

Spanish culture

Live from Andalucía podcasts

LISTENING SKILLS TEACHER'S NOTES

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Level: Elementary / pre-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30-45 minutes
Language and skills: Listening for gist, listening for details, articles



Warm up

Explain that this lesson is about one particular country. You will read out some sentences about the country and you want the students to guess which country you are talking about.

1. The population of the country is about 45 million.
2. The country is 499,542 square kilometres.
3. The country is in Europe.
4. The capital city is in the centre of the country.
5. The climate is nice, with quite a lot of sunshine.
6. A lot of tourists visit the country, many go there to lie on the beaches.

Answer: Spain

Speaking

1. Hand out the worksheets and put students in groups to discuss the three questions. You might want to give a couple of personal examples of what you like about the culture of your country and your lifestyle to help give students some ideas.

2. Monitor and then ask a few groups to report back on their discussion.

Note: Don't expect too much from Elementary students but, even at this level, a short discussion on a topic is possible when it is personalized. When you monitor, help students if they need any particular vocabulary or expressions.

Listening

1. Ask students to think of nine words they associate with Spain. If they are struggling, give a couple of examples, i.e. *beach*, *siesta*. Ask students to write one word in each box of the grid (there are nine boxes).

2. Explain that you will play a recording with seven people speaking. They are answering the question, "What do you love about Spanish culture?" If students hear a word they have written in one of the boxes, they should put a cross through the word. At the end, check to see how many words students have managed to cross out.

3. Play the recording again. Ask students to listen to what each person says about what they love about Spanish culture. Put students in pairs and have them compare their answers. If necessary, play the recording again.

Answers: *Festivals (speakers 1, 2, 5 and 6) Food and drink (speakers 3, 4, 6 and 7) The good weather (speakers 4, 6 and 7) The social side (speakers 3, 4, 5 and 7)*

4. Ask students to look at the six sentences. Explain that you will play the recording again and students should complete the sentence by writing a word or two in each gap.

Answers: *a. dull; b. foreigners; c. sociable; d. mingle; e. social side; f. decorate*

Vocabulary

Ask students to match the words in the box to the definitions (a-i). Remind them that all the words are from the listening. Encourage students to help each other and, if necessary, play the recording or hand out the transcript so that students can hear/see the words in context.

Note: Some of the words are also in exercise 4.

Answers: *a. decorate; b. dull; c. festival; d. foreigner; e. gathering; f. lifestyle; g. mingle; h. sociable; i. terrace*

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Language

Ask students to complete the sentences with the correct article. Explain that in some sentences there is no article (zero article) and they shouldn't write anything in those gaps.

Note: Articles are an area that students often have a problem with in English. If you have recently covered this language area in class, quickly recap to see if students can remember the general rules. If not, wait until after checking the answers and then see if students can come up with some rules.

Answers: a. zero article; b. zero article; c. the; d. zero article; e. a; f. a; g zero article; h. the; i. a

Speaking and writing

Put students in small groups and explain that you want them to design a poster to encourage foreigners to visit the region where the students live. If you can, give out large paper (A2) and coloured pens or pencils, or magazines from travel agents that contain colour photos that students might want to use on their poster.

Transcript

Introduction

Welcome to onestopenglish's Live from Andalucía podcasts. The onestopenglish reporters travelled to Córdoba and Seville in Andalucía, Spain, and asked people the question: "What do you love about Spanish culture?"

Speaker 1 (female):

I love the fact that ... erm ... obviously the festival culture that there is here. Erm ... especially here in Córdoba, erm ... there are all sorts of festivals and celebrations right from April, May through to June, July, August, and there's never ... never a dull moment, there's always things happening.

Speaker 2 (female):

Err ... there are many aspects of Spanish culture that err ... that I like, for example, the festivals, Holy Week. Here in Seville in the south of Spain, in Andalucía, we've got all these festivals. Err ... people are very friendly, and ... we love ... err ... foreigners to come and visit us and ... just to ... mmm ... join with us in the, in the festivals.

Speaker 3 (female):

Erm, well the reason that I like living here and that I say to all of my friends, is that even though I earn less than I ever earned when I lived in London, I live better and I can afford to go out to eat and I can afford to go out to drink, and have a nice life. The sitting out on terraces and eating with your friends and all of that ... the lifestyle which is ... mmm ... very sociable and relaxing, is probably my favourite thing about Spanish culture.

