

Tricks of the Trade:
A Spanish grammar
textbook that speaks our
students' language

Dr Anna Gadd
Founder of UWA Spanish Studies
The University of Western Australia







Universidad Complutense de Madrid - where Marina and I both studied.

Each week of SPAN 1401 you have:

- 1) **Píldoras de gramática** - grammar "pills" of that week; available directly on LMS Ultra.
- 2) **Herramientas** - "tools": a class on culture, revision, participation and writing preparation (includes exercises on the grammar pills: come prepared.)
- 3) **Tutorial** of that week: A face-to face practical lesson, also called a "language class" on CAS. This starts with quizzes and questions on the grammar pills: come prepared.)

GRAMMAR PILLS

What are these?
-DEL
-AL

Make sure you watch your weekly grammar pills before the tutorial :)

QUESTION 1

Write an accurate interrogative word for these questions (use low letters and don't forget the accents):

- ¿ hermanos tienes?
- ¿ está el supermercado?
- ¡Hola, María!, ¿ estás?
- ¿ haces esta tarde?
- ¿ es tu número de teléfono?

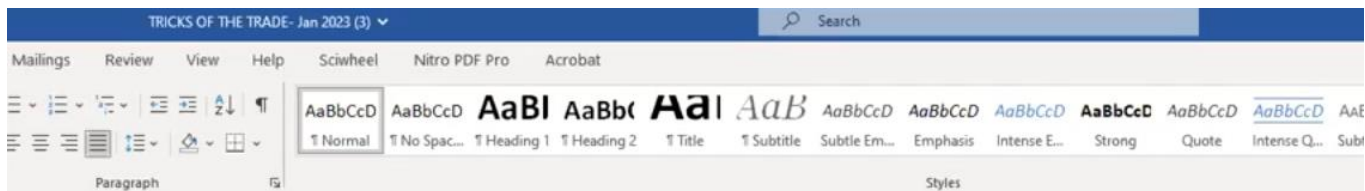
QUESTION 2

Choose between 'hay / está' and write the correct one in this dialogue (use low letters):

- ¿ un restaurante en tu barrio?
- Sí, uno en mi calle, cerca de mi casa.
- ¡Genial! Y ¿ un aparcamiento cerca?
- No, no ninguno.

4 Pronoun = substitute

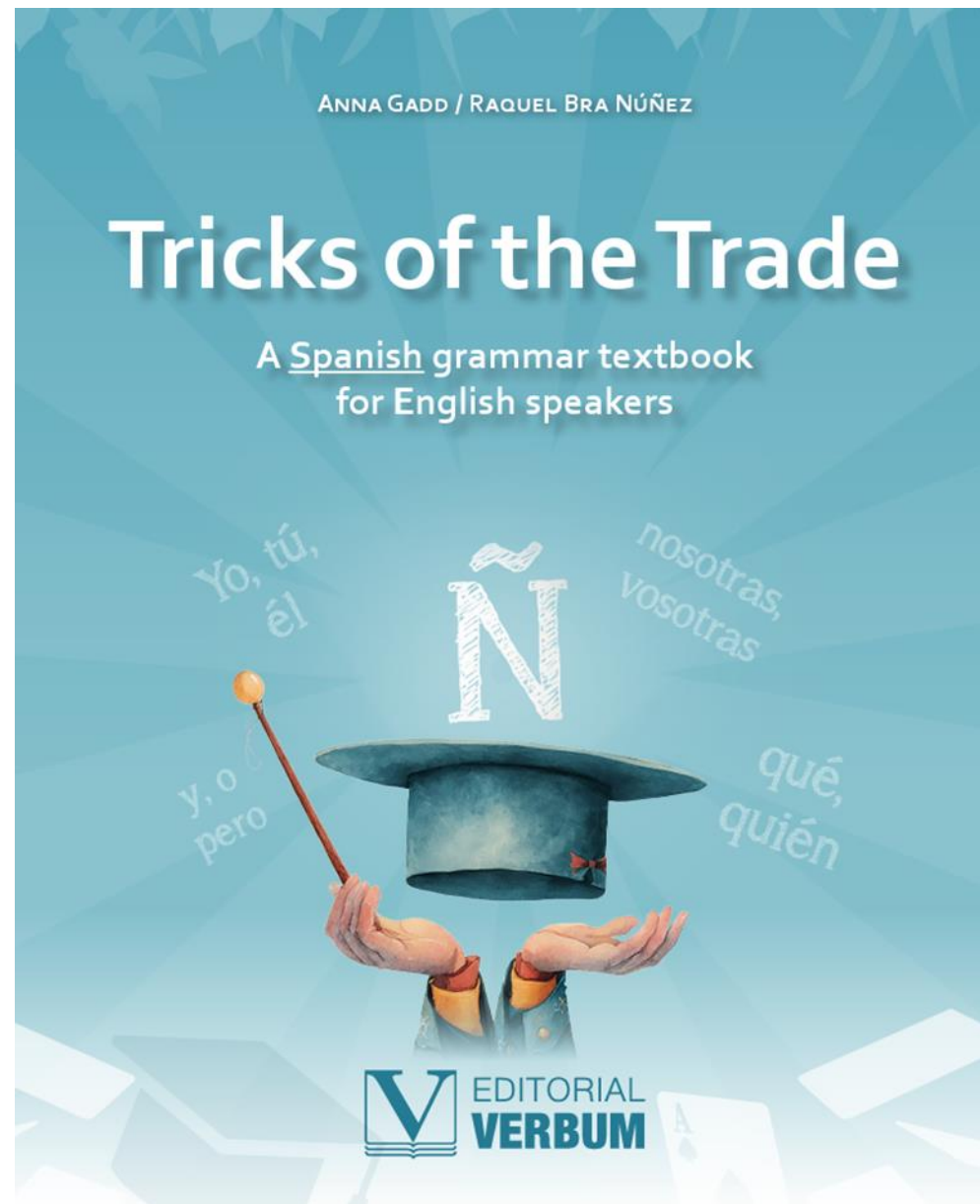
- Yo (I)
 - Tú (you sing)
 - Él, ella, Usted (he, she, formal)
 - Nosotros/as (we)
 - Vosotros/as (you plural)
 - Ellos/as, Ustedes (they, formal)
- *Personal subject pronouns*

