



# Lesson 2

# I SCRATCH MI

# BACK LIKE A

# HORSE

Part 1



# During this lesson you will:

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- Hear a true story about an experience I had in Argentina while I was learning Spanish myself.
- Learn some few cultural facts about Argentina.
- Hear and read the story in "Spanglish"- 21% of this story is written using cognates.
- Be able to identify most, if not all of the cognates used in this story by the end.
- Practice three of the most common Spanish verbs.
- Practice comprehending sentences in Spanish.
- Write some of these sentences in Spanish yourself by the last section of this lesson!

# Cognate

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A word that has the same linguistic origin as another word in a different language. Cognates can be similar or the same in spelling, pronunciation, and/or meaning..

Examples:

vacación	→	vacation
televisión	→	television

# I Scratch Mi Back Like a Horse

By Señor Goss

Oscar had **invitado me** into his house **en Córdoba, Argentina**. I sat **en** a **cómoda** chair. He **ofreció me** some **Dulce de Leche** on crackers. The sweet, milk caramel tasting treat was **delicioso**. I was 20 years old but I had only been **en Argentina** for about two months. I could **comprender** quite a bit of the **español** that was spoken although I still often made **errores en** understanding or speaking. Oscar asked.”¿De donde viene Ud.? (Where are you from?)



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I answered, "De Los **Estados Unidos.**" (The United States) He said, "Lo sé, ¿pero de qué **parte** de los **Estados Unidos**? (I know but from which part of the United States?) I respondí with pride, "Yo soy de **Arizona!**" (I am from Arizona!)

He **replicó**, "Esto es muy **interesante!** Sé que **en Arizona** hay **muchos cowboys!**" (That is very interesting! I know that there are many cowboys in Arizona!)

I **inquirí**,”¿Por qué dice Ud. Esto?” (Why do you say that?)

He answered,”Porque he visto **muchas** películas donde hay **cowboys en Arizona.**” (Because I have seen many movies where there are cowboys in Arizona.”)

I smiled and said,”**Es** (es) verdad que hay algunos **cowboys en Arizona**, pero la mayoría de las **personas no son** cowboys.” (It is true that there are some **cowboys in Arizona**, but the majority of the people are **not cowboys.**)



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The **conversación continuó** about several **diferentes** topics. I remember telling him that I had attended the **universidad** for two years and that I would still need to attend for two more years after I returned from **Argentina** back to the **United States**. He asked **me** to **explicar** how the **sistema** worked **en** order to be able to **graduar**. I tried to **explicar** to him about **crédito horas**. I told him that it would be **necario** to have at least 128 hours **en** order to **graduar**.

He then asked **me** the question, "¿Cuántos años tiene Ud? (How old are you?)



I was still thinking about our **conversación** about the **universidad**. I understood the question as, "¿Cuántas **horas** tiene Ud?" (How many **hours** do you have?)

I proudly **respondí**, "Yo tengo sesenta y cuatro!" (I have 64!)

He **comenzó** to laugh so hard that tears were coming from his eyes. He said, "Ud. no tiene sesenta y cuatro años." He knew for a fact just by looking at **me** that I was not 64 years old. I felt a little embarrassed as I **corregí mi error** and told him that I was only 20 years old.



He **ofreció me** some **Mate Cocida**. This es (es) one of the **favorita** drinks of the **Argentinos**. It is made from **Yerba Mate**, a **planta** that is made into an **herbal té**. We **continuamos** with our **conversación**. Suddenly I felt an itch in the **medio** of my back. I knew that it would be kind of awkward to be able to reach it with **mis** fingers. So, I started moving **mi** back from one side to **otra en** the back of **mi** chair. I **usé** the chair to scratch **mi** hard to reach **area en** the **medio** of **mi** back.



He **abruptamente** **inquirió**, “¿Tiene Ud. **problemas** de espalda?” (Do you have back **problems**?)

I **repliqué**, “**No**. ¿Por qué **me** pregunta Ud. Esto?” (No, why do you ask **me** that?)

He **respondió**, "Yo vi que Ud. estaba **moviendo** su espalda varias veces de un lado al **otro** lado de su silla." (I saw that you were **moving** your back from one side of the chair to the other side several times.)

I laughed. "Yo solamente estaba rascando la espalda," I **contesté**. (I was just scratching my back.)

He said with a smile, "Oh, **es** (es) como un caballo." (That **is** (is) like a horse.)

But that is not what I **comprendí**. **En mi** mind, I thought that he had said, "Oh, that **is** (is) like a **cowboy**." I had this **mental imagen** of a rough and tough **cowboy** that was out working on the **rancho**. Suddenly he had an itch **en** his back. He nonchalantly walked over to the barbed wire fence and **comenzó** to scratch his back **en** the fence.



I remembered our earlier **conversación** that we had had about **Arizona**, and I thought that I would make a little joke in order to be funny. I **repliqué**, "Por supuesto, Soy de **Arizona**!" (Of course! I'm from **Arizona**!)

He looked at me like I was the strangest **persona** that he had ever seen. I didn't know what had happened, but I knew that something seemed a little weird to Oscar. As we **continuamos conversando**, **mi** mind **subconscientemente** tried to **resolver** the **misterio**. All at once, I knew the answer. It was like a light bulb suddenly **iluminó en mi** mind. I remembered that he had said "caballo" and that it meant "horse". It did not mean "**cowboy**". A word that can sometimes mean "**cowboy**" **en español es (es)** "caballero". A "caballero" would be the **persona** that rides a horse, and that often would be a **cowboy**. I had **mezclado** the two words up. I realized that **en realidad** I had said, "I scratch **my** back like a horse because I am from Arizona!" No wonder he had looked at **me** strangely. I **comencé** to laugh at myself so hard that I could barely remain **en mi** chair. When I shared **mi** understanding of **mi error** he laughed along with **me**.

This **incidente** has taught **me** a good **lección** about the **lenguaje**. Do you think that I have ever got the words “caballo” **mezclado** up with “caballero” since that **tiempo**? I can assure you that I haven’t. I have noticed that when I make an **error** with a **vocabulario** word **en español** and it was called to **mi atención**, that I remember that word **probablemente** much better than if I had never made the **error en** the first place. The word becomes etched **en mi permanente memoria**. **Errores** might be embarrassing. They might be **cómico**. They **ciertamente** are memorable. But, **errores** are valuable. Some of the best **lecciones** that I have ever had are the ones that I have learned from **mis errores**.

239/1130=21% of the words **are cognadas**



# Actividad 1: Answer the following **comprensión** questions!

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1. What was the food that Oscar **ofreció** the **autor**?
2. What **estéreo tipo imagen** did Oscar have of **Arizona**?
3. How old did the **autor** tell Oscar that he was?
4. Why did he make **an error en** his answer?
5. How did Oscar know that it was an **error**?
6. What drink did Oscar **ofrecer** the **autor**?
7. What **irritación** did the **autor** feel?
8. How did he **aliviar** that **irritación**?
9. What did Oscar think **causó** the **irritación**?
10. What word did the **autor** get mixed up?
11. What did the **autor realmente** say that was an error?
12. What does the **autor** think about **errores**?