*, *le* or *les*.

MODELO: Eugenio, te presento a mi amiga Anabel.

1. Sr. y Sra. Ortega, _____ presento a la profesora de arte.
2. Arturo, _____ presento a Sergio, el amigo de Alma.
3. Profesora Prieto, _____ presento a Vero y Carla.
4. Blanca y Ángela, _____ presento a Hugo y Raúl.
5. Miguel, _____ presento al señor Gómez, mi profesor de español.
6. Don Rodrigo, _____ presento a mi amiga Lupe.
7. Vero y Carla, _____ presento a doña Violeta.
8. Señor Gómez, _____ presento a Sergio y Alma.
9. Gabi, _____ presento al amigo de doña Violeta.
10. Hugo y Raúl, _____ presento a don Rodrigo.

4 Más presentaciones

Combine elements from each column to write five introductions. Be sure to use contractions when necessary.

MODELO: Clara, te presento al señor Portillo.

Clara

Srta. Guzmán

Enrique

don Humberto

Sr. y Sra. Ramírez

Daniel y Nicolás

te presento a

le presento a

les presento a

mis amigos Diego y Tomás
 el profesor de computación
 el señor Portillo
 doña Esperanza
 el estudiante de Honduras
 el amigo de Fernando

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

15 Los cognados

Look at the following website of a hotel. Find the Spanish words that are cognates to the list of English words below. Write each word in the corresponding space.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. satellite _____ | 6. telephone _____ |
| 2. president _____ | 7. air _____ |
| 3. history _____ | 8. cafeteria _____ |
| 4. restaurant _____ | 9. direct _____ |
| 5. celebration _____ | 10. discotheque _____ |

Hotel Presidente

En la conocida Avenida de los Presidentes, el Hotel Presidente levanta con gracia sus 10 pisos de historia.

El Hotel Presidente cuenta con 160 habitaciones. Todas las habitaciones disponen de aire acondicionado, caja fuerte, teléfono con línea directa y TV por satélite.

El Hotel Presidente también ofrece restaurante, cafetería, gimnasio, discoteca y salones para cualquier tipo de celebración.

16 Más cognados

Write the corresponding English word on the line that goes with the Spanish cognate.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. elegante _____ | 7. el estéreo _____ |
| 2. la biología _____ | 8. la historia _____ |
| 3. inteligente _____ | 9. el pijama _____ |
| 4. la radio _____ | 10. el aire _____ |
| 5. el carro _____ | 11. la mamá _____ |
| 6. el hospital _____ | 12. rápido _____ |

Repaso

17 Diálogo completo

Imagine you are meeting Pedro, a Spanish-speaking student, for the first time. Write your side of the conversation in the spaces provided. Make sure the dialog follows a logical sequence.

- PEDRO: ¡Hola!
- TÚ: _____
- PEDRO: ¿Cómo te llamas?
- TÚ: _____
- PEDRO: Yo me llamo Pedro.
- TÚ: _____
- PEDRO: Mucho gusto. ¿De dónde eres?
- TÚ: _____
- PEDRO: No. Yo soy de El Salvador. ¿Cuántos años tienes?
- TÚ: _____
- PEDRO: Yo tengo quince años.
- TÚ: _____
- PEDRO: Adiós.