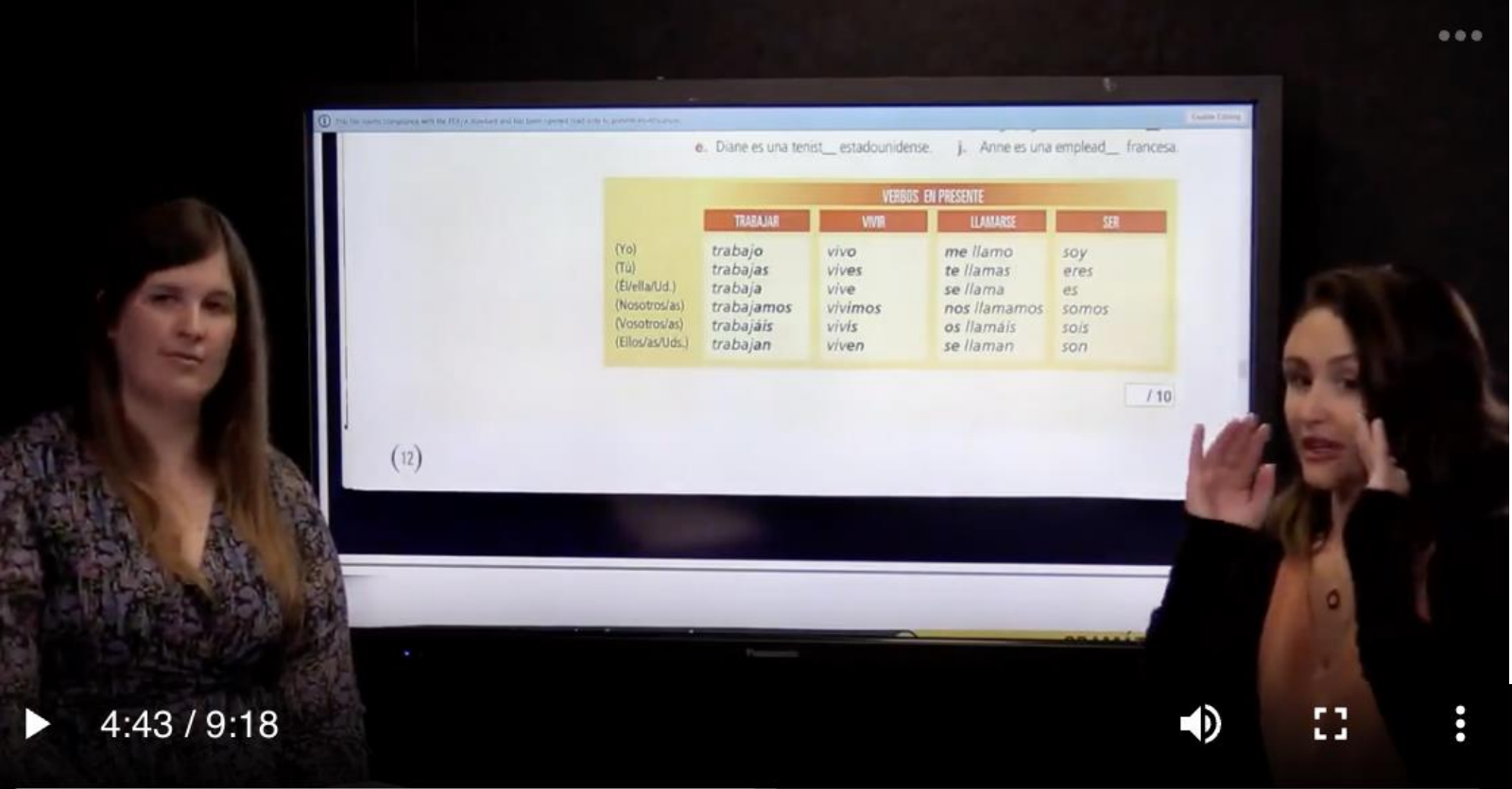


Nouns
Verbs
Articles
Adjectives
Pronouns
Conjunctions
Adverbs

and others. Let's see what everything really is, so you can then fully understand the explanations in the book.

1.2 Nouns





e. Diane es una tenist__ estadounidense. j. Anne es una emplead__ francesa.

VERBOS EN PRESENTE				
	TRABAJAR	VIVIR	LLAMARSE	SER
(Yo)	trabajo	vivo	me llamo	soy
(Tú)	trabajas	vives	te llamas	eres
(Ella/Ud.)	trabaja	vive	se llama	es
(Nosotros/as)	trabajamos	vivimos	nos llamamos	somos
(Vosotros/as)	trabajáis	vivís	os llamáis	sois
(Ellos/as/Uds.)	trabajan	viven	se llaman	son

(12) / 10



▶ 4:43 / 9:18



THE VERB GUSTAR

1.1 General explanation

Gustar in Spanish means to like but it behaves a little differently than the English expression: "me gusta el chocolate" literally translates to chocolate is pleased by me, chocolate pleases me. It's important we remember this if we want to use gustar correctly in Spanish.

Another important aspect of gustar is that, in most cases, we only use 2 forms:

- Me gusta + a singular noun
- Me gustan + a plural noun

For example:

- Me gusta el plátano (I like banana - banana pleases me)
- Me gustan las naranjas (I like oranges - oranges please me)



▶ 1:39 / 10:50





Raquel Bra Núñez

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VERBUM 2026

ANNA GADD / RAQUEL BRA NÚÑEZ

Tricks of the Trade

A Spanish grammar textbook
for English speakers

TRICKS OF THE TRADE: A SPANISH GRAMMAR TEXTBOOK FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Yo, tú,
él

Ñ

nosotras,
vosotras

y, o
pero

qué,
quién



V EDITORIAL
VERBUM



2024 YH2 Units

2024 YH2 Report for Anna Gadd SPAN1401 Spanish
Studies 1

Open-ended Comments

Unit

What were the best aspects of this unit?

“Grammar notes” (x ~ 10 times each semester);

