



# Bonuses: English Story Translations

Companion Guide for  
Mini Short Stories in Spanish for Beginners

*Full English translations for all 3 stories in the book*

*By MindSmith Books*

# Introduction

## Welcome to the translations for: *Mini Short Stories in Spanish for Beginners!*

You've been enjoying our free Spanish mini-short stories book – thanks for making us a small part of your Spanish language-learning journey. These complete English translations are designed to be a companion for the original free book, helping you unlock every detail, cultural reference, and linguistic nuance from the 3 stories you've been reading.

We know that sometimes you might need translations to fully digest some parts of the book, confirm your understanding, or just to satisfy your curiosity about a particular phrase. That's exactly why we created this translation document – **so you can learn with confidence and never feel stuck.**

Each section contains the complete English translations of the stories, plus all the comprehension questions translated as well, maintaining the same formatting and structure as your Spanish book, to make it easy to refer back.

### How to Use This Translation Guide

- **Read the Spanish first** – always attempt to understand the story in Spanish before checking the translation (in the original book!). Look up specific sentences or paragraphs rather than reading the entire English version.
- **Check your comprehension** – after reading in Spanish, you can then double-check your understanding in English
- **Learn cultural context** – use the translations to understand Latin American cultural references and expressions that might not be obvious
- **Review the vocabulary** – compare how Spanish expressions translate into natural English

**Important Note:** These translations are meant to support, not replace, your Spanish reading practice. The magic happens when you read in Spanish first, then use these translations to confirm, clarify, and deepen your understanding.

This guide pairs perfectly with your main Spanish stories book – keep them together and use this translation guide whenever you need an extra boost.

Buona lettura e buon apprendimento!

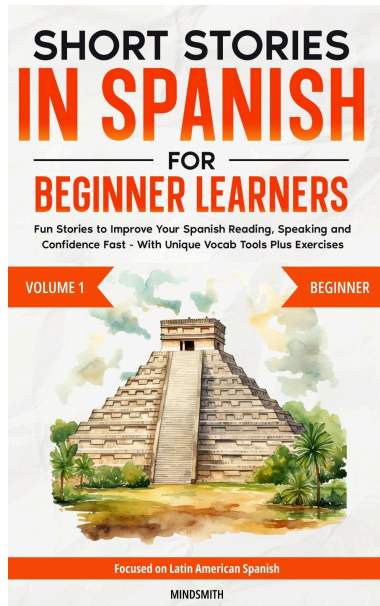
– *The MindSmith Books Team*

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***Now... on to the the translations! →***

# English Translations - Companion Document

## 1. Un día en el mercado

### A Day at the Market

Sofía lives in Oaxaca, Mexico. Today is Saturday and she needs to go to the market. Her family eats a lot of fresh fruit, and the market has the best fruits in the city.

*I'm going to buy mangoes and pineapples today,* thinks Sofía while she walks through the streets of her neighborhood. The day is beautiful and there are many people in the streets.

The market is very busy this Saturday morning. There are many stalls with friendly vendors who shout the prices of their products. Sofía walks between the stalls and sees fruits of many colors: yellow mangoes, green watermelons, and golden pineapples. There are also fresh vegetables like red tomatoes and large avocados.

—Good morning, miss! —says a lady who sells fruits—. What do you need today? I have the best fruits in the market.

—Good morning —responds Sofía with a smile—. I want to buy mangoes, please. How much do they cost?

—The mangoes cost thirty pesos per kilo —says the lady—. They're very sweet and fresh. They arrived this morning from the farm.

Sofía tastes a small piece of mango. *It's delicious!*, she thinks. She buys two kilos of mangoes and also a large pineapple. The lady gives her a discount because she buys a lot.

Afterwards, Sofía walks to another stall where they sell tamales. The smell of the tamales is incredible and makes her stomach rumble. An older man prepares tamales with chicken and green sauce in a large pot.

—Would you like to try a tamal? —asks the man—. They're freshly made.

—Yes, please —responds Sofía.

The tamal is very tasty and hot. Sofía buys three tamales for her family and two more to eat now.

At the last stall, Sofía sees handmade bags. They're very pretty, with bright colors and traditional designs from Oaxaca. The vendor is a young woman with a big smile.

—This bag costs one hundred pesos —says the vendor—. It's my grandmother's work.

—Can it be eighty pesos? —asks Sofía, practicing bargaining.

—Ninety pesos —responds the vendor with a smile—. That's my final price.

