

Conversation Starters - How NOT To Sound Like A Total Tourist In Spain!

Another great report by Ben Curtis and Marina Diez!

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When I, Ben, first got to Spain and started learning Spanish, one of the things I was most worried about was sounding like a total tourist every time I got to speak to a real-life Spanish person, be it a waiter, *intercambio*, or bus driver!

I wanted to sound more **authentic** when I spoke Spanish, and less like a total 'gringo' who was just picking phrases at random out of a 10 year old phrase book!

If you've ever felt the same way, then you'll probably like this list, perfect for when you start meeting *real Spanish speakers*.

Read on for the list...

Conversation Starters - How NOT To Sound Like A Total Tourist In Spain...

Use these right after you walk into a bar to meet someone, or turn up at their house and say... **'Hola...'**

1. **No te vas a creer lo que me acaba de pasar...** - *You won't believe what just happened to me...*
2. **He tenido un día super chungo** - *I've had a hell of a day.*
3. **¡No sabes lo contento/a que estoy!** - *You have no idea how happy I am!*
4. **¿Qué me cuentas?** - *What's new? (Marina always greeted me like this when we met for our 'intercambios', I loved it!)*
5. **¡Cuánto tiempo sin verte!** - *I haven't seen you for ages!*
6. **Pero bueno, ¡estás estupendo/a!** - *Wow, you look fantastic!*
7. **Madre mía que tarde llevo...** - *What an afternoon I've had...*
8. **Te voy a decir una cosa, es la ÚLTIMA vez que cojo el metro/autobus/coche en hora punta...** - *I'll tell you something, that's the last time I take the metro/bus/car in rush hour...*
9. **¡Qué alegría verte!** - *I'm so happy to see you!*
10. **¡No puedo aguantar ni un día mas sin decirte que estoy loco/a por ti!** - *I can't take another day without telling you that I'm crazy about you!*

N.B. *These phrases work wonders in mainland Spain, but as they are slightly colloquial, we can't promise they will have the same meaning in all of Latin and South America - check with a local first!*