“The grammar sheets available on Ims were helpful”;

“I think this unit was great at introducing complex grammar at an approachable pace with bit of vocabulary on the side, that I was surprised how quickly I picked up and understood concepts.”

16.1 Introduction

“To like” in Spanish is *gustar*, but this verb behaves a little differently than its English counterpart. In English we have a very straightforward structure. Consider the example below:

I like chocolate *Me gusta el chocolate*

The English sentence has a subject, “I”, a verb, “like” and an object, “chocolate”. The relationship between these elements is simple and direct.

In Spanish we have an indirect relationship because the Spanish phrase literally translates to “chocolate pleases me” or “chocolate is pleasing to me” rather than “I like chocolate”. Try to remember these literal translations, as they are really important in order to use the verb correctly in Spanish.

16.2 Use

When you want to use the verb “to like” in Spanish, something to always remember is to pay attention to two elements:

- who likes?
- what is liked?



LECTURE



3.3 Contrast between definite and indefinite

So what's the difference between these two, you may ask. The definite article is used more or less when you'd use the in English, i.e. when we talk about something we know, we have mentioned before or in context. We also use them when we are talking about something particularly different or unique, or something that stands out.

The indefinite article is used when we first mention something, or when we talk about something in a group. For instance:

Tengo un **hijo fontanero**. *One of my kids is a plumber*

3.4 How do we translate unos/unas?

unos and unas are the equivalent of some in English.

