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day 55 elena's village

Spanish B1
unit 10 · back to the village

Describe a village and its mountains, and use -ito and -ita to say small, dear or just a little.

Diminutives are everywhere in spoken Spanish: casita, un poquito, un momentito. They make you sound warm and natural, and they help you understand people in the village, at the market and at home.

words

word	meaning	example
la aldea	hamlet, very small village (pl. aldeas)	En la aldea viven solo veinte personas. Only twenty people live in the hamlet.
el poblado	settlement, small village (pl. poblados)	Hay un poblado pequeño cerca del río. There is a small settlement near the river.
la finca	farm, country estate (pl. fincas)	Mi vecino tiene una finca en el campo. My neighbour has a farm in the countryside.
la cabaña	cabin, hut (pl. cabañas)	Pasamos el fin de semana en una cabaña de madera. We spent the weekend in a wooden cabin.
el monte	mountain, hill; woodland (pl. montes)	Subimos al monte con la mochila. We climbed the hill with our rucksack.
la cordillera	mountain range (pl. cordilleras)	La cordillera está al norte de Madrid. The mountain range is north of Madrid.
la llanura	plain, flat land (pl. llanuras)	Detrás de la sierra hay una llanura muy grande. Behind the sierra there is a very big plain.
la cumbre	summit, peak (pl. cumbres)	Desde la cumbre se ve toda la sierra. From the summit you can see the whole sierra.
el horizonte	horizon (pl. horizontes)	El sol baja{bajar} hacia el horizonte. The sun goes down towards the horizon.
la altitud	altitude, height above sea level (pl. altitudes)	La aldea está a 1000 metros de altitud. The hamlet is 1,000 metres above sea level.
serrano	of the sierra, mountain (adj)	Las casas serranas son de piedra. The mountain houses are made of stone.
autóctono	native, local to a place	Esta flor es autóctona de la sierra. This flower is native to the sierra.
descender	to go down, to descend	Descendemos del monte antes de la noche. We come down the hill before night.

pattern casita, pueblecito, un poquito

casa → casita **pueblo → pueblecito** **poco → poquito**

The diminutive ends in -ito / -ita: casa becomes casita, poco becomes poquito. Words ending in -e, -n or -r add -cito (coche becomes cochecito), and some short words add -ecito: pueblo becomes pueblecito. It can mean small, but very often it means affection or softens a request: un momentito, un ratito. In Mexico and parts of Latin America it is even used with adverbs: ahorita.

Elena vive en un pueblecito de la sierra. Elena lives in a little village in the sierra.

¿Quieres un poquito de pan? Would you like a little bit of bread?

La cabaña es una casita muy bonita. The cabin is a very pretty little house.

Espera un momentito, ahora vengo. Wait a moment, I'll be right back.

dialogue arriving in the village

elena Mirad, allí abajo ya se ve mi aldea: un poblado pequeño entre los árboles. Falta muy poquito para llegar, y las fiestas son este sábado.
Look, down there you can already see my hamlet: a small village among the trees. We're very nearly there, and the fiesta is this Saturday.

elena Está entre el monte y la llanura, como en un libro de geografía. ¡Y qué horizonte! Aquí se ve todo, no como en Madrid.
It lies between the hill and the plain, like in a geography book. And what a horizon! Here you can see everything, not like in Madrid.

elena Nací en esa casita de piedra, la de la puerta azul. En el monte había serpientes, pero yo no tenía miedo.
I was born in that little stone house, the one with the blue door. There were snakes on the hill, but I wasn't afraid.

elena Esa casa de allí era la escuela. La enseñanza era muy dura entonces, y teníamos que aprender las lecciones de memoria.
That house over there was the school. Teaching was very hard then, and we had to learn the lessons by heart.

elena La gente de aquí es serrana y autóctona: las mismas familias viven en el pueblo desde hace siglos. Antes, para llegar a la ciudad, había que descender por la cordillera durante horas.
The people here are mountain folk, born and bred: the same families have lived in the village for centuries. In the past, to reach the city, you had to go down through the mountain range for hours.

