

Mag *aux* ine

No. 3, July 2025

conversaSpain
Auxiliares de conversación

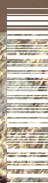
**Freshen up! Summer
is here... and we are
doing it the Spanish
way!**



**Meet Kit Cree. From
Auxiliar de Conversación
to ConversaSpain's
Personal Advisor
(Page 10-12)**



**Prepare for Spain's most
well-known festival:
Sanfermines!
(Page 5)**



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S

ummer: The Time for New Adventures and Connections

Summer brings that long-awaited feeling of renewal and energy. It is the perfect time to refresh our routines, open ourselves up to new experiences and let the sun and the breeze fill us with joy.

This summer, we invite you to make the most of every moment: explore new places, enjoy the little things and connect with the people who make every day special.

Whether you're at the beach, on a café terrace or in a park, every moment is an opportunity to recharge your batteries and create unforgettable memories.

Summer has that magic of renewing us, helping us take a break and reminding us that life is to be enjoyed to the fullest. So, get comfortable, get ready to live intensely and let this season surprise you with its warmth and joy.

In the end, summer is not just a season, but a state of mind. Let's make this summer in Spain truly special!

¡A disfrutar del sol y de cada momento!

Tomás

CEO, Multilingual Education Development & Support



Index

04

Events

by Remy

06

Teach & Learn

by Kit

08

Recipes

by Nüpelda

10

Interview

by Ainhua

13

Curiosities

by Rafa

14

Mindfulness

by Sara

16

Games

by Val

18

Quiz

by Ainhua

19

Partners



Events *by Remy*

04



Sport. S.M La Reina
Inshore 2025 in Valencia

04



Festivities. Medieval
Festival in Hita

06-14



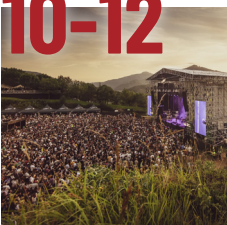
Festivities.
San Fermín in Pamplona

10-12



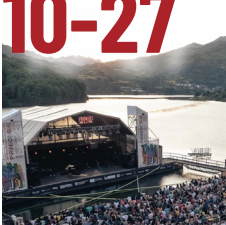
Music.
Mad Cool Festival

10-12



Music.
BBK Live

10-27



Music.
Pirineos Sur Festival

25-26



Festivities. Moros y
Cristianos in Alicante

26



Festivities. Ajedrez
Viviente in Jávea

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

14-20



Sport.
Premier Padel in Málaga

19-20



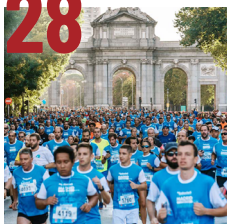
Sport. Superbikes
Championship in
Navarra

26



Music.
Monegros Festival

28



Sport. San Lorenzo
Trophy Run in Madrid

Sanfermines:



There's something about Pamplona in July you need to experience for yourself. When you visit Pamplona, you get culture, amazing food, history...

However, when you visit Pamplona in July, it becomes a whole different city. It's a sea of red and white everywhere you look.

I'm sure you've heard about it, but trust me, forget what you've heard. And honestly, if you don't live it yourself, no matter how much I explain, you won't quite picture it.

San Fermin is little kids giggling under the feet of the *gigantes* (giant puppets), grandpas taking their grandkids to las *barracas* (the fair), music everywhere (there's always a charanga band playing), it's lining up for tickets at *La Tómbola* and crossing your fingers that this year, you'll win the car and of course, it goes without saying that everyone's eating.

If I had to recommend just one thing... I really couldn't choose. However, as a *navarra* (and even though I'm not from Pamplona), *El Chupinazo* is something truly special for all of us locals. It's a deep feeling, the moment when everything starts up after a year of waiting. Even now, writing this, I've got goosebumps.

And you know what? It's not even something

huge. A person steps out onto a balcony, says a few words and then... they let off a rocket. From that moment on, it's all joy.

After that, one of the most beautiful moments is when everyone goes silent for the *gaiteros*, and they begin playing their traditional music with the crowd gathered around, giving them space and attention. It's pure emotion.

