LECCIÓN
1
LA CARTA

OBJETIVOS
Whereas the materials in the Textbook all had to do with the video episode, the materials in the Workbook will help you expand your knowledge of the Spanish language in general, as well as give you opportunities for self-expression in Spanish. In this lesson you will learn:

- more about ser (one Spanish verb that means to be) (Gramática 1)
- more about cognates (how to pronounce them) and about false cognates (Pronunciación)

Remember to listen to the tape for Lección 1 when you see the casette symbol, and to check your answers in Appendix 1.

MÁS ALLÁ DEL EPISODIO

The information you will learn in these repeating sections of Destino will help to “round out” the personalities and the background of characters and places in the series. The activities will also give you additional practice in reading Spanish. In this section, as when you were watching Episodio 1, you do not have to understand every word in the readings and activities.

Actividad A. La Gavía
In Episodio 1 of Destino, you saw a number of scenes shot at La Gavía, the hacienda of the Castillo Saavedra family. What else can you guess or infer about the hacienda? Here is a series of statements about aspects of La Gavía. Based on what you know now, decide whether the following statements are CIERTO (True) or FALSO (False). Before doing this activity, you might want to look at the photographs that accompany the reading.

C F 1. Don Fernando Castillo Saavedra es el propietario actual (current) de La Gavía.
C F 2. La Gavía es una hacienda moderna.

*The main sections of every chapter are consecutively numbered beginning with the student textbook (Destino, Allerwort Edition). This MÁS ALLÁ DEL EPISODIO section has the number 5 because it follows the last numbered section (4 – Un poco de gramática) in Lección 1 of the student text.
3. La Gavia es una hacienda pequeña (small).
4. En la hacienda hay (there is) una biblioteca muy grande (a large library).
5. La edificación no tiene importancia en la historia de La Gavia.

The answers you have given are based completely on the very small amount of information about La Gavia that you have at this point. The following reading passage offers more information. Read it and see whether you wish to change any answers.

Don't be intimidated by the reading. Scan through it once, getting what you can; then go through it a second time and check your answers against Actividad A in Appendix 1. And relax! You will have a chance to work through the reading again later on in this lesson of the Workbook.

La Gavia es el nombre de una hacienda mexicana. Es la residencia principal de don Fernando Castillo Saaavedra, el panfleto de la familia Castillo. Es una hacienda de la época colonial. Está situada al suroeste de la Ciudad de México, cerca de la ciudad industrial de Toluca.

Don Fernando compró La Gavia en ruinas con la idea de restaurar la hacienda. És un lugar histórico, pero también es muy importante para don Fernando.

La Gavia es una hacienda muy grande. Tiene una entrada majestuosa y una capilla muy bonita. En la hacienda hay también un patio muy agradable y una biblioteca impresionante.

1. situado
2. al sureste
3. con la idea
4. restaurar
5. de la ciudad
6. es muy importante
7. majestuosa
8. muy bonita
9. muy agradable
10. impresionante

Actividad B. Los lugares de La Gavia

Follow along as the speaker on the tape lists places, and indicate the ones you would expect to find at La Gavia based on what you now know about it. You should be able to recognize the meaning of all of the place names, which are preceded by un or una (Spanish words for a or an).

1. __ un patio
2. __ un hospital
3. __ una capilla
4. __ una biblioteca
5. __ un acropuerto
6. __ una entrada
7. __ un restaurante
8. __ un establo
9. __ una farmacia
10. __ un hotel
11. __ un garaje
12. __ un supermercado
**Gramática**

This repeating section of the Workbook presents more detailed explanations of the structures you have heard in the video episode and used in the Textbook. The grammar topics are sequentially numbered throughout the Workbook for ease of reference.

