



# SurvivalPhrases.com

A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



## Lesson 1: Thank You!

Gracias.

### LESSON NOTES

The people of Spain are extremely hospitable, and there will likely be situations in which you will want to express your gratitude for something done for you. So in our first lesson, we'll look at phrases for expressing appreciation. In Spanish there is a universal phrase for expressing ones thanks - "Gracias." "Gracias" can be used in any situation without fear of being inappropriate. If you want to emphasize the degree of thankfulness, you can precede "gracias" with "muchas," to form the phrase "muchas gracias," meaning, as you could expect, "Thank you very much" or "Thanks a lot." Notice that "Gracias" is acceptable both as a formal and informal expression.

Since "Gracias" is used so extensively on a daily basis, sometimes it may sound like an automatic response. In those situations in which you want to make sure that the person you are thanking feels that you are not mechanically saying "Gracias," it is advisable to use a variation, just to show that you are truly thankful. You can, for example, apply a conjugated form of the verb "dar" which means "to give" in the following manner. "Te doy las gracias" which literally means "To you (I) give thanks" and should be translated as "I give you thank". Notice that "gracias" is a noun here.

Another variation for expressing thanks is using the verb "agradecer." Again, if you use an expression other than "Gracias," you convey to the person you are talking with the feeling that you are truly thankful. A way in which you can use "agradecer" is as follows:

"Te lo agradezco" which literally means "To you it (I) thank," and should be translated as "I thank you for it." Notice that, unlike English, in which you must always explicitly say the subject of the sentence, you don't need to do this in Spanish, as the conjugated form of the verb implies the subject. In this case "agradezco" implies the first person, "I" ("yo" in Spanish).

### PHRASES

Spanish	English
Muchas gracias.	Thank you very much, thanks a lot
Te lo agradezco.	I thank you for it.
Se lo agradezco.	I thank you for it. (polite)

## VOCABULARY

Spanish	English
Gracias.	Thank You.
Agradecer (verb)	To thank

## QUICK TIP

On your trip, there will be a multitude of situations in which you will be likely to use "Gracias," or "Muchas gracias" (depending on how grateful you are). In no instance will you have to worry whether you have previously met your speaker or not, about the difference of ages, or how respectful you must be. Some situations in which you can use these phrases are as follows:

- when the taxi driver carries your luggage
- when the receptionist welcomes you to the hotel
- when the waiter brings your food or drinks
- when an old friend says how well you look
- when a policeman directs you to a place you are looking for
- when someone you've just met says your Spanish sounds really good
- when an elder person gives you a map of the city you are visiting
- when a boy takes a picture of you with your camera

## QUICK TIP 2

If you feel you must be polite to the person you are talking to (an elder person, someone you've just met), you can accomplish this by through verb conjugation and using the polite form for "usted". When you talk to someone, you can address the person as him/her using the "tú" form, equivalent to "you," or the polite form "usted," close to "thou".

Rewriting in the previously introduced expressions in the polite form:

"Te doy las gracias" (form "tú") turns into "Le doy las gracias" (form "usted")

"Te lo agradezco" (form "tú") turns into "Se lo agradezco" (form "usted")

Notice that the rule indicates that "Te lo agradezco" should become "Le lo agradezco," but an exception to avoid coming across as harsh, ("Le lo") becomes it "Se lo agradezco".