But if you ask me, San Fermin is the best festival in the world because of its people.

That alone is a good reason to come because it's for anyone who wants to feel pure joy through people. People talk to you. Smile at you. Raise their glass with you. Dance with you. No matter where you're from.

So yes, consider this your invitation to join us this year.

From a local, to an expat.

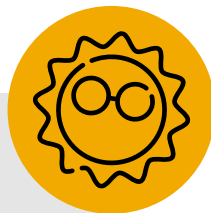


Teach & Learn by Kit



Just as British and American English draws on a wide range of vocabulary to discuss the rain, wind and snow, the Spanish language is brimming with sunshine, giving you many ways to express just how hot it is!

Saying



Ser un sol

Literal meaning: to be a sunshine

Actual meaning: to be lovely

Example of use: *María siempre es un sol* (María is always a ray of sunshine)

Bonus saying: Remember that sunbathing (*tomar el sol*) literally translates as 'taking the sun' – no bathing required, just take it and keep it on your skin!

False friend



Topic/Tópico

As the temperature heats up, everyone says *¡Qué calor!* on repeat. Although it's a useful conversation opener, this topic (*tema*) can become a cliché (*un tópico*). Beware! *Un tópico* is not a topic! Use the expression *cambiar de tema* to change the subject!

Tongue twister

It might take you all summer to get your head round this tongue-twister:

*Veranear en verano, lleva al esperado veranovago
porque no hacer nada, es lo mejor para verarelajarnos.*

Can you work out what it means?



Summer plans!

Over the summer, make sure to stock up on authentic materials for your classes next year. Students love to see items representing your culture and language so be sure to spice up your presentations, games, and activities with realia.



This could include:

Snacks/sweets to use as rewards/prizes in class.



Magazine or newspaper articles to start a discussion.



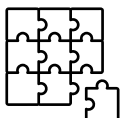
Tourist information from your local area.



Tourist maps: your local subway map, paper maps.



Word searches, puzzles, games, and cartoon strips.



Card games.





Recipe *by Nûpelda*

From Córdoba with Love: *Salmorejo*

If you're spending a summer in Spain and you think surviving the summer heat is all about gazpacho, then you're seriously missing out.

Hot take: Salmorejo > Gazpacho. At least if you're into thicker, creamier, dip-your-bread-in-it vibes. This Andalusian classic is Spain's best-kept summer secret.

Both salmorejo and gazpacho are classic Andalusian cold soups, but they're quite different. Gazpacho is light and packed with veggies, great for sipping. Salmorejo is richer and thicker, thanks to the bread soaked in tomato puree.

Let's dive into this ultra-simple Andalusian classic you can whip up even in the tiniest piso kitchen.

Ingredients

- 1 kg ripe tomatoes (about 6 medium-sized ones)
- 150 g stale white bread (roughly 2 thick slices, crusts removed if you want to go fancy)
- 100 ml extra virgin olive oil
- 1 garlic clove
- 1-2 tbsp vinegar
- Salt to taste
- 1 hard-boiled egg, chopped
- Serrano ham, diced (or replace it with smoked tofu or roasted chickpeas)

How To Work Your Magic:

- 01** Score tomatoes, boil briefly, cool, then peel. Skip if desired.
- 02** Blend peeled tomatoes until smooth and no chunks remain.
- 03** Soak torn stale bread in tomato purée for ten minutes.
- 04** Add garlic, vinegar, salt; blend until fully smooth and creamy.
- 05** Drizzle olive oil slowly while blending to create an emulsion.
- 06** Taste mixture; adjust salt, vinegar, or garlic as needed.
- 07** Chill in refrigerator for at least one hour before serving.
- 08** Serve cold with olive oil and your favorite toppings.

Bonus Spanish Culture Points:

Salmorejo is the pride of Córdoba, a city famous for its white-washed patios, flower-filled balconies, and temperatures hot enough to melt your Wi-Fi router. Locals eat it year-round, but it really shines in summer.