—Perfect —says Sofía, and buys the bag.

Before returning home, Sofía drinks fresh orange juice. The vendor squeezes the oranges in front of her while whistling a song. The juice is cold and delicious.

*What a beautiful day at the market,* thinks Sofía while she walks home with her purchases. Her family is going to be very happy with the fresh fruit and tasty tamales. The market is always an adventure.

## Comprehension Check

1. Where does Sofía live? a) Cancún b) Cali c) Oaxaca d) Mexico City
2. What day does Sofía go to the market? a) Sunday b) Friday c) Monday d) Saturday
3. How much do the mangoes cost? a) Twenty pesos per kilo b) Thirty pesos per kilo c) Forty pesos per kilo d) Fifty pesos per kilo
4. What do the tamales have? a) Chicken and green sauce b) Fish and lemon c) Meat and beans d) Cheese and chili
5. How much does Sofía pay for the bag? a) One hundred pesos b) Eighty pesos c) Ninety pesos d) Seventy pesos

## 2. La primera clase de baile

### The First Dance Class

Andrés lives in Cali, Colombia, the world capital of salsa. Today is his first day of dance class. He's very nervous because he has never danced salsa before.

*Will I be able to learn the steps?*, he thinks while walking toward the dance studio. His hands are a little damp and his heart beats fast.

The studio is full of people of all ages. There are large mirrors on the walls and the floor is perfect for dancing. The salsa music sounds loud and cheerful. Andrés feels a little lost among so many people who seem like experts.

—Welcome to the salsa class for beginners! —says the teacher, a young woman with a big smile—. My name is Carmen and I'm going to teach you the basic steps.

Carmen demonstrates the basic movements. Her feet move quickly to the rhythm of the music. *It looks so easy when she does it!*, thinks Andrés.

—First, we're going to practice the basic step —says Carmen—. Forward, back, side, side. One, two, three, four.

Andrés tries to follow the steps, but his feet don't obey. He stumbles a little and feels frustrated. Next to him, an elderly lady is also struggling with the steps.

—Don't worry, young man —says the lady with a smile—. I'm seventy years old and this is my third class. Each day is easier.

Her words encourage Andrés. *If she can do it, I can too*, he thinks.

Carmen approaches Andrés and shows him the steps more slowly. Patiently, she explains how to move his hips and how to maintain balance.

—Relax —says Carmen—. Salsa isn't just technique, it's feeling. Feel the music in your body.

Andrés breathes deeply and listens to the music with more attention. Little by little, his movements become more natural. He no longer thinks so much about the steps and allows the music to guide him.

After an hour, the whole class practices together. Andrés dances with different partners and has a lot of fun. Although he's still not perfect, he doesn't stumble as much anymore.

—Very good, Andrés! —says Carmen at the end of class—. You've improved a lot today.

Andrés leaves the studio with a big smile. *Next week I'm going to return*, he thinks. He's no longer nervous. Now he's excited to learn more salsa steps.

### Comprehension Check

1. Where does Andrés live? a) Bogotá b) Medellín c) Cali d) Cartagena
  2. How does Andrés feel at first? a) Excited b) Tired c) Angry d) Bored
  3. What is the teacher's name? a) María b) Sofia c) Carmen d) Ana
  4. Who encourages Andrés when he feels frustrated? a) Teacher Carmen b) A young student c) An elderly lady d) His friend
  5. How does Andrés feel at the end of class? a) Tired b) Frustrated c) Excited d) Sad
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## 3. Viaje a la playa

### Trip to the Beach

Ana, Carlos, Diego and Sofía are friends since school. Today they're going to **spend** the day at the beautiful beaches of Cancún, Mexico. They have **planned** this trip for weeks and are very excited.

—We finally arrived! —**shouts** Ana when they see the blue and bright **sea**.

The weather is perfect for a beach day. The sun shines brightly in the **sky** without clouds, and there's a gentle **breeze** that makes the temperature ideal. The four friends **spread out** their **towels** on the white and hot **sand**.

Diego and Carlos decide to play soccer. They **run** through the sand with the **ball**, **laughing** and shouting when someone **scores a goal**. The sand makes it harder to run, but that makes the game more **fun**.

Ana and Sofía **prefer to swim** in the sea. The water is warm and **crystal clear**. They can see small **fish** swimming near their feet. The **waves** are gentle and perfect for **floating** without worries.

—How delicious the water is! —says Sofía while **splashing** happily.

