



Language Link Online September 2012

Language Link

Your Passport to Spanish Learning

No cost: 800.552.2051

Email: info@langlink.com

Full details of all programs on our website including fees and dates:
www.langlink.com

Tips and information about learning Spanish and the people who speak it. Published every other month.

What's in this edition

Online Lesson, Cocina Cooking, Culture Clips, Language Link's Latest, OJO (real deals), Rhythm & Read, Been There, Loved That (reports from participants), Likeable Links

*****A few places left if you can act quickly! Join our small group On The Road to Chiapas November 4 – 11, \$1100**

*****Still time to attend these one week all inclusive programs in Cuernavaca**

**Fiesta of the Day of the Dead, Oct 27 - Nov 3
Spanish Thanksgiving and Spa Options, Nov 17 - 24**

For information on any of these, contact kay@langlink.com

OJO - real deals

American Airlines has some great Mexico Anniversary fares. They are offering 70 days of deals to celebrate 70 years of service to Mexico. Acquire your tickets by November 6, 2012, and start between September 4, 2012, and March 2, 2013. All needs to be complete by March 7, 2013.

A newer Mexican company called Interjet is now flying from several U.S. areas, including among others, Orange County, San Antonio, New York JFK and Miami. They offer a 20% discount for passengers over 65, and destinations include Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

If you speak Spanish – apply your skills? Language Link has been contacted about a search for the Chief Academic Officer for a fully accredited four-year private university in the Bay Area of California. They are looking for an academian who is bilingual (English/Spanish) and

Online Lesson

Get it Right in Spanish!

There are many English expressions using the word right, and it simply doesn't work to plug in one all purpose Spanish word to get the same meaning. This is one of those times when you have to go beyond the surface word into the deeper meaning to express it correctly. So "right now" let's have a look at the myriad of meanings.

One very common use is right as a direction. *A la derecha* means to the right. This is a short form of *a la mano derecha* (the right hand). Watch out here, because *derecho* with an O ending means straight ahead. *A la izquierda* means to the left. If you're talking about the right hand side of the street you might say *al lado derecho*.

If you do something right handed, you would call that *el uso de la mano derecha*. Right brain usage would be called *el lado derecho del cerebro*. Because here you're using *derecho* as an adjective, you would refer to the right leg as *la pierna derecha*. To the right is also used in a political leaning, *a la derecha*.

There are many expressions using right in English and meaning correct. To be right is the idiom *tener razón – Sí, itiene razón!* If information is correct, *es correcta*. A right decision, *la decisión correcta*. If something is used right, *se usa correctamente*.

Right in English often expresses fairness or justice. That's not right (or fair). *No es justo*. The right thing – *lo justo*.

has a strong sense of cultural and bi literacy academic awareness. Criteria includes an earned doctorate and at least five years of higher experience. If you are interested and qualify, contact Michael

Duff, mduff@searchcsg.com

An ongoing contest on our website for a gratis one week study at Intercultura of either Heredia or Playa Sámara, Costa Rica. Air is on you, but we include one week of small group classes and a homestay with individual *recámara* and two daily meals. Just click our contest box to enter. All we ask is a brief comment from you. You'll then be included in the general drawing for a winner. ¡Suerte!

Language Link's Latest

We're hard at work arranging study for some large university groups – Martin Luther College to Buenos Aires, Bariloche and Montevideo; Austin College to Costa Rica, University of Wisconsin to Mexico, and others.

We continue to work with the American Council of International Studies and have upcoming groups to Guatemala, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica and Mexico.

We also arrange groups of friends. Get together a bunch of 10 or more to your favorite destination and receive many complimentary on your own *viaje*!

CUBA – Thanks to all of you have expressed interest. Our license approval is still pending, so we can't yet announce a departure date. The wheels of the U.S. Treasury Dept. (the licensing body) do not move quickly. We will notify our contact list the minute we're approved! If you're interested without having full details yet,

If right means an entitlement such as civil rights, the word *derecho* is used as in *los derechos civiles*. Law schools are often called *la facultad de derecho*.

