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/car 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!