After swimming, the four friends are **hungry**. They walk toward a **food stand** near the beach. An older man **sells** fresh fish tacos, quesadillas and coconut water.

—What do you recommend? —asks Carlos.

—The fish tacos are the house **specialty** —responds the **vendor** with a smile—. The fish is very fresh, we caught it this morning.

The friends order tacos and quesadillas. The food is tasty and the price is very **reasonable**. They enjoy eating under an **umbrella** while **observing** the seagulls fly over the sea.

Suddenly, the sky **gets dark** and the first **drops** of rain begin to fall. In a few minutes, a tropical **storm surprises** everyone who is at the beach.

—Let's run to **take shelter**! —shouts Diego.

The four friends quickly **pick up** their things and run toward a nearby restaurant. **Soaked** but laughing, they **wait** for the storm to pass. The rain falls hard but only lasts thirty minutes.

When it **clears up**, they leave the restaurant and the sun shines again. The air smells fresh and clean after the rain.

—Let's go for **ice cream**! —suggests Ana.

They find an **ice cream shop** near the beach that sells ice cream with tropical **flavors**: mango, coconut, **passion fruit** and tamarind. Each one chooses a different flavor and they **share** by trying each other's ice cream.

The day **ends** with the four friends sitting on the sand, eating ice cream and watching the beautiful **sunset**. The sky fills with colors: orange, pink and purple.

*What a perfect day!*, thinks Ana. Although the storm surprised them, it was an unforgettable **adventure** with her best friends.

## Comprehension Check

1. How many friends go to the beach? a) Three b) Four c) Five d) Six
2. What do Diego and Carlos play in the sand? a) Volleyball b) Baseball c) Soccer d) Tennis
3. What do they eat at the food stand? a) Hamburgers and fries b) Pizza and sodas c) Fish tacos and quesadillas d) Chicken and rice
4. What interrupts their day at the beach? a) A storm b) An accident c) Too many people d) The cold
5. How does the day end? a) Playing soccer b) Swimming in the sea c) Eating tacos d) Watching the sunset

## 4. El cine con amigos

### The Movies With Friends

Javier lives in Mexico City with his family. It's **Friday night** and he **plans** to go to the **movie theater** with his friends Carlos and María. They have **waited** all week to see the new adventure movie.

—Finally it's Friday! —says Javier while **calling** his friends on the phone—. Are you **ready** to go to the movies?

The three friends **meet** at the **shopping center** at seven at night. The movie theater is very **busy** because it's the weekend. There are many families and **young people** waiting to buy tickets.

—What movie do you **want** to see? —asks María while **looking at** the options on the screen.

—I like this action one —says Carlos, **pointing** at a movie with explosions and fast cars.

—I **prefer** the romantic comedy —responds María—. It **seems** very fun.

Javier **thinks** for a moment. *Which one to **choose**?*, he wonders. In the end, they **decide** to see the action movie because it starts in fifteen minutes.

At the **ticket office**, Javier buys three **tickets** for the seven-thirty **showing**. They **cost** eighty pesos each. Then they go to the **candy store** to buy **popcorn** and **soft drinks**.

—I want large popcorn —says Carlos—. And a cola soft drink.

—I also want popcorn, but **medium** —says María—. And bottled water.

Javier **orders** large popcorn to **share** and three soft drinks. The **employee** gives them the popcorn in a large red **container**.

They **walk** toward **theater room** number five. Inside it's **dark** and there are already many people **seated**. They **look for** their **seats** with the light from their phones. Their places are in the **center**, perfect for seeing the screen well.

—How comfortable these seats are! —**whispers** María while getting comfortable.

The movie **begins** with loud music and **scenes** of a big city. The three friends **eat** popcorn and **enjoy** the movie. Carlos **laughs** a lot at the funny parts, and María **gets excited** during the action scenes.

\*This movie is very **good**, thinks Javier while drinking his soft drink.

After two hours, the movie **ends**. They leave the cinema **talking** about their favorite parts.

—I **loved** when the hero **jumped** from the building! —says Carlos with excitement.

—I **liked** the part where he **saved** the girl more —responds María—. It was very romantic.

Javier agrees with both of them. *It was an excellent movie*, he thinks.

—Are you **hungry**? —asks Javier—. I know a place that sells delicious tacos near here.

The three friends **walk** through the downtown **streets** toward a small restaurant that Javier **knows**. They **chat** about the movie and **laugh remembering** the best parts.

