With the Neighbors: Phrase Workbook

Ten friendly phrases for new-neighbor moments, with pronunciation hints and a practice page.

We use the polite **usted** form, a safe start with neighbors you do not know yet. If a neighbor says *Puedes tutearme* ("you can use tú with me"), follow their lead. Everyday words vary by country, so if your neighbor uses a different word, use theirs.

#	Spanish and English	Say it like	Said aloud
1	**Buenas tardes. ¿Cómo está?** Good afternoon. How are you?	*BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs. KOH-moh ehs-TAH?*	☐☐☐
2	**Hola, soy su nuevo vecino.** Hi, I'm your new neighbor.	*OH-lah, SOY soo NWEH-boh beh-SEE-noh*	☐☐☐
3	**Me acabo de mudar al tercer piso.** I just moved in on the third floor.	*meh ah-KAH-boh deh moo-DAR ahl tehr-SEHR PEE-soh*	☐☐☐
4	**Mucho gusto. ¿Cómo se llama?** Nice to meet you. What's your name?	*MOO-choh GOOS-toh. KOH-moh seh YAH-mah?*	☐☐☐
5	**Creo que este paquete es para usted.** I think this package is for you.	*KREH-oh keh EHS-teh pah-KEH-teh ehs PAH-rah oos-TEHD*	☐☐☐
6	**¿Me podría prestar una escalera?** Could you lend me a ladder?	*meh poh-DREE-ah prehs-TAR OO-nah ehs-kah-LEH-rah?*	☐☐☐
7	**Aquí le devuelvo su escalera. ¡Muchas gracias!** Here's your ladder back. Thank you so much!	*ah-KEE leh deh-BWEL-boh soo ehs-kah-LEH-rah. MOO-chahs GRAH-syahs!*	☐☐☐
8	**Disculpe, ¿podría bajar un poco la música?** Excuse me, could you turn the music down a little?	*dees-KOOL-peh, poh-DREE-ah bah-HAR oon POH-koh lah MOO-see-kah?*	☐☐☐
9	**¿Qué día pasa el camión de la basura?** What day does the garbage truck come?	*keh DEE-ah PAH-sah el kah-MYOHN deh lah bah-SOO-rah?*	☐☐☐
10	**Muchas gracias por todo. ¡Es muy amable!** Thank you so much for everything. You're very kind!	*MOO-chahs GRAH-syahs por TOH-doh. ehs MOOY ah-MAH-bleh!*	☐☐☐

Practice Page

Fill in, match, and swap. Answers are at the bottom.

How to read the hints. CAPS = the stressed syllable. Vowels are short and pure: ah, eh, ee, oh, oo. Single *r* is a quick flap; **rr** marks a short trill. *H* is silent. *J* and *g* before *e/i* are a rough "h". *B* and *v* sound the same. These hints are approximate, for a general Latin American style; they cannot replace listening to a native speaker.

1 Fill in the blank

Word bank: **acabo · devuelvo · gracias · paquete · podría · ruido**

a. Me _____ de mudar al tercer piso.

b. Creo que este _____ es para usted.

c. ¿Me _____ prestar una escalera?

d. Aquí le _____ su escalera.

e. Perdone el _____; estamos de mudanza.

f. Muchas _____ por todo.

2 Match the situation to the phrase

____ 1. You pass a neighbor in the hallway in the afternoon

____ 2. A package was left at your door by mistake

____ 3. You want to know which day the garbage truck comes

____ 4. You want the music turned down a little

____ 5. A neighbor did you a favor

A. ¿Qué día pasa el camión de la basura?

B. Muchas gracias por todo. ¡Es muy amable!

C. Buenas tardes. ¿Cómo está?

D. Disculpe, ¿podría bajar un poco la música?

E. Creo que este paquete es para usted.

3 Swap the item

¿Me podría prestar una escalera?

Try: un taladro (a drill) · unas tijeras (scissors)

Write your own: ¿Me podría prestar _____?

Voy a estar fuera una semana.

Try: unos días (a few days) · el fin de semana (the weekend)

Write your own: Voy a estar fuera _____.

4 Say the chain aloud

Greeting → *Hola, soy su nuevo vecino* → *Mucho gusto* → one small request → thanks. Before you knock, say the one phrase you need aloud once slowly, then once at normal speed.

Answers. 1. a: acabo, b: paquete, c: podría, d: devuelvo, e: ruido, f: gracias. 2. 1–C, 2–E, 3–A, 4–D, 5–B.

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