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Words & Phrases

CUBA

Below are some words and phrases in Spanish, the official language of Cuba.

ENGLISH	SPANISH
God	Dios (dee-OHS)
Jesus	Jesus (hay-SOOS)
Yes	Si (see)
No	No (noh)
Please	Por favor (pore fah-VOHR)
Thank you	Gracias (GRAH-see-ahs)
You're welcome	De nada (de NAH-da)
Sorry	Lo siento (loh see-EHN-toh)
Hello, hi	Hola (OH-lah)
Good-bye	Adios (ah-dhee-OHS)
See you later.	Hasta luego (AH-stah LWEH-go)

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Good morning	Buenos dias (BWEH-nos DHEE-ahs)
Good afternoon	Buenas tardes (BWEH-nahs TAHRD-ehs)
Good evening	Buenas noches (BWEH-nahs NO-chehs)
What is your name?	¿Como se llama? (KOH-moh say YAH-mah)
My name is...	Mi nombre es... (mee NOME-bray ehs)
How are you?	¿Como está usted? (KOH-mo ehs-TAH oos-THED)
Fine, thank you.	Muy bien, gracias . (MOO-ee bee-en GRAH-see-ahs)

Children's Games

You'll find many similarities among the games of different countries. No matter where they're from, kids enjoy the same types of games.

La Gallinita Ciega (The Blind Hen)

This is a group game for four or more players. You will need a blindfold and a large room or outdoor area to run in.

Choose one person to be the hen. Blindfold the hen and turn him or her around a few times. Meanwhile, everyone is to run out of reach of the "hen." They must make noises or say things to the hen to help him or her locate them.

The blind hen tries to tag someone and guess who the person is. If the blind hen guesses correctly, that person becomes the new hen. If the hen guesses wrong, he or she must try to capture another person.

Dominoes

Dominoes is a very popular game in Cuba. In fact, it's the national game! Many people play it daily. If you have a dominoes set, bring it to class and teach the kids how to play.

One of the main differences between Cuban dominoes and American dominoes is that playing a double has no special significance. The player does not have the right to play another tile. Only one tile can be played in each turn.

The other main difference is that the game is played with two teams of two players acting as partners. When one team loses, they count up the value of their remaining tiles, and that number is awarded to the winning team. The first team to reach 150 points wins the game.