What you will learn

- How to ...
  - go shopping for clothes
  - ask for certain medicines
  - and the names of a variety of items of clothing

Before you begin

At the beginning of the course, the vocabulary was often similar in sound and meaning to the English equivalent. But now that you are meeting words which are not so obvious, don’t rush to the dictionary immediately you come across one you don’t know. Try to guess its meaning first, either by looking at the context in which it appears, or at the form of the word itself. Is it a verb or a noun? You can recognize which is which from the ending. What job does it do in the sentence? Knowing this will help you discover its meaning. Only look up the word if all else fails – or if you need to check a gender. You need to develop your comprehension strategies for both reading and listening because, however well you get to know Spanish, there will always be words and phrases that you come across for the first time. This is because language is constantly evolving; also, in the case of Spanish, there are so many speakers of Spanish all over the world (300 million and increasing) that standardization is almost impossible.

Pronunciation notes

- Before e and i, the Spanish g is pronounced like the ‘ch’ in the Scottish ‘loch’ – that is, a guttural sound in the throat. J is also pronounced this way.
  - Gerona, Giralda
- After a, o and u and with consonants, g sounds just like the English ‘g’:
  - Grande, gordo
- In between vowels the g sound almost fades away:
  - Nicaragua, agua
Buying sports equipment

**LISTEN FOR...**
- deporte  sport
- pelotas  balls
- medias  socks or stockings
- camiseta  tee-shirt
- chandal  tracksuit

Pepe  ¿Venden ustedes artículos de deporte?
Dependiente  Sí, sí. Los tenemos aquí en la planta baja
Pepe  ¿Venden ustedes cosas para tenis?
Dependiente  Sí, sí. Vestidos, pantalones, pelotas, raquetas... de todo, vamos...
Pepe  Y ¿venden ustedes también artículos para fútbol?
Dependiente  Botas, medias, camisetas, pantalones, chandal, balones, todo, todo
Pepe  Muchas gracias
Dependiente  De nada

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¿venden ustedes? do you sell?
la camiseta  tee shirt. You also ought to know the words camisa  shirt and blusa  blouse.
Pantalones cortos  are shorts (corto  short).