3.5 Contractions

Definite articles can contract when they are preceded by certain words (prepositions). In other words: when you have the preposition DE or A followed by a masculine singular article, they must merge together into one new word! This does not happen in the feminine. This does not happen in the plural.

With A and DE and the masculine singular form of the definite article we do the following:

A + el = al

De + el = del

Examples:

Te **presento al profesor**. *I introduce you to the professor*

es **el amigo del jefe**. *He's the boss's friend*



TAKE NOTE



FLOURISH IN A SECOND LANGUAGE PROJECT FL2

A project launched by Antonella Strambi, Ann Luzeckyj and Antonia Rubino.

Now a 9-year long collaboration among 4 different universities in Australia and 5 academics!

Flinders University

University of Sydney

The University of Western Australia

The University of South Australia

The three academics above launched the project, designed the activities, collected and analysed data in Italian trials and organized seminars around Australia. Anna Gadd and Javier Díaz Martínez translated the activities into Spanish and implemented them in their first-year units of Spanish (A1-A2 CEFR).

Flourishing in Spanish: A pilot implementation of a wellbeing-supportive approach to L2 teaching and learning

Antonella Strambi, Anna Gadd, Anne Luzecky, Antonia Rubino, Javier Diaz Martinez

Discipline of European Languages and Cultures

Research output: Contribution to journal > Article > peer-review

1
Citation
(Scopus)



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Abstract

This paper reports on a pilot implementation of the FL2 approach and resources, developed to support tertiary students' wellbeing as well as their second language learning (L2). The FL2 approach and learning activities were piloted in two Spanish language courses at Australian universities. Evaluation data were collected through an online survey of participating students and compared to the results of previous pilots conducted with students of Italian. Responses to scale items and open-ended questions indicate that the majority of participants greatly enjoyed their experiences in the courses and were satisfied with the learning opportunities provided, which shows potential for the FL2 approach. Evaluations of seven Positive Psychology-informed learning activities also piloted in this study were more nuanced. Taken together, these results suggest that designing curriculum to support student wellbeing as well as disciplinary learning can yield positive results. However, careful consideration must be given to alignment between FL2 activities and curriculum, as well as to students' individual differences in the reception of Positive Psychology-informed activities.

Access to Document

[10.1075/aral.21024.str](https://doi.org/10.1075/aral.21024.str)

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El día de don Selfie



Gerund and daily routine



¿Te distraes fácilmente con cosas sin importancia y te abstraes de lo que te rodea, como don Selfie? Si tu respuesta es sí, entonces es posible que te venga bien un poco de «atención plena».

Instrucciones

Time required: 30 minutes.

Type of activity: Matching (vocabulary); fill-in-the-gaps (verbs in the gerund); conversation (daily activities).

How to do it: Match activities with their corresponding images. Then, write the verbs in the gerund.

3. **Conversation:** in pairs, talk about your typical day. Is it similar to Mr Selfie's?

Why do this?

Here is what the Counselling and Psychological Services Unit at the University of Sydney suggest in their publication *Learn to Manage Stress and Anxiety*

(http://sydney.edu.au/current_students/counselling/download-docs/learn-to-manage-stress-and-anxiety.pdf):

"Mindfulness is a skill in learning to focus, or be mindful of what is happening from moment to moment with a non-judging attitude. Once we learn how to do this, we can begin to deal with many of the causes of everyday stress such as anxiety provoking thoughts about the past or future and any other stressful phenomena such as time pressure, frustration, disappointment and distraction." (p. 5)

For more information on mindfulness, including exercises to try, you can also visit:

- <http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/docs/10.MindfulnessinEverydayLife.pdf>
- <http://ggia.berkeley.edu/#filters=mindfulness>

L2 Learning Objectives

Communication

- Talking about everyday activities
- Talking about activities that are taking place right now

Vocabulary

- Everyday activities

Grammar

- Verbs in the gerund

El día de don Selfie – Vocabulario (Actividades diarias)

Casa cada acción con su imagen correspondiente. Luego, escribe los verbos en gerundio. Don Selfie...

acostarse / ir a un bar / cruzar la calle / dormir / dar un paseo
jugar al fútbol / mirar la puesta de sol / cepillarse los dientes / escribir un mensaje / despertarse



1. _____ está durmiendo



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____

I'd be happy to lead an IMPLEMENTATION OF TRICKS OF THE TRADE AND ITS METHODOLOGY in your A1-level classes (highschool, university, institution) please let me know if you're interested. I'm curious to see if this works in your context and we could even run surveys and a study on it. <https://editorialverbum.es/libro/tricks-of-the-trade/>



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¡Muchas gracias!

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