elena Mi vecino tiene una finca con una cabañita para invitados: vais a dormir allí, así que primero dejamos el equipaje.
My neighbour has a farm with a little cabin for guests: you'll sleep there, so first we'll drop off the luggage.

elena El pueblo está a mil doscientos metros de altitud. Por eso por la noche hace frío y no hay mosquitos, pero las casas de piedra tienen buen aislamiento.
The village is twelve hundred metres above sea level. That is why it is cold at night and there are no mosquitoes, but the stone houses are well insulated.

elena En las fiestas ponen una pista de baile en la plaza y hay un torneo de cartas: el perdedor paga la cena. Mañana subimos a la cumbre.
At the fiesta they put up a dance floor in the square and there is a card tournament: the loser pays for dinner. Tomorrow we climb to the summit.

spell it cover the word, write it, check

hamlet, very small village	**la aldea**
settlement, small village	**el poblado**
farm, country estate	**la finca**
cabin, hut	**la cabaña**
mountain, hill; woodland	**el monte**
mountain range	**la cordillera**

good to know · Diminutives change with the country: in Spain you hear -ito and -illo (un cafelito, un momentillo); in Mexico, ahorita and cafecito; in Argentina, Martina says un ratito and un matecito, and adds -ito to almost everything. Be careful: a few diminutives are words of their own. Una zapatilla is a trainer or a slipper, not a small zapato, and un bocadillo is a sandwich.

A few little words, and you sound like someone from the village. Keep listening for -ito this week.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 56 life on the farm

Talk about farming and country jobs, and say what goes on, stops or starts with seguir, dejar de and ponerse a.

Verb phrases such as seguir trabajando or dejar de llover let you talk about how things continue, stop and begin. Today they come with the words of the farm: the fields, the animals and the old jobs of the sierra.

words

word	meaning	example
la agricultura	agriculture, farming (pl. agriculturas)	La agricultura es el trabajo principal del pueblo. Farming is the main work of the village.
agrícola	agricultural, farming (adj)	Es una zona agrícola muy rica. It is a very rich farming area.
el agricultor	farmer (pl. agricultores)	El agricultor sale al campo muy temprano. The farmer goes out to the fields very early.
el campesino	farmer, countryman (pl. campesinos)	Mi abuelo era campesino. My grandfather was a farmer.
la ganadería	livestock farming (pl. ganaderías)	En la sierra hay mucha ganadería. There is a lot of livestock farming in the sierra.
el cultivo	crop; growing (pl. cultivos)	El trigo es un cultivo muy antiguo. Wheat is a very old crop.
el trigo	wheat (pl. trigos)	Con el trigo se hace el pan. Bread is made from wheat.
la oveja	sheep, ewe (pl. ovejas)	Las ovejas duermen en el campo. The sheep sleep in the field.
el cordero	lamb (pl. corderos)	El cordero es una comida típica de la sierra. Lamb is a typical dish of the sierra.
el vaquero	cowboy, cattle herder (pl. vaqueros)	El vaquero cuida a los animales. The herder looks after the animals.
el cazador	hunter (pl. cazadores)	Un cazador conoce muy bien el monte. A hunter knows the hills very well.
la mina	mine (pl. minas)	Cerca del pueblo hay una mina antigua. Near the village there is an old mine.
la lana	wool (pl. lanas)	Esta manta es de lana. This blanket is made of wool.

pattern seguir + gerund, dejar de, ponerse a

seguir + -ando / -iendo | **dejar de + infinitive** | **ponerse a + infinitive**

Seguir + gerund means that something goes on: sigue trabajando, he still works. Dejar de + infinitive means that it stops: ha dejado de llover, it has stopped raining. Ponerse a + infinitive means that it starts, often suddenly: se puso a llover, it started to rain. Seguir, dejar and ponerse change with the person and the tense; the second verb never does.

Elena sigue viviendo en Madrid. Elena still lives in Madrid.

Mi abuelo dejó de trabajar en el campo. My grandfather stopped working in the fields.

Las ovejas se ponen a comer. The sheep start eating.