1. **YO SOY... THE VERB SER**

**Raquel:** Soy abogada. Don Fernando es mi cliente.
**Ramon:** Carlos, Juan y yo somos hijos de don Fernando.

**Rosa:** I'm a lawyer. Don Fernando is my client.
**Ramon:** Carlos, Juan, and I are don Fernando's sons.

**Forms**

Ser is one Spanish verb that means *to be* in English. The forms of this Spanish verb do not follow a regular pattern.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>sé</em> you are</td>
<td><em>somos</em> we are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>eres</em> you are</td>
<td><em>sois</em> you are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>es</em> you are</td>
<td><em>son</em> you are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>hе</em> she/it is</td>
<td><em>son</em> they are</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note in particular the four different Spanish equivalents for *you are*. One of the reasons for this phenomenon is that Spanish uses a different word for you in formal and informal situations. Another reason is that, as you can see, Spanish verbs also differ for singular *you* and plural *you* (the equivalent of English *you all*). You will learn more about these aspects of Spanish in upcoming lessons.

**Uses**

Forms of *ser* are used . . .

- _to equate one thing with another_
  
  *Raquel es abogada.*
  *Don Fernando es cliente.*
  
- _to tell where someone or something is from, with de (from)_
  
  *Raquel es de los Estados Unidos.*
  *Don Fernando es de España.*

**Actividad A. ¿Quién habla? (Who is speaking?)**

Which of the following *Donoso* characters is describing himself or herself? Follow along in the Workbook as you listen to the tape. Choose characters from this list: don Fernando, Mercedes, Raquel, Ramón.

1. _Soy abogada. Don Fernando es mi cliente._
2. _Soy de España. Afortunadamente soy propietario de La Cavia._
3. _Mercedes y yo somos nietos de la familia Castillo._
4. _Soy hija (daughter) de don Fernando._
5. _Carlos, Juan y yo somos hijos de don Fernando._

Lección 1 La casa

Cincuenta 5
Actividad A. ¿Quiénes son?
Complete the following descriptions with the appropriate forms of the verb ser. The first item has been done for you. Then identify the characters described.

(Yo) Soy _____ de México. Vivo (I live) en La Gavia. Don Fernando _____ mi padre. Carlos, Juan y yo _____ hijos de don Fernando. Soy...
(Yo) _____ abogada. (Yo) _____ de Los Ángeles y _____ mexicana. Don Fernando _____ mi cliente en un caso especial. Soy...

Actividad B. ¿Y tú? (And you?)
Describe yourself briefly by completing the following description with the appropriate forms of the verb ser and the necessary information. (Worksheet)

(Yo) ______ estudiante de español. (Yo) ______ de _________. (lugar). Vivo (I live) ahora en _________. (lugar).

Actividad D. ¿Y tus amigos? (And your friends?)
Where are some of your friends from? Describe several of them, following the models. Write at least one sentence of each type found in the models, using your friends’ names. (Worksheet)

MODELOS: Johnny es de Kansas. Carlos y yo somos de Nueva York. Claire y Elena son de California.

### Pronunciación: Pronouncing Cognates

Even though Spanish and English cognates look alike, they do not usually sound alike. If you have heard cognates, you will be better able to identify them when you see them. For this reason, this section and the section that follows provide pronunciation practice with cognates. At this point you will probably not understand why words are pronounced a certain way. The rules of Spanish pronunciation are explained in this section in the chapters that follow. For the moment, just try to imitate the pronunciation of the speaker you hear on the tape.

Actividad A. La serie Destinos
Listen to the following brief description of Destinos, the TV series. It contains many cognates and is based on Raquel’s description of the story in this episode. Then the description will be repeated, with pauses for you to repeat what you have heard.

Destinos... Es una historia muy interesante. Es una historia de aventuras... de secretos... y de amor. También es una historia muy importante para la familia Castillo.

Actividad B.
The following brief sentences containing cognates describe Destinos, the TV series. Repeat them after the speaker. Then, based on what you know about Destinos and on what you learned in Actividad A, indicate whether the sentences are CIERTO (True) or FALSO (False). Make educated guesses if you don’t know.

C F 1. Destinos es una serie romántica.
C F 2. Es una serie complicada.
C F 3. No hay aventuras en Destinos.
C F 4. No tiene elementos misteriosos.