An emphatic sense is often expressed in English by right. Right now – *ahora mismo*. Right after – *inmediatamente después de...*, right here – *aquí mismo*, right away – *sin demora* (delay)

Some other phrases: just right – *perfecto*, right of way – *derecho de paso*, right-winger – *derechista*, right handed – *diestro*, to make right – *rectificar*

Buena suerte on right thinking and getting it right!

You know more of a road by having traveled it than by all the conjectures and descriptions in the world. – William Hazlitt

Culture Clips

Peru and The Potato

The Language Link phone rings, and it's a never ending surprise to learn about a student, his background, and his motivation to learn Spanish. One of the memorable calls was from a very pleasant scientist who told me that he needed Spanish, as he was going to be working with CIP in Peru. I confessed that I didn't know what that was, so he went on to tell me that it was the International Potato Center. Although comical visions of playing Mr. Potato Head with my children danced through my head, I went on to learn the vital significance of this scientific center, with offices in 30 developing countries. Its mission is to deliver sustainable solutions to the pressing world problems of hunger, poverty, and the degradation of natural resources. I was honored to know that Language Link would play a very small part in achieving that admirable purpose.

I learned that potato is the third most important food crop in the world after rice and wheat in terms of human consumption. More than a billion people worldwide eat potato, and global total crop production exceeds 300 million metric tons.

I was curious! This potato curiosity led to the path of the potato in Peru. There are over 4,000 edible varieties of potato, mostly found in the Andes of South America. The potato was first cultivated there between three and seven thousand years ago, though scientists believe they may have grown wild in the region as long as 13,000 years ago.

Early Spanish chroniclers noted the importance of the potato to the Incan Empire. The Incas had learned to preserve the potato for storage by dehydrating and mashing potatoes into a substance called *chuño*. *Chuño* could be stored for up to 10 years, providing an excellent hedge against possible crop failures. As well as using the food as a staple crop, the Incas thought potatoes made childbirth

write kay@langlink.com. We now have a large ongoing list of interested people.

Our Internet Spanish using Skype is still in development, as we want it to be an excellent, comprehensive program which will be technically user friendly. It will be launched soon. Watch for our announcement.

FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO STUDY...FEWER STUDENTS, SMALLER CLASSES AND PERFECT WEATHER EVERYWHERE.

Rhythm and Reads Reads

The Peru Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers) by Starn, Degregori and Kirk
Peru has been portrayed in broad extremes as an area of the richest treasures and the bloodiest conquest. The bestselling *Peru Reader* offers a deeper understanding of the complex country that lies behind these claims.

Rhythm

Traditional Music Of The Incas - Yurac Malki
Beautiful harp/flute melodies are accompanied by Spanish/Quechua vocals. The liner notes have a short history of Andean music.

Been There Loved That

Cusco, Peru - *It was a great experience. Peru is a wonderful country and the people friendly. It has a diverse economy and is definitely growing. The Andes and Sacred Valley are the most beautiful places, and Ollayantambo was magnificent. Peru was also very safe. I would take a cab or walk*

easier and used it to treat injuries.

According to ancient legend, when the mythical founders of the Inca empire, Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo, emerged from the waters of Lake Titicaca, the first thing the god Wiracocha taught them was how to sow potatoes. Possibly due to this time-honored origin, the farmers of the Andes have managed to create a series of varieties that have adapted to a wide variety of climates. There is even a popular saying: "That's more Peruvian than potato", a reference to the unmistakable stamp of Peruvian origin on the potato.

The Spanish conquistadors first encountered the potato when they arrived in Peru in 1532 in search of gold, and noted Inca miners eating chuñu. At the time the Spaniards failed to realize that the potato represented a far more important treasure than either silver or gold, but they did gradually begin to use potatoes as basic rations on their ships. The potato slowly spread through Europe, but it was not warmly welcomed.