¿Sigues escribiendo el informe? Are you still writing the report?

dialogue the old jobs of the sierra

hugo Abuela, ¿tus padres eran agricultores?
Grandma, were your parents farmers?

elena Eran campesinos, hijo. Tenían trigo y unas ovejas.
They were country people, dear. They had wheat and a few sheep.

hugo ¿Y tu abuelo?
And your grandfather?

elena Mi abuelo era vaquero y mi tío, cazador. Todos eran serranos y vivían del monte.
My grandfather was a herder and my uncle a hunter. They were all mountain people and lived off the hills.

martina ¡Qué vida tan dura! ¿Y la mina?
What a hard life! And the mine?

elena La mina dejó de funcionar hace cuarenta años. Antes trabajaba allí mucha gente.
The mine stopped working forty years ago. Before that, a lot of people worked there.

anna ¿Y hoy? ¿Qué hace la gente del pueblo?
And today? What do the people of the village do?

elena Siguen con la ganadería. En otoño las ovejas descienden de la cordillera y, en verano, vienen turistas a las cabañas.
They carry on with livestock farming. In autumn the sheep come down from the mountain range and, in summer, tourists come to the cabins.

martina Esta lana es muy suave. ¿Es de las ovejas de tu vecino?
This wool is really soft. Is it from your neighbour's sheep?

elena Sí, y esta noche hay cordero con patatas. ¡Ya lo verás!
Yes, and tonight there is lamb with potatoes. You'll see!

spell it cover the word, write it, check

agriculture, farming	**la agricultura**
agricultural, farming (adj)	**agrícola**
farmer	**el agricultor**
farmer, countryman	**el campesino**
livestock farming	**la ganadería**
crop; growing	**el cultivo**

good to know · Campesino is the person who works the land and lives in the country. Agricultor sounds more like a job title, and in a form or a news report you will read agricultores. Los vaqueros also means jeans. Un vaquero is a herder, and in Mexico a cowboy; context does the rest.

Seguir, dejar de, ponerse a: three small phrases and you can tell how a story starts, goes on and ends.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 57 the village fair

Describe a village fair and make wishes with ojalá and espero que.

Wishes are everywhere around a fiesta: ojalá haga buen tiempo, espero que te guste. Today you meet the words of the fair, and the subjunctive that comes after a wish.

words

word	meaning	example
la feria	fair, fiesta (pl. ferias)	En septiembre hay feria en el pueblo. In September there is a fair in the village.
el desfile	parade (pl. desfiles)	El desfile empieza a las seis. The parade starts at six.
la danza	dance (as an art) (pl. danzas)	La danza del pueblo es muy antigua. The village dance is very old.
disfrazarse	to dress up (as)	Los niños se disfrazan de animales. The children dress up as animals.
el fuego	fire (pl. fuegos)	Hacemos fuego en casa. We light a fire at home.
el globo	balloon (pl. globos)	Los niños tienen globos de colores. The children have coloured balloons.
el coro	choir (pl. coros)	El coro del pueblo canta en la plaza. The village choir sings in the square.
flamenco	flamenco (music, dance)	Me encanta el flamenco. I love flamenco.
el bailarín	dancer (pl. bailarines)	La bailarina baila con mucha fuerza. The dancer dances with great strength.
aplaudir	to clap, to applaud	Todos aplauden al final. Everybody claps at the end.
festivo	festive; holiday (día festivo)	El lunes es día festivo. Monday is a public holiday.
callejero	street (adj)	Hay música callejera en la plaza. There is street music in the square.
la diversión	fun, entertainment (pl. diversiones)	Para los niños, la feria es pura diversión. For the children, the fair is pure fun.

pattern ojalá and espero que + subjunctive

ojalá + subjunctive **espero que + subjunctive**

To make a wish, use ojalá or espero que and the present subjunctive: ojalá haga buen tiempo, espero que te guste. The subjunctive shows that you do not know yet if the wish will come true. Ojalá has no que, but you may add one: ojalá que no llueva.

Ojalá haga buen tiempo mañana. I hope the weather is good tomorrow.

Ojalá no llueva durante el desfile. I hope it doesn't rain during the parade.

Espero que os guste la feria. I hope you like the fair.

