

Civilization Lesson 8—SPANISH LIFE AND CUSTOMS

A. Family Life:

- 1. Spanish family names.
 - a. Spanish people have two family names, the family name of the father followed by the maiden name of the mother, often joined by y. Example: Pedro Ortega (y) Gómez. This is sometimes shortened to Pedro Ortega by omitting the mother's family name.
 - b. When a woman marries, she retains her family name and takes on the family name of her husband, which is preceded by de. Example: Elena López de Ortega.
- 2. El día del santo.
 - a. The given name of most Spanish children is the name of a saint.
 - b. Spanish children generally celebrate their saint's day (el día del santo) instead of their birthday (el cumpleaños).

B. Social Customs:

- 1. El café. Coffee house frequented by men who gather there to meet friends, to discuss current topics, to play cards or dominoes and to partake of such light refreshments as coffee, wine and liqueur.
- 2. La tertulia. Informal social gathering for the purpose of entertaining and chatting with friends.
- 3. Pelando la pava. Courting one's sweetheart by speaking to her through the reja or window grille.
- 4. Siesta. Afternoon nap or rest following the noon meal.
- 5. La lotería. Government-controlled lottery; tickets may be purchased from street vendors or in special stores; drawings are held regularly throughout the year.

C. Religious Life:

- 1. Navidad (Christmas).
 - a. Nochebuena. Christmas Eve.
 - b. Misa del Gallo. Midnight Mass.
 - c. Villancicos. Christmas carols.
 - d. Nacimiento. Cardboard or clay figures representing the scene of the birth of Christ; Christmas trees are not widely used.
 - e. Día de los Reyes Magos. Religious holiday celebrated on January 6; Spanish children receive their Christmas gifts on this day; the Magi kings (The Three Wise Men), called "Los Reyes Magos," play the same role in Spanish life as Santa Claus does in ours.
- 2. Carnaval. Spanish Mardi Gras; celebrated the last three days before Lent (Cuaresma).
- 3. Semana Santa. Holy Week is the week before Easter (Pascua Florida); this holiday is observed in Seville with impressive and elaborate ceremonies.
- 4. Verbena. An evening festival in honor of a patron saint.
- 5. Romería. A pilgrimage, accompanied by picnicking, to the shrine of a patron saint.
- 6. Día de los Difuntos (All Souls' Day). Memorial day for all the dead, observed November 2; cemeteries are visited and flowers placed on the graves of relatives and friends.

D. National Holidays:

- 1. Dós de Mayo. Commemorates the resistance of the Spanish people to Napoleonic rule (1808).
- 2. Día de la Raza. Columbus Day, October 12.

E. Sports and Spectacles:

- 1. Corrida de toros (bullfight).
 - a. Plaza de toros. Bull ring.
 - b. Torero. The general term for a bullfighter.
 - (1) Picador. Bullfighter on horseback who uses a pike or lance.
 - (2) Banderillero. Bullfighter who sticks darts into the bull's neck.
 - (3) Matador. Bullfighter who kills the bull with a sword.

2. Jai-alai (also called pelota).
 - a. Basque game somewhat similar to handball.
 - b. Frontón. Three-walled court on which jai-alai is played.
 - c. Cesta. Curved racket strapped to the player's wrist in which the ball is caught and thrown against the wall.
3. Fútbol (Spanish word for soccer). A very popular sport in Spain and Spanish America.

F. Dances:

1. Bolero, fandango, flamenco (Andalucía). Generally accompanied by guitar.
2. Jota (Aragón). A dance of northern Spain.
3. Sardana (Cataluña). A circle dance.

G. Musical Instruments:

1. Guitarra (guitar).
2. Castañuelas (castanets).

H. Foods (Platos):

1. Cocido (stew).
2. Paella. A dish of rice with chicken and seafood.
3. Arroz con pollo. Chicken and rice; popular in Spain and Spanish America.

I. Beverages:

1. Chocolate. Thick hot chocolate served for breakfast.
2. Horchata. Cold drink of crushed almonds, water and sugar.

J. Clothing:

1. Mantilla. Silk lace scarf worn by women as a headdress.
2. Peineta. High shell comb worn with the mantilla.

EXERCISES

A. Underline the word or expression that correctly completes the sentence.

1. La fiesta nacional de España se celebra (el dos de mayo, el doce de octubre, el dos de noviembre).
2. Los niños españoles reciben sus regalos de Navidad (el diez y seis de diciembre, el veinticuatro de diciembre, el seis de enero).
3. La ciudad de (Valencia, Sevilla, Granada) es famosa por sus ceremonias religiosas durante la Semana Santa.
4. Los españoles visitan los cementerios el (Día de los Difuntos, día del santo, Día de la Raza).
5. La lotería es controlada por (la iglesia, el gobierno, los mendigos).
6. El jai-alai se juega en (un frontón, una plaza de toros, un café).
7. Un plato popular de España se llama (sardana, paella, romería).
8. Los españoles toman (chocolate, té, horchata) para el desayuno.
9. La (tertulia, verbena, cesta) es una fiesta religiosa.
10. La jota es un (baile, instrumento músico, plato) español.

B. Match the following items.

<i>Column I</i>	<i>Column II</i>
----- 1. siesta	a. cumpleaños
----- 2. mantilla	b. villancicos
----- 3. Navidad	c. social gathering
----- 4. día del santo	d. torero
----- 5. pelando la pava	e. soccer
----- 6. tertulia	f. afternoon nap
----- 7. romería	g. peineta
----- 8. banderillero	h. religious picnic
----- 9. fútbol	i. instrumento músico
----- 10. castañuelas	j. reja

C. Complete the following sentences in Spanish.

1. Juan López y Serrano se casa con (marries) Dolores Moreno y Ortega. El nombre completo de su esposa es
2. El es un sitio público donde los amigos se reúnen para charlar (chat) y tomar un refresco.
3. El torero que mata al toro se llama el
4. El es un deporte de origen vasco.
5. es un baile andaluz.
6. Un plato típico de España se llama
7. La víspera (eve) de Navidad se llama la
8. Pedro Vargas y López está casado (married) con Ana Aragón y Villa y tienen un hijo Carlos. El nombre completo de Carlos es
9. El se celebra el doce de octubre.
10. La costumbre de hablar a una señorita por la reja se llama

D. Identify the following in English.

1. Nacimiento
2. verbena
3. picador
4. Misa del Gallo
5. sardana
6. horchata
7. Carnaval
8. Cuaresma
9. flamenco
10. Los Reyes Magos