Throughout Europe, potatoes were regarded with suspicion, distaste and fear. Generally considered to be unfit for human consumption, they were used only as animal fodder and sustenance for the starving. Even peasants refused to eat from a plant that produced ugly, misshapen tubers and that had come from a "heathen" civilization. Some felt that the potato plant's resemblance to plants in the nightshade family hinted that it was the creation of witches or devils.

Europe would wait until the 1780's before the potato gained prominence. About that time the people of Ireland adopted the rugged food crop. The Irish embraced the tuber more passionately than anyone since the Incas. The primary reason for its acceptance in Ireland was its ability to produce abundant and nutritious food. Potatoes contain most of the vitamins needed for sustenance. Perhaps more importantly, potatoes can provide this sustenance to nearly 10 people on one acre. Of course, by the mid-1800's the Irish would become so dependent upon this crop that its failure would provoke a famine ...another story.

What a long historical *viaje* the potato has made from its first beginnings in Peru. And along the *viaje* the potato caused our Language Link phone to ring! Even while respecting the eminent history, I have to express it contemporarily – How cool is that!

Cocina Cooking

Potatoes with Cheese Sauce (*Papas a la Huancaína*) – A traditional Peruvian dish, serves 8

2 lbs. medium potatoes such as purple Peruvian or Yukon Gold (about 8), ½ tsp. chopped garlic, ¼ lb. *queso fresco* or crumbled feta (scant 1 cup), ½ C. whole milk, 1 T. chopped onion, 1 T. olive oil, 1 T. bottled *ají amarillo* or *ají mirasol* paste (sometimes labeled *crema*) (This is crucial

anywhere in the places we were without any concern. My son, accompanying me, enjoyed it. The excitement he had telling others about what he saw was worth it. I hope he develops a passion for other cultures and learning a second language. – Chris Doscotch, Attorney, Peoria, Illinois

Lacunza of San Sebastián, Spain (summer teen program)

I had a lot of fun. I learned a lot more Spanish, and the people there were great. The instructors were good. I would not improve anything. The host family was really nice and they seemed to have liked me. – Name withheld by request, High School Student, Colorado Springs, Colorado

International House Riviera Maya of Playa del Carmen, Mexico

My experience exceeded all expectations. The class time was well-utilized. I enjoyed the social events, excursions, and afternoon classes (cooking classes, salsa classes, etc.). Playa del Carmen is a great place for "work and play." The teachers were awesome. I had Alex. He was patient, invested, and you can tell he likes what he does. The entire class is conversation-based. I felt very prepared for the experience. And the fact that I never needed to contact Language Link during my two weeks in Mexico means they did their work very well! – Rev. Chris Markert, Minister, Houston, Texas

to make it authentically Peruvian. If you can't find this ingredient, substitute another favorite *chile*.) Garnish of chopped, pitted black olives, lime wedges

Cover potatoes with water in a medium pot and salt, then briskly simmer, covered, until just cooked through, about 20 minutes. Drain and cool, then peel.

Meanwhile, mince and mash garlic to a paste with a pinch of salt, then blend with remaining ingredients in a blender until very smooth and thicker than heavy cream (if necessary, thin with milk). Salt lightly. (Omit salt if using feta cheese.)

Cut potatoes crosswise into 1/4-inch-thick slices. Spoon some sauce onto 8 small plates, then top with sliced potatoes. Garnish with olives and lime. Serve remaining sauce on the side. (And think about the history you're eating!)

Likeable Links

International Potato Center
<http://cipotato.org/>

Types of potatoes in Peru
http://www.limaeasy.com/peruvian_food/peruvian_food_cuisine_ingredients_potatoes_papas_types.php

Peruvian cuisine
http://www.visitperu.com/perugourmet.htm#gourmet_4

Call us at 800.552.2051.

Central Standard Time with hours 9:00 to 5:00.

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