Ojalá puedas venir con nosotros. I hope you can come with us.

dialogue the fair

hugo Estoy grabando el desfile para mi programa de radio.
I am recording the parade for my radio programme.

anna Mira a los niños. Parece que todos se han disfrazado de animales.
Look at the children. It seems they have all dressed up as animals.

martina ¿Ves a la bailarina de flamenco? ¡Qué fuerza tiene!
Do you see the flamenco dancer? What strength she has!

elena Cuando yo era niña, el coro cantaba aquí y los campesinos bailaban en la plaza.
When I was a girl, the choir used to sing here and the country people used to dance in the square.

anna Ojalá no llueva esta noche. Quiero hacer fotos del fuego.
I hope it doesn't rain tonight. I want to take photos of the fire.

hugo Espero que mi abuela cante con el coro.
I hope my grandmother sings with the choir.

elena ¡Ni hablar, Hugo! Yo prefiero aplaudir.
No way, Hugo! I prefer to clap.

martina En mi país hay una feria así, pero con tango. La diversión es la misma.
In my country there is a fair like this, but with tango. The fun is the same.

anna Todos aplauden. ¡Qué ambiente tan bonito!
Everybody is clapping. What a lovely atmosphere!

hugo Mirad, los agricultores han traído sus ovejas a la feria.
Look, the farmers have brought their sheep to the fair.

anna ¿Y esa paella tan grande?
And that huge paella?

elena Es para todos. La hacemos con pollo y verduras, porque aquí no hay marisco.
It is for everyone. We make it with chicken and vegetables, because there is no seafood here.

elena Ojalá podáis venir también el año que viene.
I hope you can come next year too.

spell it cover the word, write it, check

fair, fiesta	**la feria**
parade	**el desfile**
dance (as an art)	**la danza**
to dress up (as)	**disfrazarse**
fire	**el fuego**
balloon	**el globo**

good to know · In Spain you can also say ique lo pases bien! (have a good time): a wish without ojalá, but still with the subjunctive. In Argentina, Martina would say ique la pases lindo!

Ojalá you keep learning, and ojalá you keep enjoying it. That is the subjunctive for you.
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day 58 grandma's recipes

Follow and give a recipe: cooking verbs, quantities, flavours, and orders with pronouns (bátelo, no lo hiervas).

Recipes are the perfect place to practise orders. You need positive orders with pronouns (bátelo, saboréalo) and negative ones (no lo hiervas), and with hasta que and cuando you can say when to do each step.

words

word	meaning	example
hervir	to boil	El agua hierve cuando está muy caliente. Water boils when it is very hot.
asar	to roast, to grill	Mi abuela asa el cordero en el horno. My grandmother roasts the lamb in the oven.
batir	to beat, to whisk	Bate los huevos con un poco de sal. Beat the eggs with a little salt.
moler	to grind	Muele la pimienta antes de comer. Grind the pepper before eating.
congelar	to freeze (food)	Puedes congelar el pan para otro día. You can freeze the bread for another day.
el cuchillo	knife (pl. cuchillos)	Necesito un cuchillo para cortar la carne. I need a knife to cut the meat.
el litro	litre (pl. litros)	Compramos dos litros de leche. We bought two litres of milk.
el gramo	gram (pl. gramos)	Añade 200 gramos de harina. Add 200 grams of flour.
la mezcla	mix, mixture (pl. mezclas)	Es una mezcla{mezcla} de harina y agua. It is a mixture of flour and water.
la pimienta	pepper (spice) (pl. pimientas)	A la sopa le falta sal y pimienta. The soup needs salt and pepper.
el vinagre	vinegar (pl. vinagres)	Pongo aceite y vinagre en la ensalada. I put oil and vinegar on the salad.
la mayonesa	mayonnaise (pl. mayonesas)	A los niños les gusta la mayonesa. Children like mayonnaise.
el sabor	flavour, taste (pl. sabores)	Este helado tiene un sabor muy rico. This ice cream has a very nice flavour.
saborear	to savour, to taste slowly	Saboreamos cada plato. We savour every dish.
exquisito	delicious, exquisite	La sopa de mi abuela está exquisita. My grandmother's soup is delicious.
devorar	to devour, to wolf down	Mi hermano devora un bocadillo en cinco minutos. My brother wolfs down a sandwich in five minutes.

pattern bátelo, no lo hiervas

bate + lo → bátelo **no + lo + hiervas** **hasta que + subjunctive**

With a positive order the pronoun goes at the end, in one word: bátelo, saboréalo (the accent keeps the stress). With a negative order it goes before the verb, and the verb is in the subjunctive: no lo hiervas, no lo devores. Hasta que + subjunctive says when to stop: cuécelo hasta que esté hecho, cook it until it is done.