Don't Waste That Bread

This dish is born from the no-waste kitchen philosophy using day-old white bread to get that authentic texture. Spanish abuelas would never throw out perfectly good pan.

Garlic Warning: Plan Accordingly

Raw garlic hits hard. Maybe don't eat a full bowl before your 9 am class.

Local Lingo Alert

Want to sound in the know? Drop this at your next staff lunch:

"Prefiero el salmorejo al gazpacho, que tiene más cuerpo."

Chill Before Serving

Room-temp salmorejo is... not it. Always serve it cold, ideally after at least an hour in the fridge.



KIT CREE

Age: *A lady never tells*

Region of Spain: *First TEFL job in Castilla y León*

From: *The Midlands (and Spain!)*

Role: *Personal Advisor and Team Cheerleader*



“

Meeting our language assistants takes me right back to when it was me”

Born in the Midlands, living in a tiny town in Navarra, and being both British and Spanish. How does that happen?

I came to Spain in the mid-90s with the idea of learning Spanish. I already had my TEFL certificate, and I applied for a job through the academy that I did it with. They sent me to Castilla y León, I lived in Tarazona, and learned Spanish very quickly.... And I decided to stay! In fact, my children were born here.

You do understand why someone would want to come and live in Spain, then.

Absolutely, yeah! I liked it so much I became Spanish. So yeah, I understand the adventure, the appeal, and all the things that you don't expect.

Talking about things you don't expect, what is one, for example, that shocked you at the beginning?

Something that shocked me was that people are so supportive of your language learning journey. Maybe in other situations, native speakers are very critical, and you're embarrassed to speak, but in Spain, it's entirely the other way.

Maybe they even assume you know a bit more than you do.

Exactly. I think they're very happy that they don't have to speak English to you. So they are like "oh, you speak Spanish, perfect". They make it very comfortable for everybody.

I'm sure you know that *auxis* will relate a lot to you in the sense that you being from the UK, ended up here. But they won't just relate to you because you came to Spain, but also because you were an *Auxiliar de Conversación* before.

Yes, I was. For me, it was in France. I studied French at university, and as part of my university course, I spent my third year in France. I applied and said, "send me anywhere". I had the best year of my life. It really was.

I was in two schools, teaching the 11 to 15 age group. I lived with a host family. Actually, I lived with an old lady, which I



never, ever expected. We got on so well that I stayed with her. She was a former teacher. I was welcomed as part of her family, included in family dinners, her grandchildren came to live with us. It was just an amazing experience.

So much time has gone by, and our *auxis* are kind of going through the same kind of challenges, and also same kind of adventure.

Exactly, exactly. I was an *auxi* in a pre-Internet era. We didn't have mobile phones. We didn't have Google Maps, or anything like that. We were maybe a little bit more old school using the telephone to call each other up and writing letters. But I still had a great network of other *auxis*.

I totally get that whole community aspect. I'm still friends with some of them. In fact, an American that was in my same town came to stay with me recently. A lot of time has gone by, but we still have that whole year in common.

It's amazing that you still keep in touch with some of them after.. I'm not going to say "so many years" I don't want to make you feel old, but you know. So, you really liked that *auxi* experience, you ended up making a job out of it!

The year before I was an *auxi*, I was a waitress in Switzerland, and I was such a bad waitress that I did my TEFL course, and my sister had been an *auxi* before me in Canada, in Quebec, and she said to me, be an *auxi*.



The TEFL course really set me up for that. And afterwards, I knew that, to be a translator and an interpreter, I needed another language. I already had French, so I came to Spain to get Spanish, and teaching English was a really great way to do that. That way, I could work and learn the language outside the classroom, and I did. It set me up for a future career in Translation and Interpreting.

You got in front of a classroom with just a TEFL course, but not actual teaching experience.

I taught at summer school, but my TEFL course was quite a short one. It was an introductory course. I think what you have to bring to the classroom is bags of confidence and lots of games.

So that would be your advice: bring lots of confidence.

Yeah, just throw yourself into it. Know that you're the expert that you know this is your language. Maybe you don't know all the grammar rules, but you can model it.

