



Fun Sayings in Spanish

1. ***Sana Sana Colita de Rana***

Sana sana colita de rana is not only a fun saying, but also a popular song in Spanish for kids. The full saying has two parts:

Sana sana colita de rana,

Si no sana hoy, sanará mañana.

Its literal translation sounds really funny in English and makes no sense whatsoever:

Heal, heal, little tail of the frog,

If you don't heal today, you'll heal tomorrow.

This is a fun saying in Spanish that adults tell to little kids every time they fall or somehow hurt themselves. By saying something as absurd as this (what does the tail of a frog have to do with anything?), the kids get distracted, stop crying and go back to chasing their friends. If you want to really do it like a native speaker, you should rub the hurt part of the body while saying the magic words: *sana sana colita de rana*.

2. ***¡Ponte las Pilas!***

I love this one! It literally means "put in your batteries." You say it to a person who might seem a bit tired or distracted. Back in the day, there was a Mexican *luchador* (wrestler) called the *Súper Muñeco* (Super Doll) who inspired this phrase. When he got tired and the other *luchadores* started getting the best of him, he would go to his corner and his trainer would pretend to put new batteries in him. From that point on, *Súper Muñeco* would start kicking everyone's bottoms and win every fight.

I have no idea if that's the origin of the phrase, but I find the story so funny and the best way to illustrate the meaning of saying *ponte las pilas* to somebody. Basically, you are saying something like "get yourself together," but you can also say it in a variety of other contexts.



3. *La Última Coca Cola del Desierto*

Imagine a scenario where you are walking across the desert with a group of friends and in the cooler there is one last Coca Cola. Now think, how would that bottle of Coca Cola feel about itself (if it could do such a thing)? It would feel pretty special and entitled. That's the meaning of this saying. It's most often used to tell somebody else that he or she thinks too much of himself or herself.

Te crees la última Coca-Cola del desierto.

You think you are the last Coca-Cola in the desert.

4. *En Boca Cerrada No Entran Moscas*

This one is funny too. "In a shut mouth no flies can get in." You get the picture, right? It's simple, and it's clear, that's why it works so well. Keep your mouth shut, and you won't get into trouble. It's better not to say anything, and to avoid any potential problem. It's used a lot when people are gossiping.

5. *Ni Tanto que Queme al Santo, Ni Tanto que No lo Alumbre*

My ***abuela*** (grandmother) used to say this one all the time and I just love its sound and rhythm:

Ni tanto que queme al santo,

ni tanto que no lo alumbre.

Not so much that the saint gets burned,

But neither so little that it won't get any light.

The saint is a religious icon, a figure of Saint Joseph for example. With this phrase you are telling someone to put a candle close to the saint not so much that burns it, but not too far that it won't even light it. It's about the middle ground and finding the right balance in life, work, or anything actually.



6. *Con Paciencia y con Maña, un Elefante se Comió una Araña*

I wanted to finish the blog post with this one because it gives the right message. “With patience and skill, an elephant ate a spider.” It’s similar to that of *sana sana colita de rana*, as in the only reason there is a *colita de rana* in the first place, is because *rana* rhymes with *sana*. Same with the *araña*; it’s there because it rhymes with *maña*.

The image is beautiful and speaks for itself. With patience and skill, you can achieve anything. Even learning Spanish!