Coge los huevos y bátelos bien. Take the eggs and beat them well.

No lo hiervas mucho. Don't boil it for too long.

Saboréalo, no lo devores. Savour it, don't wolf it down.

No la saques hasta que esté hecha. Don't take it out until it is done.

dialogue elena's recipe

anna Elena, ¿me dices cómo se hace el cordero? Voy a apuntar la receta.
Elena, will you tell me how the lamb is made? I am going to note down the recipe.

elena Claro. Pon la carne en el horno con sal y pimienta molida. Se asa dos horas.
Of course. Put the meat in the oven with salt and ground pepper. It roasts for two hours.

hugo ¿Y el vinagre?
And the vinegar?

elena Se añade un poco al final, para dar sabor. Pero no lo pongas antes.
A little is added at the end, for flavour. But don't put it in before.

martina ¿Cuántos gramos de carne por persona?
How many grams of meat per person?

elena Unos 300. Córtala con el cuchillo y no la saques hasta que esté hecha.
About 300. Cut it with the knife and don't take it out until it is done.

anna ¿Y las patatas? ¿Y la mayonesa?
And the potatoes? And the mayonnaise?

elena Hierve agua con sal. Cuando hierva, añade las patatas, pero no las hiervas mucho. La mayonesa es casera: bate un huevo con aceite.
Boil water with salt. When it boils, add the potatoes, but don't boil them too long. The mayonnaise is home-made: beat an egg with oil.

hugo Abuela, ¡está exquisito! Lo devoro todo.
Grandma, it's delicious! I'm wolfing it all down.

elena Pues no lo devores. Saboréalo, hijo.
Then don't wolf it down. Savour it, dear.

martina Ayer, después del desfile, comí tanto que hoy solo quiero ensalada.
Yesterday, after the parade, I ate so much that today I only want salad.

anna Con velas en la mesa parece una comida de fiesta.
With candles on the table it looks like a party meal.

elena No es una fiesta, hija: es la comida de todos los domingos.
It is not a party, dear: it is our usual Sunday meal.

spell it cover the word, write it, check

to boil	**hervir**
to roast, to grill	**asar**
to beat, to whisk	**batir**
to grind	**moler**
to freeze (food)	**congelar**

knife

el cuchillo

good to know · Many kitchen words are the same in Spain and Latin America, and el horno is the oven everywhere. Some change: in Mexico Diego says jitomate for tomate, and in Argentina Martina says choclo for corn.

Orders with pronouns look hard on paper, but in the kitchen they are easy: bátelo, saboréalo, no lo hiervas. Cook it and you will remember it.
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day 59 legends and storms

Spanish B1
unit 10 · back to the village

Tell a short story in the past, with al principio, de repente and al final, and talk about legends, customs and the geography of a place.

Telling what happened is one of the main things you do in a language: the preterite for events, the imperfect for the scene and the pluperfect for what came before. Today it comes with a legend and a storm.