Now listen as the speaker gives you the correct answers. Do you hear additional cognates? (You can also check your answers in Appendix 1.)
AUMENTA TU VOCABULARIO!

This repeating section of the Workbook occurs only in the first five lessons. In it you will learn more about cognates (words that are similar in form and meaning in two languages) and recognizing cognate patterns. Developing confidence in your ability to make intelligent guesses will help you throughout your study of Spanish.

In Lección 1 you learned that Spanish and English have many cognates. But..., ¿OJO! (Watch out!) Some words that look alike in Spanish and English are not cognates but, rather, false cognates. Here are some examples.

_______ means ______, not ______, which is ______ in Spanish.

la librería = bookstore library = la biblioteca
el colegio = high school college = la universidad

In general, however, if a Spanish word looks or sounds like an English word, you can assume that it probably has the same meaning. You will learn the meanings of false cognates like librería as you progress through the Textbook and Workbook.

Actividad A.

Not all cognates are as close as those you have seen so far, but they are still "guessable," especially in context. Can you match the following definitions or synonyms with the indicated words?

una persona información una condición mental

1. Los hijos de don Fernando están muy preocupados.
2. Carmen, la esposa de don Fernando, ya está muerta (dead).
3. Raquel tiene unos datos importantes.

Actividad B.

Now that you know a great deal more about cognates, the reading passage on La Gavía with which you worked so the Workbook may seem easier to you. Here it is again, without the glosses but with a new section in the middle. Read and follow along in your Workbook, circling the words you now think are cognates. The word siglo means century.

LA GAVIA, HACIENDA HISTÓRICA

La Gavía es el nombre de una hacienda mexicana. Es la residencia principal de don Fernando Castillo Saaavedra, el padre de la familia Castillo. Es una hacienda de la época colonial. Está situada al suroeste de la Ciudad de México, cerca de la ciudad industrial de Toluca.

La historia de La Gavía

Siglo XVI: Construcción de la hacienda.
Siglo XVII: Período de gran esplendor.
Siglo XVIII: Los jesuitas se instalan en La Gavía.
Siglo XIX: Centro importante en el movimiento de la Independencia Nacional.
Siglo XX: Destrucción parcial de La Gavía durante la Revolución Mexicana de 1910.

Don Fernando compró La Gavía en ruinas con la idea de restaurar la hacienda. Es un lugar histórico, pero también es muy importante para don Fernando. La Gavía es una hacienda muy grande. Tiene una entrada majestuosa y una capilla muy bonita. En la hacienda hay también un patio muy agradable y una biblioteca impresionante.

Lección 1 La carta

Siete 7
Have you completed the following sections of the lesson? Check them off here.

- Más allá del episodio
- Pronunciación
- Gramática
- ¡Aumenta tu vocabulario!

Now scan the words in the Vocabulario list to be sure that you understand the meaning of most of them.

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**Vocabulario**

*Note:* This reference list supplements the list in the Textbook. It contains some words that appear frequently in Lección 1 of the Workbook and that are important for understanding and discussing the lesson. Be sure that you can recognize all of them.

Las personas (People)
- el cliente client

Los verbos (Verbs)
- ser to be
  - soy I am
  - crees you are
  - es you are, he/she/it is
- hay there is
- sois you are
- som you are; they are

**Las palabras adicionales (Additional Words)**
- yo I

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**Palabras del texto**

- la pronunciación pronunciation
- la serie (TV series)
- ¡píaten tu vocabulario! increase your vocabulary!
- más allá beyond
- ¡OJO! be careful! pay close attention!
- ¡Vá! And you! What about you?

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Now that you have worked through the Textbook and the Workbook, here are some of the things you have accomplished in Spanish:

- You can recognize many cognates, and you are aware that not every Spanish word that looks like an English word has exactly the same meaning.
- You know some basic information about one Spanish verb, *ser*.
- You have listened to, seen, and understood some spoken and written Spanish—in the video episode and on the cassette tape—and you have a sense of how much you are expected to understand when working with the Destinos materials.

You are now ready to continue on with Lección 2 in the Textbook.