

Level A1: Beginner / Principiante

Café Culture & Basic Social Interactions

1. Real-Life Conversation Snippet

In Level A1, you learn practical interactions right from day one. Here is how you order food and drink with natural confidence in a Spanish café:

Camarero: ¡Hola! Buenos días. ¿Qué le pongo?

Waiter: Hello! Good morning. What can I get for you?

Elena: Hola. Para mí, un café con leche y un bocadillo de jamón, por favor.

Elena: Hello. For me, a coffee with milk and a ham sandwich, please.

Camarero: Perfecto. ¿El café con azúcar o sacarina?

Waiter: Perfect. Coffee with sugar or sweetener?

Elena: Con azúcar, gracias. ¿Cuánto es?

Elena: With sugar, thank you. How much is it?

Camarero: Son tres euros con cincuenta céntimos.

Waiter: That is 3.50 euros.

2. Key Vocabulary & Functional Phrases

Spanish Phrase	English Meaning	Practical Usage Tip
Para mí...	For me... / I'll have...	The most natural way to order food or drinks in Spain.
¿Qué le pongo?	What can I get you?	Common polite phrase used by servers in bars and cafés.
¿Cuánto es?	How much is it?	Essential phrase for paying in shops, markets, and restaurants.
Un café con leche	A coffee with milk	Spain's standard morning coffee staple!

3. Grammar Focus: Regular -AR Verbs in Present Tense

Mastering "Tomar" (To take / to have food or drink)

To express what you eat or drink, we use the verb **tomar**. Notice how the verb ending changes for each person:

Pronoun	Form	Example Sentence
Yo (I)	tomo	Yo tomo un té verde. (I have a green tea.)
Tú (You - informal)	tomas	¿Qué tomas tú? (What are you having?)
Él / Ella / Usted	toma	Él toma un zumo de naranja. (He has an orange juice.)

Pronoun	Form	Example Sentence
Nosotros/as (We)	tomamos	Tomamos tapas al mediodía. (We have tapas at noon.)

4. Quick Practice

Test your knowledge! Choose the correct form to complete the sentence:

1. Hola, ¿_____ (querer) un agua sin gas, por favor?

A) quiero

B) quieres

C) queremos

2. Elena y Marcos _____ (tomar) café todos los días.

A) tomo

B) toma

C) toman



Teacher's Note for Adult Learners: At level A1, we focus on high-frequency phrases and real-world interactions right away. You don't need to memorize long rules before speaking — you learn grammar organically through realistic conversation!

Sample snippet from **Spanish Camino**. Ready to boost your fluency?

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