words

word	meaning	example
la leyenda	legend (pl. leyendas)	Hay una leyenda sobre este monte. There is a legend about this mountain.
la creencia	belief (pl. creencias)	Es una creencia muy antigua del pueblo. It is a very old belief of the village.
la costumbre	custom, habit (pl. costumbres)	Es costumbre cenar tarde en España. It is the custom to have dinner late in Spain.
helar	to freeze (weather)	En enero hiela por la noche en la sierra. In January it freezes at night in the sierra.
soplar	to blow	Hoy sopla un viento muy frío. A very cold wind is blowing today.
temporal	temporary (adj); storm (el temporal)	Hoy hay un temporal de viento y lluvia. Today there is a storm of wind and rain.
occidental	western	España está en la parte occidental de Europa. Spain is in the western part of Europe.
oriental	eastern	Valencia está en la costa oriental. Valencia is on the east coast.
el noroeste	north-west	El viento viene del noroeste. The wind comes from the north-west.
el sudeste	south-east	Valencia está al sudeste de Madrid. Valencia is south-east of Madrid.
geográfico	geographical	Es un mapa geográfico de España. It is a geographical map of Spain.
continental	continental	Madrid tiene un clima continental. Madrid has a continental climate.
el territorio	territory (pl. territorios)	España tiene un territorio muy variado. Spain has a very varied territory.
el occidente	the West (pl. occidentes)	Europa es parte de Occidente. Europe is part of the West.
hallar	to find (formal)	En el monte hallaron un objeto muy antiguo. On the hill they found a very old object.

pattern al principio, de repente, al final

al principio + imperfect **de repente + preterite** **había + participle**

To tell a story, the imperfect paints the scene (hacía sol, soplaba el viento), the preterite gives the events (de repente empezó a llover) and the pluperfect (había + participle) says what happened before: cuando llegamos, la tormenta ya había empezado. Linking words organise the story: al principio, luego, de repente, al final.

Al principio hacía sol, pero de repente empezó a soplar el viento. At first it was sunny, but suddenly the wind started to blow.

Cuando llegamos, el temporal ya había empezado. When we arrived, the storm had already started.

Al final nos quedamos en casa hasta la mañana. In the end we stayed at home until the morning.

Me puse nerviosa, pero luego me quedé tranquila. I got nervous, but then I calmed down.

dialogue the legend of the mountain

elena Este temporal viene del noroeste: los temporales entran por el occidente de la península. En la sierra el clima es continental, con inviernos muy fríos.
This storm comes from the north-west: storms come in from the west of the peninsula. In the sierra the climate is continental, with very cold winters.

hugo Hace un viento increíble. En el mapa geográfico, estamos al noroeste de Madrid, ¿no?
The wind is unbelievable. On the geographical map, we are north-west of Madrid, aren't we?

martina ¡Y qué frío! El cielo tiene muy mala pinta y parece que va a helar.
And how cold it is! The sky looks very bad and it seems it is going to freeze.

anna Elena, ¿qué dice la leyenda del monte?
Elena, what does the legend of the mountain say?

elena Una noche como esta, una niña se había perdido en el monte.
On a night like this, a girl had got lost on the hill.

elena Al principio no veía nada, pero de repente halló una luz lejana: todo el pueblo había hecho fuego para ella.
At first she could see nothing, but suddenly she found a distant light: the whole village had lit a fire for her.

hugo ¿Y al final llegó a casa?
And in the end did she get home?

elena Claro. Por eso en la feria hacemos fuego: es una costumbre del pueblo.
Of course. That is why we light a fire at the fair: it is a custom of the village.

anna Es una creencia muy bonita. Me quedé sorprendida.
It is a lovely belief. I was surprised.

martina En Argentina tenemos leyendas del campo, y en Chile, de la cordillera. ¡Cada territorio tiene las suyas!
In Argentina we have legends of the countryside, and in Chile, of the mountain range. Every region has its own!

hugo Hace frío: ¿hacemos chocolate? Hay que hervir la leche.
It is cold: shall we make hot chocolate? We have to boil the milk.

elena Sí. Y luego bate bien el chocolate con la leche.
Yes. And then whisk the chocolate well into the milk.

anna Mañana volvemos a Madrid por la autopista, si el túnel no está cerrado.
Tomorrow we go back to Madrid by the motorway, if the tunnel is not closed.

spell it cover the word, write it, check

legend **la leyenda**

belief	**la creencia**
custom, habit	**la costumbre**
to freeze (weather)	**helar**
to blow	**soplar**
temporary (adj); storm (el temporal)	**temporal**

good to know · Geographers say the sierra has a continental climate: hot summers and cold winters. In everyday speech people just say hace mucho frío en la sierra. Temporal can be a noun (un temporal de viento, a storm) or an adjective (un trabajo temporal, a temporary job).

