



¿Qué me pongo hoy?

Clothing in Spanish

There's only one thing other than the two-month long holiday at the end of the year* I miss about school: wearing a uniform! I went to the same school for 14 years, and for 12 of those years, I wore a uniform! Now, it's been almost ten years since I graduated, but I just realized that for almost half my life I've known what to wear! Don't you think it would be easier sometimes if you didn't have to decide what to wear every single day? Just think of those days you stay at home wearing pajamas. Isn't it nice not having to think about clothes or what to wear? Since you're starting to learn Spanish, you'll start thinking about these things in Spanish, too:

¿Qué me pongo hoy? – What should I put on today?

Nuestro uniforme era un pantalón o falda gris y una camisa polo blanca. (Our uniform was grey pants or skirt and a white polo shirt.) Just imagine a couple hundred children wearing the same clothes! While wearing a uniform makes life so much easier, I do like being able to decide what to wear. I love wearing vestidos (dresses) and botas de combate negras (black combat boots) – that would have been a big no-no at school! So, today let's learn how to describe the clothes we wear – la ropa que nos ponemos.

*Fun fact: In Guatemala, the school year begins in January and ends in October!

¿Qué te pones o qué llevas puesto?

While there is more than one way to say 'to put on' and 'to wear' in Spanish, we will focus today on ponerse (to put on – the act of getting dressed) and llevar puesto (to wear – the act of using clothes).

To put on	To wear
ponerse	llevar puesto
vestirse	vestir





Ponerse

‘**Poner**’ means to put, and ‘**-se**’ means oneself.

This means that in Spanish you are literally putting clothes on yourself – not just ‘on!’

As we’ve mentioned before, language is way more than just translating words. Something interesting happens here:

- **In English**, when you’re wondering which dress would be best for your cousin’s wedding you ask: What should I wear to the wedding? – referring to the action of already having the clothes on, of using them.
- **In Spanish**, however, you would ask: ¿**Qué me pongo para la boda?** – What do I put on for the wedding? – referring to the action of putting on clothes, instead of starting to use them.

Conjugating **ponerse**

As we learned above, **ponerse** is a reflexive verb. We use a reflexive verb when we want to say that the subject in a sentence performs an action on itself. In this case, we are putting the clothes on ourselves. We conjugate this verb like this:

Conjugating <i>Ponerse</i>		
Spanish	English	Use of Articles
Yo me pongo la camisa.	I put on the shirt.	la - ‘the’ - because we’re talking about a specific shirt.
Tú te pones un vestido.	You put on a dress.	un - ‘a’ - because we’re not talking about a particular dress.
Él se pone los calcetines. Ella se pone blusa.	He puts on socks. She puts on a blouse.	She wears a blouse without an article because we’re not talking about a specific blouse or a present situation. FUN FACT: In Spanish, women wear <i>calcetas</i> and men wear <i>calcetines</i> , but in English we all wear socks!



Nosotros nos ponemos gorra.	We put on caps.	Even if <i>nosotros</i> and <i>ustedes</i> are plural subjects, we can use a singular noun <i>gorra/suéter</i> because we are not talking about specific caps or sweaters. If we were, we would have to use <i>las gorras</i> or <i>los suéteres</i> . We also leave out the indeterminate article <i>una/un</i> because five people cannot wear one cap or sweater at the same time!
Ustedes se ponen suéter.	You put on sweaters.	
Ellos se ponen los zapatos. Ellas se ponen vestidos.	They put on shoes. They put on dresses.	We can also use plural nouns without articles to refer to the same thing! The boys are wearing (the) football shoes (<i>specific</i>), while the girls (that obviously have tons of dresses) are wearing dresses (<i>we don't know which ones exactly</i>).

Use of Articles

Use of Articles		
	We use:	When:
Singular	none	we are not referring to specific pieces of clothing.
	un / una	
	el / la	we want to refer to a specific piece of clothing.
Plural	none	we are not referring to specific pieces of clothing.
	unos / unas	
	los / las	we want to refer to a specific piece of clothing.



Llevar puesto

Llevar means to carry. In the context of clothes, we say in Spanish that we carry the clothes **that are on us**. The way to say this is to use the adjective * **puesto** to describe where the clothes are. **Llevar puesto** [insert noun here] then means that we are actively using the clothes, carrying them placed on us: we are **wearing** them!

llevar ropa puesta

literally means

llevar - to carry, **ropa** - clothes, **puesta** - placed/put on us

* **puesto** is also the participle of the verb **poner** - in Spanish (just like in English), we can use participles as adjectives to describe nouns!

puesto-puesta-puestos-puestas

Something very important to note here is that since **puesto** is an adjective, it needs to match the noun it refers to! The matching needs to occur both in number and gender.

Let's look at it:

		Gender	
		Feminine	Masculine
Number	Singular	<i>puesta</i>	<i>puesto</i>
	Plural	<i>puestas</i>	<i>puestos</i>

Since **puesto** is an adjective, we can place it both before or after the noun. Whether it goes before or after depends on what you're saying! Check out more on Spanish adjective placement [here](#). So we can say:

I am wearing a T-shirt.	
Yo llevo puesta una playera.	Yo llevo una playera puesta .
Note how in this example we wrote puest-a because playera is a singular feminine noun!	

* Keep in mind the use of articles with **ponerse**. We use them the same way we would with **llevar puesto**! If you need a refresher, check out the table above once more!



Conjugating **llevar puesto**

When we conjugate **llevar puesto** [noun], we need to keep in mind that

- the **verb llevar** matches the subject of the sentence,
- the **adjective puesto** matches the noun that the subject of the sentence is wearing!

