



Spanish In Mexico Notes: 11-1 Expressing Familiarity

As we rode to the city of Taxco, we learned how to conjugate the verb *conocer*, which means ‘to know’ or ‘to be familiar with.’ The present tense *yo* form of *conocer* is irregular, but the remaining conjugations are regular. The five present tense conjugations of *conocer* are:

yo	conozco	nosotros	conocemos
tú	conoces		
él/ella/Ud.	conoce	ellos/ellas/Uds.	conocen

Notice again that the ‘c’ changes to ‘zc’ in the *yo* form.

Conocer is used to express familiarity with a place, object or idea. For example:

Yo conozco México. – I know (am familiar with) Mexico.

Tú conoces las obras de Diego Rivera. – You know the works of Diego Rivera.

When using *conocer* to express familiarity with a specific person or group of people, the word ‘a’ must be placed after the verb. For example:

Ella conoce a Gloria. – She knows Gloria.

Nosotros conocemos a los hombres. – We know the men.

Ellos conocen a Julio. – They know Julio.

Additional Information:

Since the verbs *saber* and *conocer* both mean ‘to know,’ they are often confused by English speakers learning Spanish. In most cases, the words are not interchangeable. Remember to use *saber* to express knowledge of facts or skills, and use *conocer* to express familiarity with people, places or things. See notes from 10-2 for more information on the verb *saber*.

Vocabulary:

la maestra - teacher

el abogado – lawyer

el doctor – doctor

el mesero – waiter

el payaso – clown

Extended Vocabulary:

la astrología – astrology
la poesía – poetry
la mano – hand
la ciencia – science
placticar – to chat
el planeta – planet
el ser humano – human being
el elemento – element
la luna – moon
el presidente – president
la violencia – violence
doble – double
la facilidad – ease