You can now tell what happened from the beginning to the end. Try it tonight with your own day.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

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day 60 mission: summer in the sierra

Spanish B1
unit 10 · back to the village

Follow a weekend in a mountain village: the landscape, the farm, the fair, the kitchen and a storm with a legend.

Everything from this unit together: diminutives, seguir and dejar de, wishes with ojalá, orders with pronouns and telling a story in the past, with the words of the countryside.

chapter 1 up to the summit

hugo ¡Por fin la cumbre! Estamos a 1800 metros de altitud.
At last, the summit! We are 1,800 metres above sea level.

anna ¡Qué horizonte! A un lado la llanura, al otro la cordillera.
What a horizon! On one side the plain, on the other the mountain range.

martina Elena, ¿sabés si estas flores son autóctonas?
Elena, do you know if these flowers are native?

elena Sí, son de la sierra. Y las casas serranas también: de piedra, como la mía.
Yes, they are from the sierra. And so are the mountain houses: of stone, like mine.

hugo Desde aquí se ve tu aldea. Y el poblado de al lado.
From here you can see your hamlet. And the settlement next to it.

elena Descendemos por ese camino. Vamos a ver la finca de mi vecino.
We go down by that path. We are going to see my neighbour's farm.

anna ¿Qué cultivos tiene? ¿Sigue con la agricultura?
What crops does he have? Is he still in farming?

elena Trigo, y también ganadería: ovejas y corderos. Con su lana hace mantas. Es una zona agrícola.
Wheat, and livestock too: sheep and lambs. He makes blankets from the wool. It is a farming area.

martina ¿Es agricultor o campesino?
Is he a farmer or a country man?

elena Campesino de toda la vida. Su padre trabajó en la mina, y su abuelo era cazador.
A country man all his life. His father worked in the mine, and his grandfather was a hunter.

hugo ¿Y quién cuida a los animales?
And who looks after the animals?

elena El vaquero. Se pone a trabajar a las seis. Esta noche dormimos en la cabaña, ¡y ojalá no haga frío!
The herder. He starts work at six. Tonight we sleep in the cabin, and I hope it isn't cold!

chapter 2 the programme of the fair

hugo Mirad el programa de las fiestas. Lo leo en voz alta para mi programa de radio.
Look at the programme of the fiestas. I'll read it aloud for my radio programme.

hugo «Gran feria del pueblo. A las seis, desfile por las calles con el coro y la danza del pueblo. Música callejera, globos para los niños y baile flamenco con una bailarina de Madrid. Por la noche, fuego en la plaza. Día festivo: ¡diversión para todos!»
“Big village fair. At six, a parade through the streets with the choir and the village dance. Street music, balloons for the children and flamenco with a dancer from Madrid. At night, a fire in the square. A holiday: fun for everyone!”

martina ¡Qué bien! Parece que los niños se disfrazan de animales.
How great! It seems the children dress up as animals.

anna Me encanta aplaudir. ¡Voy a hacer muchas fotos!
I love clapping. I'm going to take lots of photos!

elena Cuando era niña, yo cantaba en el coro.
When I was a girl, I used to sing in the choir.

hugo ¡Abuela! No lo sabía.
Grandma! I didn't know that.

martina Yo no soy bailarina de flamenco, pero bailo tango. ¿Hay sitio?
I'm not a flamenco dancer, but I dance tango. Is there room?

elena En la fiesta hay sitio para todos. Pero ojalá no llueva.
At the fiesta there is room for everybody. But I hope it doesn't rain.

anna Espero que no llueva ni sople mucho el viento.
I hope it neither rains nor blows hard.

chapter 3 grandma's kitchen

elena Hoy cocinamos entre todos. Hugo, ¿me ayudas con el cordero?
Today we all cook together. Hugo, will you help me with the lamb?

hugo Claro. ¿Qué hago? ¿Lo asamos ya?
Of course. What do I do? Do we roast it now?

elena Primero ponlo en el horno con sal y pimienta. Se asa en dos horas.
First put it in the oven with salt and pepper. It roasts in two hours.

