

## Easy Shortcuts to Talk about the Present in Spanish Shortcut #1

In this lesson we will review a short list of easy shortcuts you can use to talk about the present in Spanish.

To keep things extra simple for now, we will focus on talking about **you**, and what **you want** or what **you need**.

Let's get started!

Being able to express what **you want** is one of the most important skills when you are learning Spanish.

An easy way to accomplish this, is to use the verb “**to want**” in Spanish which is “**querer.**”

Since we will focus on expressing what **you** want, we will use the conjugation for “**I**” in Spanish.

Here it is:

### **Shortcut #1 to Talk about the Present:**

- Yo quiero
- I want
- Yo quiero

You can use this simple phrase as a starting point to express many ideas related to things you want by adding additional information.

If you want **to say you want something**, such as food, water, a taxi or a phone, you can add it at the end of the sentence, and the shortcut would look like this:

**“Yo quiero” (I want) + noun (the “something” you want)**

Here are a few examples:

- Yo quiero comida
- I want food
- Yo quiero comida
  
- Yo quiero agua
- I want water
- Yo quiero agua
  
- Yo quiero un taxi
- I want a taxi
- Yo quiero un taxi

If you want to express the idea that you want to do something, you can add a verb at the end of “yo quiero” so it looks like this:

### **“Yo quiero” + unconjugated verb**

Here are a few examples:

- Yo quiero aprender
- I want to learn
- Yo quiero aprender
  
- Yo quiero comer
- I want to eat
- Yo quiero comer
  
- Yo quiero beber
- I want to drink
- Yo quiero beber

You can add additional information at the end of **“yo quiero + verb”** to talk about **what you want to do**.

The shortcut looks like this:

**“Yo quiero” + unconjugated verb + additional information (about what you want)**

Here are a few examples:

- Yo quiero aprender español
- I want to learn Spanish
- Yo quiero aprender español
  
- Yo quiero comer tacos
- I want to eat tacos
- Yo quiero comer tacos
  
- Yo quiero beber agua
- I want to drink water
- Yo quiero beber agua

If you want to talk about **actions** that **happen in a specific place**, you can use this shortcut:

**“Yo quiero” + unconjugated verb + “en”  
(in/at) + name of a place**

Here are a few examples:

- Yo quiero aprender en la escuela
- I want to learn at school
- Yo quiero aprender en la escuela
  
- Yo quiero comer en un restaurante
- I want to eat at a restaurant
- Yo quiero comer en un restaurante
  
- Yo quiero beber agua en casa
- I want to drink water at home
- Yo quiero beber agua en casa

If you want to talk about performing **an action in the company of someone else**, you can use this shortcut:

**“Yo quiero” + verb + “con” (with) + a person**

Here are a few examples:

- Yo quiero hablar con mi amigo
- I want to talk with my friend
- Yo quiero hablar con mi amigo
  
- Yo quiero comer con mi familia
- I want to eat with my family
- Yo quiero comer con mi familia

## Quick note about how to say “with you”

To say “with you” in Spanish in a casual tone, you need to use the word “contigo.”

So, to say “I want to talk with you” you would say:

- Yo quiero hablar contigo
- I want to talk with you
- Yo quiero hablar contigo



If you want to express **the opposite idea** and say you **don't want** something or you **don't want** to do something.

You can add the word “**no**” before the verb, like this:

- “Yo **no** quiero” + noun (the “something you don't want)
- “Yo **no** quiero” + verb
- “Yo **no** quiero” + verb + additional information
- “Yo **no** quiero” + verb + “en” + name of a place
- “Yo **no** quiero” + verb + “con” + a person

Here are a few examples:

- Yo no quiero comida
- I don't want food
- Yo no quiero comida

- Yo no quiero comer
- I don't want to eat
- Yo no quiero comer
  
- Yo no quiero comer en un restaurante
- I don't want to eat at a restaurant
- Yo no quiero comer en un restaurante
  
- Yo no quiero comer con mi amigo
- I don't want to eat with my friend
- Yo no quiero comer con mi amigo

That's all for this lesson.

Well done!