Speaker 4 (male):

What I like about the Spanish culture is, like, lots of people go out to have tapas and drinks, they go to bars rather than going to restaurants where you have a sitting down meal, which is also nice, but I like to mingle with people and a lot of people like to go to bars where they stand at the counter and they have drinks and little things to eat, sometimes they sit outside the bar if the weather is good, and I think that's a really nice thing to do, just to get together with your friends and go out and do that kind of gathering.

Speaker 5 (female):

Erm ... one of the things I love most about Spain is the ... the social side of it. Everybody loves erm ... going out but not in the way they do back home, it's more a case of getting together to be sociable, not to go out and get drunk and things like that. And one really specific time is in the, in the fair, when it's sort of, during the day everybody goes as a family with the grandparents and the small children and everybody goes together and dances and it's more about the food and the ... the music. And then at night time it's more the young people get together and do what young people normally do, but it's nice that they have this balance of both and they know how to separate them, and they ... they really enjoy doing things as families together.

Speaker 6 (female):

Ok well, erm ... here in Córdoba in the south of Spain there's quite a few festivals, erm ... during May especially. So, my favourite one is the Crosses Festival where people erm ... people and organizations and cultural organizations erm ... decorate crosses with flowers, erm ... and they mount them in the squares around Córdoba. And at each of these crosses there is usually a bar and ... err ... lots of food and drink. And you can go during the day where there are mostly families and then at night, then there ... it's more, kind of, erm ... more people without children, but erm ... doing the same things more or less, eating and drinking and dancing and having a nice time basically, and it's usually lovely weather as well.

Speaker 7 (male):

Err...I think that what I like the most of Spanish culture is maybe that we have our living on, on the street. We have our ... our relationships on ... on the streets, maybe because of the weather, maybe because of err ... our culture. But we spend a lot of time ... on the streets and ... and maybe on ... on bars having ... having a drink or having a meal. This is very something typical of Spain that we spend a lot of time outside and ... and ... and it is good for, for our relationships.



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Speaking

1. Work in groups and discuss these questions.

What do you love about the culture of your country?

Why do foreigners visit your country?

What do you like most about your lifestyle?



Listening

2. When you hear the word *Spain*, what do you think of? Write nine words connected to Spain in the grid below.

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3. Listen to the people talking about Spain. If you hear a word you have written in your grid, cross it out. At the end, how many words did you cross out?

4. Listen again. What do the different people love about Spanish culture?

5. Listen again and complete the sentences.

- a. ... through to June, July, August, and there's never ... never a _____ moment. (Speaker 1)
- b. ... people are very friendly, and ... we love ... err ... _____ to come and visit us ... (Speaker 2)
- c. ... the lifestyle which is ... mmmm ... very _____ and relaxing, is probably my favourite thing about Spanish culture. (Speaker 3)
- d. ... I like to _____ with people and a lot of people like to go out to bars ... (Speaker 4)
- e. ... one of the things I love most about Spain is the ... the _____ of it. (Speaker 5)
- f. ... people and organizations and cultural organizations erm ... _____ crosses with flowers ... (Speaker 6)

Vocabulary

6. Match the words in the box with the definitions.

dull festival foreigner terrace lifestyle
mingle gathering sociable decorate



- a. to make something more attractive by putting nice things on it _____
- b. boring, or not interesting _____
- c. a special day or week with music, dancing, etc. usually organized at the same time each year _____
- d. someone who comes from another country _____
- e. a group of people meeting together _____
- f. the way someone lives, the things they do, etc. _____
- g. to move around and talk to a lot of people during a party or other social event _____
- h. to be friendly and enjoy being with other people _____
- i. a flat area outside a building where you can sit and drink or eat food _____

Language

7. Complete these sentences using *a*, *the* or no article.

- a. ... there are all sorts of festivals and celebrations right from ____ April ...
- b. There are many aspects of ____ Spanish culture that I like.
- c. ... in ____ south of Spain, in Andalucía ...
- d. ... I earn less than I ever earned when I lived in ____ London.
- e. ... I can afford to go out to drink, and have ____ nice life.
- f. ... during the day everybody goes as ____ family ...
- g. And then at ____ night time it's more ...
- h. And you can go during ____ day ...
- i. But we spend a lot of time ... having ____ drink ...

Speaking and writing

8. Your local tourist agency has asked you to design a poster to encourage people to visit the region where you live. Work in groups and design a poster.