

# Spanish Language Phrases for Visitors to Oaxaca

## Basic Travel Phrases

These essential phrases will help you with everyday interactions:

- **Hello** - Hola (pronounced "OH-lah")
  - *Example:* "Hola, ¿cómo estás?" (Hello, how are you?)
- **Goodbye** - Adiós (pronounced "ah-DYOS")
  - *Example:* "Adiós, nos vemos mañana." (Goodbye, see you tomorrow.)
- **Please** - Por favor (pronounced "por fah-VOR")
  - *Example:* "¿Me puedes ayudar, por favor?" (Can you help me, please?)
- **Thank you** - Gracias (pronounced "GRAH-see-as")
  - *Example:* "Gracias por tu ayuda." (Thank you for your help.)
- **You're welcome** - De nada (pronounced "deh NAH-dah")
  - *Example:* "Gracias por el regalo." "De nada." (Thank you for the gift. You're welcome.)
- **Excuse me** - Perdón / Disculpe (pronounced "pair-DON" / "dis-KOOL-peh")
  - *Example:* "Perdón, ¿dónde está el baño?" (Excuse me, where is the bathroom?)
- **Yes** - Sí (pronounced "SEE")
  - *Example:* "¿Quieres comer?" "Sí." (Do you want to eat? Yes.)
- **No** - No (pronounced "NO")
  - *Example:* "¿Tienes dinero?" "No." (Do you have money? No.)
- **Do you speak English?** - ¿Habla inglés? (pronounced "AH-blah een-GLES?")
  - *Example:* "¿Habla inglés?" "Sí, un poco." (Do you speak English? Yes, a little.)
- **I don't understand** - No entiendo (pronounced "no en-TIEN-do")
  - *Example:* "Lo siento, no entiendo." (I'm sorry, I don't understand.)
- **How much does it cost?** - ¿Cuánto cuesta? (pronounced "KWAN-toh KWES-tah")
  - *Example:* "¿Cuánto cuesta esto?" (How much does this cost?)
- **Where is the bathroom?** - ¿Dónde está el baño? (pronounced "DON-deh es-TA el BAH-nyo")
  - *Example:* "¿Dónde está el baño, por favor?" (Where is the bathroom, please?)
- **I need help** - Necesito ayuda (pronounced "neh-seh-TEE-toh ah-YOO-dah")
  - *Example:* "Necesito ayuda con mi equipaje." (I need help with my luggage.)
- **Can you help me?** - ¿Puede ayudarme? (pronounced "PWEH-deh ah-yoo-DAR-meh")
  - *Example:* "¿Puede ayudarme, por favor?" (Can you help me, please?)

## Oaxacan Foods

Oaxaca is known for its unique and flavorful cuisine. Here are some dishes and terms to know:

- **Mole** (pronounced "MOH-leh")- A rich sauce often made with chocolate and various spices.
  - *Example:* "Me encanta el mole de Oaxaca." (I love Oaxacan mole.)
- **Tlayuda** (pronounced "tlay-OO-dah")- A large, crispy tortilla topped with beans and meat.
  - *Example:* "Voy a pedir una tlayuda para cenar." (I'm going to order a tlayuda for dinner.)
- **Chapulines** (pronounced "chah-poo-LEE-nes")- Edible grasshoppers, a local delicacy.
  - *Example:* "Los chapulines son muy sabrosos." (The grasshoppers are very tasty.)
- **Mezcal** (pronounced "mehs-KAHL")- A traditional Oaxacan spirit made from agave.

- *Example:* "Quiero probar un poco de mezcal." (I want to try a little mezcal.)
- **Tamales** (pronounced "tah-MAH-les") - Masa (corn dough) filled with meats, wrapped in corn husks or banana leaves, and steamed.
  - *Example:* "Los tamales son un platillo típico." (Tamales are a typical dish.)
- **Quesillo** (pronounced "keh-SEE-yoh")- A stringy cheese similar to mozzarella.
  - *Example:* "Me gusta el quesillo en mis tacos." (I like quesillo on my tacos.)

## Wedding / Catholic Mass Phrases

If you're attending a wedding or Catholic mass, these phrases might prove useful:

### Wedding Phrases

- **Congratulations!** - ¡Felicidades! (pronounced "feh-lee-see-DAH-des")
  - *Example:* "¡Felicidades en su boda!" (Congratulations on your wedding.)
- **Best wishes!** - ¡Mejores deseos! (pronounced "meh-HOR-es deh-SEH-os")
  - *Example:* "¡Mejores deseos para los novios!" (Best wishes for the couple!)
- **Bride and Groom** - Novia y Novio (pronounced "NOH-vyah ee NOH-vyo")
  - *Example:* "La novia y el novio son hermosos." (The bride and groom are beautiful.)
- **Wedding** - Boda (pronounced "BOH-dah")
  - *Example:* "La boda será en la playa." (The wedding will be at the beach.)
- **Reception** - Recepción (pronounced "reh-sep-SYON")
  - *Example:* "La recepción es después de la ceremonia." (The reception is after the ceremony.)

### Catholic Mass Phrases

- **Mass** - Misa (pronounced "MEE-sah")
  - *Example:* "Voy a la misa el domingo." (I'm going to mass on Sunday.)
- **Church** - Iglesia (pronounced "ee-GLAY-syah")
  - *Example:* "La iglesia está cerrada." (The church is closed.)
- **Blessing** - Bendición (pronounced "ben-dee-SEE-ON")
  - *Example:* "Recibimos la bendición del sacerdote." (We received the blessing from the priest.)
- **Peace be with you** - La paz esté contigo (pronounced "lah pahs es-TEH kon-TEE-go")
  - *Example:* "El sacerdote dijo: 'La paz esté contigo.'" (The priest said: 'Peace be with you.')
- **Amen** - Amén (pronounced "ah-MEN")
  - *Example:* "Dijimos 'Amén' al final de la oración." (We said 'Amen' at the end of the prayer.)
- **Prayer** - Oración (pronounced "oh-rah-SYON")
  - *Example:* "La oración fue muy conmovedora." (The prayer was very moving.)

## General Tips

- **Pronunciation:** Spanish vowels are always pronounced as follows:
  - A = "ah"
  - E = "eh"
  - I = "ee"
  - O = "oh"
  - U = "oo"

- **Politeness:** Always greet people with "buenos días" (good morning), "buenas tardes" (good afternoon), or "buenas noches" (good evening) depending on the time of day.

With this cheat sheet, you'll be better prepared to enjoy all that Oaxaca has to offer. Enjoy your trip!