



Spanish In Mexico Notes: 4-2 Describing Location

As we visited the home of Diego Rivera, we learned how to describe and ask about location using the word *dónde*. The translation of *dónde* in English is “where.” When used in the form of a question, the word has an accent. When it is used as a regular adverb, it has no accent. Here are two examples:

Mi casa es donde yo cocino – My house is where I cook.

¿Dónde está la casa? – Where is the house?

To ask where a person or place is, two common questions are “¿Dónde está?” and “¿Dónde están?” This combines the word *dónde* with the verb *estar*, which means “to be.”

“Dónde está” is used for singular subjects, and “Dónde están” is used for plural subjects. Here are some examples:

¿Dónde está el niño? – Where is the boy?
El niño está en el parque. – The boy is in the park.

¿Dónde están las cataratas? – Where are the waterfalls?
Las cataratas están en México. – The waterfalls are in Mexico.

Additional Information:

Question Words:

We have already learned some important question words in this course, but here are all of them listed together. Like *dónde*, all of these words have accents when they are used in the form of a question.

¿Dónde? = Where?
¿Quién? = Who?
¿Cuándo? = When?
¿Por qué? = Why?
¿Qué? = What?
¿Cómo? = How?
¿Cuál? = Which?

Vocabulary:

el callejón – alley

la casa – house
la iglesia – church
la pirámide – pyramid
la estatua – statue
la catarata – waterfall
la playa – beach
el mural – mural
la isla – island
el teatro – theater

Extended Vocabulary:

el/la artista – artist
pintar – to paint
los estudios – studies
el/la activista – activist
la pared – wall
educar – to educate
el museo – museum
el vigilante – guard
el nivel – level/floor
la pintura – picture
la beca - scholarship