*What a **fun** night with my best friends!*, thinks Javier while they **arrive** at the restaurant.

## Comprehension Check

1. What day do they go to the movies? a) Saturday b) Sunday c) Friday d) Thursday
2. What type of movie do they watch? a) Romantic comedy b) Action movie c) Documentary d) Horror movie
3. Where do they buy the tickets? a) On the internet b) At the candy store c) At the ticket office d) At the shopping center
4. What do they buy to eat during the movie? a) Tacos and soft drinks b) Popcorn and soft drinks c) Candy and water d) Pizza and cola
5. Where do they go after the movies? a) Home b) To another cinema c) To a restaurant d) To the park

## 5. El cumpleaños de Ana

### Ana's Birthday

Today is a very special day for Ana. It's her **birthday**, number eighteen, and her whole **family** is **gathered** at her house in Bogotá, Colombia, to **celebrate**.

Ana **wakes up early** with the **sound** of her **mother** singing in the kitchen. *What is mom preparing?*, she wonders while **going down** the **stairs**.

—Happy birthday, my love! —says her mother, **hugging her** tightly—. I **prepared** your favorite **breakfast** for you.

On the table there's a **plate** with **scrambled eggs**, **arepa** with cheese, and a **glass** of fresh orange juice. Ana **smiles** and gives her mother a **kiss**.

During the morning, the **relatives** begin to **arrive**. Her **grandparents, uncles/aunts, cousins** and friends **knock** on the **door** with **gifts** in their hands. The house **fills** with **laughter** and cheerful conversations.

—Ana! Congratulations! —shouts her favorite cousin, Laura, while giving her a big **hug**—. I **brought** you something very special.

Laura's gift is a very pretty silver **bracelet**. Ana hugs her and says "thank you" with a big smile.

At three in the afternoon, everyone sits around the big table in the dining room. Ana's mother **brings** a chocolate **cake** with eighteen **candles** on top.

—It's time to **sing** —says Ana's father.

Everyone sings "Happy Birthday" while Ana closes her eyes and asks for a wish. *I wish that my family is always **united** and happy*, she thinks.

Ana **blows** the candles and everyone applauds. Her younger brother, Diego, cuts the cake and serves the pieces on small plates.

—How delicious! —says the grandfather while eating his piece of cake—. Your mom cooks very well.

After the cake, it's time to open the gifts. Ana receives books, clothes, and a small **guitar** from her parents.

—You always **wanted** to learn to play guitar —says her father—. Now you can practice every day.

Ana is very excited about all her gifts, but what she likes most is being **surrounded** by all the people she loves.

At night, after all the guests leave, Ana helps her mother clean the kitchen.

—Thank you for everything, mom —says Ana—. It was the best birthday of my life.

Her mother hugs her tenderly. —You **deserve** all the **happiness** in the world, my girl.

Ana goes up to her room feeling very **grateful**. *I have the best family in the world*, she thinks while lying down on her bed.

She looks through the window at the stars in the night sky and smiles. It has been a perfect day full of love, laughter and unforgettable moments with the most important people in her life.

### **Comprehension Check**

1. How old is Ana turning? a) Seventeen b) Eighteen c) Nineteen d) Twenty
2. Where does she celebrate her birthday? a) At a restaurant b) At the park c) At home d) At a party
3. What do her parents give her? a) A bracelet b) A book c) A guitar d) New clothes
4. How many candles does the cake have? a) Seventeen b) Eighteen c) Twenty d) Fifteen
5. How does Ana feel at the end of the day? a) Tired b) Sad c) Grateful d) Worried

***What's next? See the next page →***

## Thank You & What's Next?

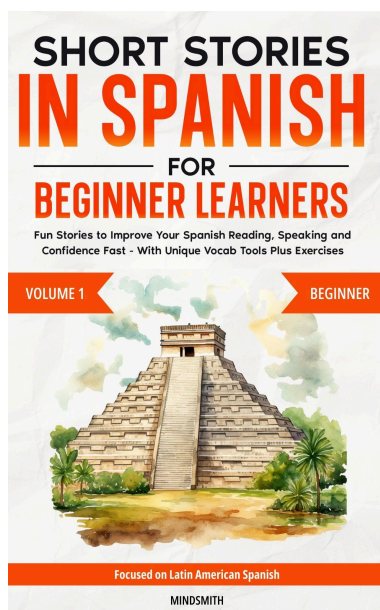
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