



Un Ensayo Desastroso



This production is presented mainly in present, present perfect, immediate future and future tenses, but does contain some conditional and imperfect tenses and some imperative and subjunctive for differentiation.

Hi Student

You're About to See the Play "*Un Ensayo Desastroso*"

? Is it all in Spanish?

Yes! The entire play is performed in Spanish.

? Will I understand it?

Yes. You'll be surprised how much you understand!
The script is full of words and phrases you already know. Plus, the action on stage will help you follow along.

? Are the actors Spanish?

Yes. They are professional actors from Spain, which makes it even more authentic.

? How will I keep up with the story?

- The actors will speak **slowly and clearly**.
- You'll pick out familiar words and phrases.
- The action on stage will give you clues.
👉 You don't need to understand **every single word** to enjoy the story.

? What happens in the play?

You'll have a short **synopsis** to get you started, but most of the story you'll discover as you watch.

✨ Remember:

This play is here to help you.
Relax, enjoy the performance, and be amazed at how much Spanish you already know!

The Play

In a "small-town" theater in Spain, the auditions are taking place for their new production of *Romeo y Julieta*. One of the actors, Verónica, is as dramatic offstage as she is on it.

Meanwhile, Cassy, the super-keen stage manager, is trying to keep the chaos under control... though she secretly dreams of taking the lead role.

To make matters worse, the other members of the Spanish cast are missing so Cassy enlists the help from some of the students in the audience, who are encouraged to play all the other characters, deliver lines, and even make sound effects.

What follows is a wildly funny rehearsal full of flubbed lines, forgotten props, theatrical meltdowns, and moments of unexpected brilliance.



Extract 1# from the play

This is a scene from the play you will be watching.

Verónica is auditioning for the part of Juliet.

Verónica ¿Eres el director?
Director Sí...
Verónica (looks him up and down) No conozco tu cara. ¿Cómo te llamas?
Director Señor González.
Verónica Romeo y Julieta. Fantástico, me encanta Charles Dickens.
Director (Laughs) Es Shakespeare, no Dickens.
Verónica Ah, vamos a hacer la versión de Shakespeare, interesante.
Director (looks worried) ¿Has hecho muchas obras de Shakespeare?
Verónica Shakespeare (Laughs) ¡Por supuesto! He actuado en muchas obras de Shakespeare.
Director Ah, ¿en cuáles?
Verónica Erm...erm....erm.... "Dorian Gray"... "Cuento de Navidad"...
Director (shocked) Esas no son de Shakespeare!
Verónica (pause) Hice de Lady Macbeth en El doctor Jekyll y Mr. Hyde. El director dijo que era "única".
Director (changing the subject) ¡Vale! Empecemos. Continúa.
Verónica (looks around the room) ¿Dónde está el público?
Director Imagina que el público está aquí. (points behind)
Verónica (starts her audition piece) "¡Oooohhhhhh! Romeo, Romeo..." Lo siento, tengo que mirar el texto. Lo sé, pero... (looks at her script) Ah, sí, claro. Ya lo tengo. Lo siento. "Oooohhhhhh Romeo, Romeo, ¿Dónde estás Romeo? (looks under the table) ¿Está aquí? ¡No! ¿Está aquí? ¡No! (looks at her phone) Llega muy tarde... ¡Para, para, para! Erm... ¿Qué estás haciendo?
Director Romeo llega tarde, Julieta está mirando qué hora es.
Verónica ¡En su teléfono!
Director ¡Obviamente, en la época de Shakespeare no tenían relojes! "Romeo, Romeo, ¿por qué eres Romeo? Romeo, Romeo, ¿Dónde estás Romeo? Romeo, Romeo, ¿por qué eres Romeo?..."
Director Vale, gracias....
Verónica ¡Disculpa, no he terminado! "Romeo, Romeo, ¿Dónde estás Romeo? ¡OH! Ahí estás, mi querido Romeo." Ya he terminado.
Director (In shock)Vale.

Spanish “Theatre” Vocabulary from the play

- **audiciones** → auditions
- **director / señor director** → director / Mr director
- **obra (de teatro)** → play / theatre piece
- **guión** → script
- **actores** → actors
- **casting** → casting / auditions (loanword used in Spanish)
- **lista de actores** → cast list
- **iluminación** → lighting
- **accesorios** → props
- **críticas negativas** → bad reviews / negative critiques
- **representante** → agent / manager
- **ensayos** → rehearsals
- **público** → audience
- **interpretación** → performance / acting
- **actuando / actuado** → acting / acted
- **líneas** → lines (in a script)
- **papel (de Julieta, de Romeo, etc.)** → role / part
- **escenario** → stage
- **acción** → action! (director’s cue)
- **escena** → scene
- **producción** → production
- **obra famosa** → famous play
- **teatro** → theatre

Vocab list

List of Verbs used in the play and examples from the script

1. **entrar** → to enter

Cassy entra y prepara la sala... → “Cassy enters and prepares the room” → **present**

2. **preparar** → to prepare

Cassy entra y prepara la sala... → “Cassy enters and prepares the room” → **present**

3. **dejar** → to leave/put down

deja unos papeles sobre la mesa → “puts some papers on the table” → **present**

4. **marchar(se)** → to leave/go away

se marcha → “he/she leaves” → **present reflexive**

5. **sentar(se)** → to sit (down)

se sienta → “he sits down” → **present reflexive**

6. **poder** → can / to be able to

no puedes sentarte ahí → “you can’t sit there” → **present**

7. **esperar** → to wait

Por favor, espera en la zona... → “Please wait in the area...” → **imperative**

8. **ver** → to see

ve que el director ha movido... → “she sees that the director has moved...” → **present**

9. **quitar** → to take away

se los quita y los coge → “she takes them away and grabs them” → **present**

10. **coger** → to take / grab

se los quita y los coge → “she takes them away and grabs them” → **present**

11. **mirar** → to look

mira el guión → “she looks at the script” → **present**

12. **ser** → to be

Soy Cassy → “I am Cassy” → **present**

13. **llamar(se)** → to call (oneself)

¿Cómo te llamas? → “What’s your name?” → **present reflexive**

14. **tener** → to have

Tengo aquí una lista... → “I have a list here...” → **present**

15. **creer** → to believe / think

creo que a la mayoría... → “I believe that most...” → **present**

16. **publicar** → to publish

le gusta publicar críticas negativas... → “likes to publish negative reviews” → **present**

17. **preparar** → to prepare

Prepara las audiciones. → “Prepare the auditions.” → **imperative**

18. **utilizar** → to use

utilizaremos ropa tradicional... → “we will use traditional clothing” → **future**

19. **empezar** → to begin/start

Vamos, empecemos... → “Come on, let’s begin...” → **subjunctive (1st person plural command)**

20. **hacer** → to do/make

haré la audición... → “I will do the audition” → **future**

21. **leer** → to read

toma esto y léelo → “take this and read it” → **imperative**

22. **buscar** → to search/look for

Está buscando a Romeo... → “She is looking for Romeo” → **present progressive**

23. **intentar** → to try

Inténtalo de nuevo → “Try it again” → **imperative**

24. **decir** → to say/tell

Cassy le dice a la estudiante... → “Cassy tells the student...” → **present**

25. **poner(se)** → to put (on) / place

se ponga la mano en la frente... → “puts her hand on her forehead” →
subjunctive

26. **esperar** → to wait

espera aquí → “wait here” → **imperative**

27. **dar** → to give

le da a la estudiante una tarjeta... → “gives the student a card...” → **present**