

READING/LISTENING:

While reading the story, listen to the pronunciation and pauses throughout the dialogue. Underline FRIENDLY, FAMILIAR words

<http://snappyspanish.com/beginner-spanish-short-story-top-of-the-world/>

CIMA DEL MUNDO- On top of the world

Es el 23 de mayo. Hoy es el día. Me gusta mucho esta fecha. Son las 8:00 am y todavía estoy en la cama.

Usualmente empiezo el trabajo a las 8:30. Pienso que voy a llegar tarde. Pero hoy, no importa.

It's the 23rd of May. Today is the day. I really like this date. It's 8:00 am and I'm still in bed. Usually I start work at 8:30. I think I am going to arrive late. But today, it doesn't matter.

Camino afuera. Hoy el sol está brillando y no hay nubes. Los perros y los gatos están felices, y yo también. Las aves están en los árboles y todo esta bien.

I walk outside. Today the sun is shining and there are no clouds. The dogs and the cats are happy, and so am I. The birds are in the trees and all is good.

Enciendo la radio en el carro. Es mi canción favorita. ¡Qué perfecto es hoy!

Ya estoy en el camino al trabajo. Como todos los días hay un trancón, pero no pasa nada.

I turn on the radio in the car. It's my favourite song. How perfect is today! I'm on my way to work. Like everyday there's a traffic jam, but it's ok.

Aunque voy a llegar incluso más tarde, estoy feliz. Mi carro no tiene aire acondicionado y tengo calor. Mi cuerpo entero esta sudoroso, pero todavía sonrío.

Even though I'm going to arrive even later, I'm happy. My car doesn't have air conditioning and I'm hot. My whole body is sweaty, but I still smile.

Llegó a la oficina. Veo mi reflejo en la ventana. Pienso que me veo bien hoy... muy bien. Entro a mi oficina y mi jefe está ahí. Él no se ve feliz.

I arrive at the office. I see my reflection in the window. I think I look good today... real good. I enter my office and my boss is there. He doesn't look happy.

Él pregunta, “¿Qué hora es?” Yo respondo, “¡No importa!”

Él no puede creer mi respuesta.

He asks, “What time is it?” I respond, “It doesn’t matter!”

He can’t believe my answer.

Él pregunta, “¿A qué hora empiezas?” Y yo respondo, “Nunca.”

Él no entiende. Él está confundido.

He asks, “What time do you start?” And I reply, “Never.”

He doesn’t understand. He is confused.

Él pregunta, “¿Qué significa ‘nunca’?”

Yo digo, “Nunca significa: no hoy, no mañana y nunca. ¿Entiendes?”

He asks, “What does ‘never’ mean?”

I say, “Never means: not today, not tomorrow and never. Do you understand?”

Su cara se pone roja.

“¿Qué? ¿Te gusta tu trabajo? ¿Quieres un trabajo?” él grita con voz enojada.

His face goes red.

“What? Do you like your job? Do you want a job?” he yells with an angry voice.

Respondo, “Nunca. No me gusta. Y, sobre la última pregunta, no. No quiero este trabajo. ¡Renuncio! Gracias por escuchar. Y ahora disculpe, tengo cosas que hacer.”

I respond, “Never. No I don’t like it. And, about the last question, no. I don’t want this job. I resign! Thanks for listening. Now excuse me, I have things to do.”

Empaco mis cosas y alzo la caja. Mis compañeros miran y esperan.

¿Mi jefe va a estar furioso conmigo? ¿Va a gritar? ¿Va a lanzar algo?

I pack my things and pick up the box. My work coworkers watch and wait.

Will my boss get angry with me? Will he yell? Will he throw something?

No, él no hace nada. Solo mira mientras camino hacia la puerta.

“¡Hasta nunca!” digo con una sonrisa.

No, he doesn’t do anything. He only watches as I walk towards the door.

“See you never!” I say with a smile.

Y, con eso, abro la puerta y salgo de la oficina. Siento la brisa en mi cara. Respiro el aire fresco.

Es real, hoy es perfecto. Me siento en la cima del mundo.

And, with this, I open the door and leave the office. I feel the breeze on my face. I breathe the fresh air.

