



Spanish In Mexico Notes: 3-3 Expressing Likes and Dislikes

As we spoke with Sylvia, we practiced using the verb *gustar* to express likes and dislikes. *Gustar* works differently from the verb “to like” because it actually means “to please.” To say that you like to swim, you would say:

Me gusta nadar.

Directly translated, this means “To swim pleases me,” but since there is no verb that means “to like” in Spanish, this is the most common phrase for expressing likes and dislikes.

Here are some more examples:

Me gusta bailar. - I like to dance.
Me gusta caminar. - I like to walk.

To express a dislike, say ‘no’ before ‘me gusta.’

For example:

No me gusta pescar. - I do not like to fish.
No me gusta hablar. - I do not like to speak.

To ask someone about their likes and dislikes, say:

¿Te gusta bailar? (Do you like to dance?)
¿Te gusta cocinar? (Do you like to cook?)

Here is an example of a conversation between Sylvia and Marta:

Sylvia: Hola Marta. ¿Te gusta nadar? – Hello Marta. Do you like to swim?
Marta: Hola Sylvia. No, no me gusta nadar. – Hello Sylvia. No, I do not like to swim.
Sylvia: ¿Te gusta pescar? – Do you like to fish?
Marta: Sí, me gusta pescar – Yes, I like to fish.

Additional Information:

When answering yes or no questions about likes and dislikes, remember to always put the word *sí* or *no* before your answer. If you are saying that you do not like something, you must say *no* first, then say *no me gusta* _____. It may sound repetitive, but it is necessary to say *no* twice! For an example, see Marta’s first answer in the above conversation.

Vocabulary:

comer – to eat
leer – to read
dormir – to sleep
montar en bicicleta – to ride a bike
sacar fotos – to take photos
practicar – to practice
correr – to run
bailar – to dance
manejar – to drive

Extended Vocabulary:

la rana – frog
la mina – mine
la plata – silver
el mercado – market
barrer – to sweep
trapear – to mop
lavar – to wash
planchar – to iron
la crema – cream
la salsa – sauce
el pollo – chicken
la papa – potato
rubio/a - blonde