

LEARN SPANISH FAST HOY

10 Spanish Filler Words to help you sound like a native!

Ten ways to stall while speaking Spanish! Sprinkling Spanish filler words in your Spanish conversations will have you sounding more like a native in no time. So take some time to study them and then challenge yourself to use a few in your next conversation when you get stuck! You'll thank me later.

Pues

Pues is translated to mean “well”. Here is how you would use *pues* in conversation. Let's say someone asks you a question, and you aren't sure of the response you want to give. You would use *pues* to express uncertainty or to give you more time to think of your response. Generally it's used at the beginning of a sentence.

Here's an example:

¿Vas a la fiesta esta noche? *Are you going to the party tonight?*

Pues, no sé. ¡Estoy agotado! *Well....I don't know. I am exhausted!*

For more emphasis, you can elongate the “e” sound. For instance, if you wanted to say “weeeeell... I don't know”, then just spend a little more time on the “e” sound in *pues*.

Así Que

This phrase means “so or therefore” in Spanish.

It's often used at the beginning of a sentence, like this:

Así que, me veo gorda en este vestido? *So, I look fat in this dress?*

You can also use it in the middle of a sentence to bring two ideas together, like this:

Estuve enferma el sábado, así que no fui a la fiesta.

I was sick Saturday, so I didn't go to the party.

You will also find it at the end of an incomplete sentence, where the ending of the sentence is implied. Like this:

No tengo niñera, así que...

I don't have a babysitter, so... (implied: I had to bring the baby with me)

O Sea

Use “o sea” when you want to **restate something or clarify** the meaning of something.

Here are a few examples:

Tengo que trabajar esa noche. O sea, no puedo venir a la fiesta.

I have to work that night. In other words, I can't come to the party.

El jefe, o sea tú, debes mantener todo bajo de control.

The boss, that is to say you, should keep everything under control.

Es Decir Que

The literal translation is “**it is to say that...**” but figuratively it translates to “I mean...” or “this means that/therefore” in English. It’s used much in the same way as “O Sea” is used. When you want to clarify something, or restate something, you can use “es decir que”.

Here’s an example:

Así que no vas a trabajar con nosotros? Es decir que tienes un trabajo nuevo?

So, you are not going to work with us? Does this mean you have a new job?

Estoy muy triste, es decir que no voy a la fiesta mañana.

I am very sad, I mean...I’m not even going to the party tomorrow.

A Ver

“Ver” is the Spanish verb for “to see”. “A ver” loosely translates to “**let’s see**” and is used when you need to gather or organize your thoughts before responding to a question or comment. Literally giving you more time to think of what you want to say before you say it.

Here’s how it’s used in conversation:

¿Qué hiciste hoy? What did you do today?

A ver...fui al centro comercial, entonces me encontré con Luisa para el almuerzo...

Let’s see...I went to the mall, then I met Luisa for lunch...

En Plan

This phrase is equivalent to the English word “**like**”. But not in the sense of liking someone or something, but rather in the sense of when you are trying to explain something and you want to give more detail.

To make it clear, let’s look at an example in English first:

We were at the party, having a good time, like chillin’ and drinkin’ when my mom showed up!

Here is an example in Spanish:

Estábamos en la playa, en plan relajando, cuando empezó a llover.

We were at the beach, like relaxing, when it started to rain.

It can be used practically anywhere in a sentence, and is often overused by teenagers and millennials!

Bueno

Bueno means “**good**” in Spanish. I’m sure you’ve heard it accompanied with *días* and *noches*, as in *buenos días* (good morning) and *buenos noches* (good night). But it’s often used as a filler word, in a number of different ways.

You can use it in the same way as “pues” is used, to mean “**well**” when you are hesitant to respond to a question or comment. Or when you are trying to think of a way to respond to a question or comment.

Here’s an example:

¿Qué planes tienes este fin de semana?

What plans do you have this weekend?

Bueno...voy a visitar mi abuelo y vamos al supermercado y luego...

Well...I’m going to visit my grandfather and we are going to the supermarket and then...

But you can also use bueno to indicate that you are in agreement with something. In that case it’s loosely translated as “yeah”, such as in this example:

Debemos planear una fiesta para Marco.

We should plan a party for Marco.

Bueno...me parece una buena idea.

Yeah...that sounds like a good idea.

Bueno can also be used to mean “okay”. For instance, you tell your doctor you think you have high blood pressure. Here’s how he might respond:

Bueno, debemos chequear la presión arterial.

Okay, we should check your blood pressure.

Vale

Vale means “**okay**” as in “got it” or “I understand”. It’s sometimes used several times in succession, to emphasize that someone understands or follows what you are saying. You can also use it in the form of a question, to ensure that someone understands you.

Let’s look at an example:

Vale, vale...lo entiendo.

Okay, okay...I understand.

When asked as a question, *¿vale?* it simply translates to “you get me?” or “understand?”

¿Sabes?

It comes from the verb “saber”, which means “to know” in Spanish. “Sabes” literally means “**you know**”. And it’s used when you want **to check someone’s understanding** or if they are in agreement with you. It’s equivalent to our (native English speakers) use of the slang phrase “ya know?”.

Here’s an example:

Ella es una buena amiga, ¿sabes?

She is a good friend, you know?

You will also hear *¿sabes qué?*, pronounced “sah-bays kay?” It literally means “you know what?” This is more of a rhetorical question, but I thought I would include it here, since it is used very often by native Spanish speakers.

¿Sabes qué? No voy a trabajar mañana, sino que voy a la playa.

You know? I’m not going to work tomorrow, but rather the beach instead.

Es Como

This filler phrase is used when you want to **explain something further** or in a different way. In English, it is translated to mean “it’s like” and is often used by younger native Spanish speakers.

Here’s an example. Let’s say someone asks you to describe something, you might say:

No sé, es como alta, verde y espinoso.

I don’t know, it’s like tall, green and spiky.