It's like "fake it till you make it".

And you make it, you really do! The best thing for me was hearing my voice coming back to me from my students. When you see those same kids every week for nine months, and at the end of the year, you hear your voice, and you hear those little things that you say, even without wanting to. That's just the best motivation to carry on teaching.



I mean, if you were hearing back your own voice and quotes, I'm sure the kids were saying lots of jokes.

Oh, absolutely, yeah. They made a card for me at the end, and it was a cartoon of me, and it was just laughing.

I can picture that. So, you have then been an *auxi*, moved to Spain and actually to Castilla y León. How does it feel to come full circle now that you're literally helping others who are coming to Spain to be an *auxi*, and, in your case, specifically to Castilla y León?

Well, it feels great. I can't quite believe that I get to do this. When I was an *auxi*, we all talked about writing a book or manual, putting a load of games together, or coming up with some way of encouraging other people to be *auxis*. And, you know, many years have passed, but I'm finally getting to do that. It's such a great thing to do.

That's the great thing from our team, I think. We have all lived abroad, so we really do care about it. Even though one can think, "yeah, you're just saying that so that I join the program", or whatever, we actually do care about these experiences.

Absolutely, we've been there and done that. We know all those anxieties, and I'm so glad that people are able to express them to us and say "I'm anxious about where I'm going to live", "I'm anxious about this", "I'm anxious about that", because we've been there and we can say, "Oh, I don't have the answer for you, but I do know how you feel, so let's solve this problem together".

What would you say is your favorite thing from the job?

It's meeting the *auxis*. It's going to the Induction Meetings and meeting them; it takes me right back to when it was me. It makes me think of all the things that I did that year, of the traveling, the meeting up, the schools, and everything like that.

It also reminds me of my first year when I was in Castilla y León, and just how wildly different it was to being a student in England. It takes me right back, but in a really, really good way. And it just makes me so excited for everybody.

Ingrid said the same thing: the Induction Meetings! For you, you kind of look at them and you know what's coming, you're excited from them... you kind of live the experience through them again.

Exactly, yeah. I kind of want to say, just get out there, fall in love, have the best time and **say yes to everything**.

That's a perfect motto, and a great way to end this interview. ¡Muchas gracias!





Did you know... ?

Spain has over **3,000** beaches?

You could spend every summer of your life exploring a new beach and still not run out. Not only are there over 3,000, but they vary enormously.

From the Atlantic Ocean beaches in Galicia, throughout the northern regions hugging the Cantabrian Sea to the South of Spain and its Mediterranean coasts. Let's not forget the (Balearic and Canary) islands either!

No matter which one you visit, though, the beach isn't just a destination in Spain, it's a way of living

the summer. The daily sound of waves, looooooong lunches by the shore, and late sunsets that make you forget what time it is.

Whether you're swimming, sunbathing, or just strolling along the shore, make sure you do it the Spanish way!

The Most Powerful Gratitude Exercise to Freshen Up: A Letter to Yourself

Gratitude is life-changing. It helps us feel more positive, build resilience, and appreciate the journey we're on. But here's the thing: We usually focus on being grateful for others and forget to acknowledge the most important person in our lives: ourselves!

That's what this exercise is about. You're going to write a handwritten letter -filled with appreciation, encouragement, and love- to the most important person in your life: YOURSELF.

How to Do It:

Find a quiet spot.

Light a candle, play some music, whatever helps you feel present and write without distractions.

Start with kindness.

Address yourself in a warm, caring way, as if you were talking to your best friend.

Be specific.

Think about moments when you showed up for yourself, took a risk, or pushed through something difficult over the last year. Give yourself some credit!

Sign off with love.

Close your letter with a positive note: an affirmation, a promise, or just a simple, heartfelt "With love, Me."

Grab a pen and paper.

Writing by hand makes this more personal and meaningful.

Say thank you.

Acknowledge everything you've been through for the last few months, the challenges you've faced, and the effort you put in every day. Recognize your little wins too; they all matter!

Offer encouragement.