Conjugating <i>Llevar Puesto</i>	
Spanish	English
Yo llevo botas puestas .	I am wearing boots.
Tú llevas puesto sombrero.	You are wearing a hat.
Él lleva el pantalón puesto . Ella lleva puesta una playera.	He is wearing pants. She is wearing a T-shirt.
Nosotros llevamos puestas sandalias.	We are wearing sandals.
Ustedes llevan chalecos puestos .	You are wearing vests.
Ellos llevan puestas bufandas. Ellas llevan los gorros puestos .	They are wearing scarves. They are wearing knitted hats.





Take away

The best way to learn how to describe what you're wearing is to practice every day as you're getting dressed! I suggest adding the articles every time so that you get extra practice with the new vocabulary! As an example, let me tell you what my morning looked like:

Yo me pongo el pantalón. Yo me pongo la playera. Yo me pongo las calcetas. Yo me pongo los zapatos. Me pongo gorra antes de salir. Al estar afuera, pienso, ¡llevo puesta toda esta ropa!

(I put on pants. I put on a T-shirt. I put on socks. I put on my shoes. I put on a cap before I leave. Once I'm outside, I think, "I'm wearing all these clothes!")

Exercise

Let's review the **Useful Vocabulary** and practice what you've just learned! Grab some colored pens, your favorite pencil, and have fun!



Useful Vocabulary

Takeaway Vocabulary

la camisa
shirt

la playera
T-shirt

la blusa
blouse

el cincho / el cinturón
belt

el pantalón
pants

la pantaloneta
shorts

la falda
skirt

el vestido
dress

las calcetas
socks (women)

los calcetines
socks (men)

los zapatos
shoes

las botas
boots

las sandalias
sandals

la calzoneta / el traje de baño
swimsuit

el sombrero
hat

la gorra
cap

el gorro
knitted hat

los guantes
gloves

la bufanda
scarf

la chaqueta
jacket

el suéter
sweater

el chaleco
vest





¿Qué me pongo hoy?

Instructions: Make a line to connect the matching pairs!

español

zapatos
chaleco
blusa
calcetines
playera
vestido
pantalón
gorra
sandalias
camisa
chaqueta
bufanda
suéter
falda
guantes
pantaloneta
cincho

inglés

dress
sandals
scarf
pants
shorts
vest
jacket
skirt
shoes
belt
T-shirt
blouse
socks
shirt
cap
gloves
sweater



¿Qué me pongo hoy?

Instructions: Write the correct word in Spanish!

inglés

español

dress
sandals
scarf
pants
shorts
vest
jacket
skirt
shoes
belt
T-shirt
blouse
socks
shirt
cap
gloves
sweater



¿Qué me pongo hoy?

Instructions: Fill out the space in blank conjugating **ponerse**! Remember **ponerse** is a reflexive verb.

Yo _____ los zapatos.

Tú _____ una camisa.

Él _____ pantalón.

Ella _____ unas calcetas.

Nosotros _____ las bufandas.

Ustedes _____ pantalones.

Ellas _____ faldas.

Ellos _____ calcetines.



¿Qué llevo puesto hoy?

Instructions: Fill out the space in blank conjugating **llevar + puesto**. Remember to match the gender and number of the adjective **puesto** with the noun!

Yo _____ los zapatos.

Tú _____ una camisa.

Él _____ pantalón.

Ella _____ unas calcetas.

Nosotros _____ las bufandas.

Ustedes _____ pantalones.

Ellas _____ faldas.

Ellos _____ calcetines.



Answer Key: ¿Qué pongo hoy?

Instructions: Make a line to connect the matching pairs!

español

inglés

zapatos	dress
chaleco	sandals
blusa	scarf
calcetines	pants
playera	shorts
vestido	vest
pantalón	jacket
gorra	skirt
sandalías	shoes
camisa	belt
chaqueta	T-shirt
bufanda	blouse
suéter	socks
falda	shirt
guantes	cap
pantalóneta	gloves
cincho	sweater



Answer Key: ¿Qué pongo hoy?

Instructions: Write the correct word in Spanish!

inglés

dress
sandals
scarf
pants
shorts
vest
jacket
skirt
shoes
belt
T-shirt
blouse
socks
shirt
cap
gloves
sweater

español

<i>vestido</i>
<i>sandalias</i>
<i>bufanda</i>
<i>pantalón</i>
<i>pantaloneta</i>
<i>chaleco</i>
<i>chaqueta</i>
<i>falda</i>
<i>zapatos</i>
<i>cincho/cinturón</i>
<i>playera</i>
<i>blusa</i>
<i>calcetas/calcetines</i>
<i>camisa</i>
<i>gorra</i>
<i>guantes</i>
<i>suéter</i>



Answer Key: ¿Qué me pongo hoy?

Instructions: Fill out the space in blank conjugating **ponerse**! Remember **ponerse** is a reflexive verb.

Yo me pongo los zapatos.

Tú te pones una camisa.

Él se pone pantalón.

Ella se pone unas calcetas.

Nosotros nos ponemos las bufandas.

Ustedes se ponen pantalones.

Ellas se ponen faldas.

Ellos se ponen calcetines.



¿Qué llevo puesto hoy?

Instructions: Fill out the space in blank conjugating **llevar + puesto**. Remember to match the gender and number of the adjective **puesto** with the noun!

Yo llevo puestos los zapatos.

Tú llevas puesta una camisa.

Él lleva puesto pantalón.

Ella lleva puestas unas calcetas.

Nosotros llevamos puestas las bufandas.

Ustedes llevan puestos pantalones.

Ellas llevan puestas faldas.

Ellos llevan puestos calcetines.