



Spanish In Mexico Notes: 9-2 Asking How to Say

As we continued our tour of Janitzio, we learned how to conjugate the verb *decir*, which means ‘to say.’ *Decir* is an irregular verb. The five present tense conjugations of *decir* are:

yo	digo	nosotros	decimos
tú	dices		
él/ella/Ud.	dice	ellos/ellas/Uds.	dicen

To ask someone how to say something in Spanish, use the question:

¿Cómo se dice _____? – How do you say _____?

For example:

¿Cómo se dice ‘milk’ en español? – How do you say ‘milk’ in Spanish?

Se dice ‘leche.’ – You say ‘leche.’

¿Cómo se dice ‘pescado’ en inglés? – How do you say ‘pescado’ in English?

Se dice ‘fish.’ – You say ‘fish.’

Additional Information:

The question ¿Cómo dices _____? is a correct way to ask “How do you say _____?”

However, it is more common to use the third person equivalent described above: ¿Cómo se dice?

Since ¿Cómo se dice _____? is in the third person, it directly translates to ‘How does one say _____?’

Vocabulary:

la lancha – ferry, small boat

la red – net

la canoa – canoe

el monumento – monument

el pájaro – bird

la escalera - staircase

Extended Vocabulary:

la ropa – clothing

saludar – to greet

indígena – indigenous

orgullosa/a - proud

el pilar – pillar

el agua – water

la trucha – trout

el bigote – moustache

el extranjero – foreigner

el tesoro – treasure

sacar – to take

el cuento - story