What would you say to a friend who needed a confidence boost? Say that to yourself. Remind yourself that you're enough, just as you are.

Keep it safe.

Put the letter in an envelope and keep it in a drawer. Whenever you're doubting yourself or you forget how incredible you are, take it out and read it. Let it remind you of your own strength and worth!



We rarely stop to appreciate ourselves, even though self-gratitude is just as powerful as being grateful for others.

It helps build self-worth by shifting the focus from what we lack to what we've already achieved.

It boosts resilience: when challenges arise, rereading your own words of encouragement can be a powerful reminder of your strength.

It creates self-compassion, reinforces positivity –reminding you to celebrate the small efforts that make you who you are– and shows you how far you've come.

In short, this is a love letter to yourself: a reminder that ***you are enough, exactly as you are.***

Could You Survive a Spanish Summer?

01

What is a *siesta*?

- A) A late-night party
- B) A traditional dance
- C) A short afternoon nap

02

What do Spaniards often do during *la sobremesa*?

- A) Go for a walk
- B) Chat and relax after a meal
- C) Take a shower

03

What is the typical drink enjoyed with ice during hot Spanish summers?

- A) *Sangría*
- B) *Batido*
- C) *Sidra*

04

What's the best time to go to the beach in Spain in August?

- A) Around midday
- B) Early morning or late afternoon
- C) At night

06

6. What is "San Fermín" best known for?

- A) A tomato-throwing festival
- B) A religious pilgrimage
- C) *El Txupinazo*

What is *gazpacho*?

- A) A cold tomato soup
- B) A spicy meat stew
- C) A type of bread

05

Answers

- 1. C) 2. B) 3. A) 4. B) 5. A) 6. C)
- Picture search
- Crab 2. Flip flops 3. Snorkle
- 4. Float 5. Sunscreen 6. Umbrella

A collection of 50 black and white line drawings of summer and beach items, arranged in a grid-like pattern. The items include: sunglasses, flip-flops, beach balls, various fruits (pineapple, watermelon, ice cream), beach accessories (hat, towel, beach chair), and other summer-themed objects (umbrella, beach bag, beach ball). The drawings are simple and stylized, suitable for coloring or use as icons.

6.SOMBRILLA

Which Spanish beach would be your perfect summer destination?

Count how many As, Bs, or Cs you pick and find out where you should go!

01 What kind of scenery do you prefer when relaxing on the beach?

- A) Beaches with golden sand and big waves.
- B) Beaches where I can see mountains.
- C) Beaches with white sand and turquoise water.

02 What is your favorite beach activity?

- A) Surfing and enjoying the waves.
- B) Strolling along the promenade and taking pictures.
- C) Swimming and snorkeling in calm waters.

03 What vibe do you prefer at the beach?

- A) A more natural, less crowded place.
- B) A place that is elegant and busy.
- C) An exclusive, laidback paradise.

04 What kind of food do you feel like after the beach?

- A) Anything as long as it is in a chiringuito.
- B) Some pintxos and an ice cream.
- C) Fresh fruit and cocktails at a beach club.

05 What time of day do you enjoy most at the beach?

- A) The morning, when the sun starts to warm up.
- B) The afternoon, with the sunset and a lively atmosphere.
- C) The evening, with a cooler breeze and the twilight.

06 Which vacation style do you prefer?

- A) Adventurous and active, exploring nature.
- B) Cultural and urban, combining beach and city.
- C) Relaxed and exclusive, disconnecting completely.

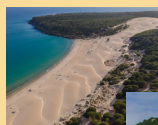
07 What type of accommodation do you prefer near the beach?

- A) A rustic cabin in nature.
- B) A boutique hotel overlooking the sea.
- C) A luxury resort with all the amenities.

08 What makes you feel happiest at the beach?

- A) The feeling of freedom and connection with nature.
- B) The beauty and elegance of the surroundings.
- C) The tranquility and exclusivity of the place.

The answer is...



Most A's
BOLONIA



Most B's
LA CONCHA



Most C's
SES ILLETES

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Next
issue:
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conversaSpain
Auxiliares de conversación