anna Yo muelo la pimienta. ¿Cuántos gramos pongo?
I'll grind the pepper. How many grams do I put in?

elena Un poquito. Y no la muelas mucho.
Just a little. And don't grind it too much.

martina Yo bato la mayonesa. ¿Cuánto aceite?
I'll whisk the mayonnaise. How much oil?

elena Medio litro. Bátela bien y añade un poco de vinagre.
Half a litre. Whisk it well and add a little vinegar.

hugo Abuela, ¿se puede congelar la carne que queda?
Grandma, can the meat that is left be frozen?

elena Sí, pero antes córtala con el cuchillo. Anna, ¿hierve el agua de las patatas?
Yes, but cut it with the knife first. Anna, is the water for the potatoes boiling?

anna Sí, ya hierve. Qué mezcla de sabores tan rica.
Yes, it is boiling now. What a lovely mix of flavours.

elena ¡Y no devores el cordero, Hugo! Saboréalo.
And don't wolf down the lamb, Hugo! Savour it.

hugo Es que está exquisito. ¡Qué sabor!
It's just that it's delicious. What a flavour!

chapter 4 the storm and the legend

elena Escuchad el viento. Hoy sopla del noroeste y trae temporal.
Listen to the wind. Today it blows from the north-west and brings a storm.

hugo Parece que va a helar. Es el clima continental: mucho calor en verano y mucho frío en invierno.
It looks like it is going to freeze. It is the continental climate: very hot in summer and very cold in winter.

martina En el mapa geográfico, ¿qué hay al sudeste? ¿Madrid?
On the geographical map, what is to the south-east? Madrid?

elena Sí. Y la parte occidental de la sierra es más fría que la oriental.
Yes. And the western part of the sierra is colder than the eastern one.

anna Hugo, ¿España está en el occidente de Europa?
Hugo, is Spain in the west of Europe?

hugo Sí, y este territorio es muy variado. Elena, cuéntanos la leyenda del monte.
Yes, and this territory is very varied. Elena, tell us the legend of the hill.

elena Una niña se había perdido en el monte. Al final halló el camino gracias a los fuegos del pueblo.
A girl had got lost on the hill. In the end she found the way thanks to the fires of the village.

elena Por eso es costumbre hacer fuego en la feria. Es una creencia muy vieja.
That is why it is the custom to light a fire at the fair. It is a very old belief.

martina ¡Qué bonita! En Argentina también tenemos leyendas del campo.
How lovely! In Argentina we have legends of the countryside too.

anna Ojalá mañana pase el temporal y podamos volver a Madrid.
I hope the storm passes tomorrow and we can go back to Madrid.

chapter 5 the legend of the stone farmer

elena Esta es la leyenda del campesino de piedra, que mi abuela me contaba en la cocina cuando había tormenta.
This is the legend of the stone farmer, which my grandmother told me in the kitchen when there was a storm.

elena Hace muchos años, un campesino cuidaba sus ovejas en la montaña. Un día vio un cielo negro, y empezó una tormenta muy fuerte.
Many years ago a farmer looked after his sheep on the mountain. One day he saw a black sky, and a very strong storm began.

elena El campesino no quiso dejar a sus ovejas solas. Pasó la noche con ellas bajo la tormenta, sin comer y sin dormir.
The farmer did not want to leave his sheep alone. He spent the night with them in the storm, without eating or sleeping.

elena Por la mañana salió el sol, pero el campesino estaba allí, convertido en piedra. Dicen que así protege el valle para siempre.
In the morning the sun came out, but the farmer was still there, turned into stone. They say that this way he protects the valley for ever.

elena Todavía hoy, cuando hay tormenta, los viejos del pueblo miran la montaña y dicen que el campesino todavía cuida de sus ovejas.
Even today, when there is a storm, the old people of the village look at the mountain and say the farmer is still looking after his sheep.

elena Mi abuela decía siempre lo mismo: no dejes nunca solos a los tuyos cuando hay peligro.
My grandmother always said the same: never leave your own people alone when there is danger.

You can now describe a landscape, order a dish, wish for good weather and tell a story. That is a real weekend in Spanish.
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