It's real, today is perfect. I feel on top of the world

COMMUNICATING:

- Find/Research a cultural story a short story like *Hansel und Gretel* (German) or *Autumn Mountain* (Japan)
- Look up 10 words that you could use when re-telling the story

For Spanish Choose a story here :

<http://spanishlanguageblog.com/resources/famous-spanish-short-stories-online/>

Or the following

There once was a terribly ugly princess. Her name was Altamira and she was the princess of the Spanish state of Alcantara. Nobody in the entire country had ever seen a girl so ugly. She also wore the ugliest dresses you could imagine. They were elaborate and colorful in the worst way, making her difficult to look at. Princess Altamira, however, did not think she was ugly. In fact, she believed the exact opposite. She believed that she was enchantingly beautiful. Her father knew she was ugly from a very young age, but he could not allow his only daughter, *a princess*, to grow up and never marry. So instead, he declared her beauty regularly. He made her out to be the most gorgeous girl to ever live! This way, princes would want to come court her for marriage.

The castle staff did not know if the king really thought the princess was pretty or if he was too embarrassed by her appearances. No matter, they went along with the charade out of respect. They would always compliment her on her perfect face and bright dresses, but secretly mocked her.

The day had come that Princess Altamira turned eighteen, and was ready to receive a husband. Many princes from all over Spain had heard how beautiful she was and were eager to come to marry her, and they began to show up to the palace. The king met with many of them and picked one for his daughter.

"I will take you to my daughter and you will be married immediately," the king said.

The prince felt incredibly lucky! He could not wait to place his eyes on her face for the first time. The King led him through the castle to a set of doors. A crowd of people were waiting inside to watch the wedding. The doors opened, and he saw Princess Altamira. His face got pale and he had no idea what to do or say. He looked away.

"Well, go ahead. There she is!" the king said.

"I'm sorry... I just cannot look at her. Her beauty is blinding and I am afraid I am not worthy of her," the Prince said, searching for a way out.

"I know she is extremely pretty, but you are plenty worthy! I picked you from a hundred eligible bachelors. You two are fit for each other."

"If he does not think he is worthy of marrying me, I do not want him. Instead, give me the most educated man. I would like to marry the Royal Barber."

“He is very educated. Royal Barber! You may marry my beautiful daughter.”

His face sunk.

“I am already married! I am sorry. You are very beautiful but you deserve someone you is pure and devoted to you,” the barber said, digging for excuses.

The King was so frustrated at this point, he didn’t think anyone would marry her.

“I think you are too beautiful, my sweet daughter. No man in all of Spain is worthy enough to be your husband. I will have you sent to a convent.”

“No!” the princess interjected.

“I will have a husband! If there is no one worthy of me in Spain then I will leave!” she said.

Then a man stepped up. It was Felisberto, the blind fiddler. He was extremely handsome.

“I will marry Princess Altamira. I am blind, so all things, the most beautiful and the most ugly, look the same to me. It would be my honor to take you as my wife, if you will accept me.”

Princess Altamira accepted, happily. Her father was happy he had found someone to marry her. They lived happily ever after.

Author's note: The original story, [The Ugly Princess](#), includes characters of the same name. I added that the King had chosen the prince for his daughter out of hundreds of bachelors. In the original story, the prince comes to court her on his own. Then, the king puts on a battle between a hundred of his best knights and the prince to see who would marry Altamira. Nobody out of the one hundred wanted to. I also took out much of the argument of the Royal Barber and his denial of the princess. He gets very defensive and it is almost mean. In the original story after denying the offer to marry the Princess and arguing his many excuses, the king has the barber beheaded. I omitted this because I wanted the story to be less violent. Removing this act of violence and the battle makes the story more children-friendly and happy. The original story also adds that if nobody will marry the princess in Spain she will go to where there is no light, so that nobody could see her beauty. I took this out and just made it that she would leave Spain to make it more realistic. I also added many details of the castle to make it more like a fairy tale.

Bibliography: "The Ugly Princess" from Tales from the Lands of Nuts and Grapes; Spanish and Portuguese Folklore by Charles Sellers (1888). Online Source: [World of Tales](#).

WRITING:

your choice

1. Write the beginning of the story with some vocabulary that you have learned
2. Create a crossword or word search with the words that you have learned (keeping with a theme) <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>
3. Compose 5 sentences with a verb (*to be, to have*) with different personal pronouns (*I, you, they, he, she*)