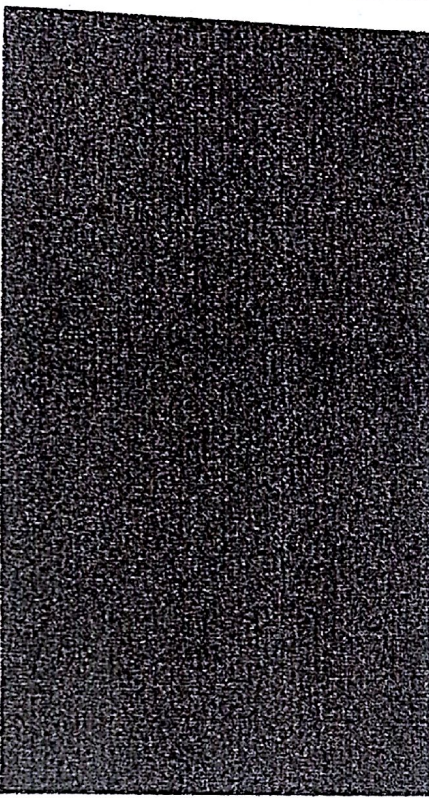


Unit 7

Saber and Conocer

Español 2
1B



Just as we learned that *ser* and *estar* on the surface mean the same thing, namely, "to be," the verbs *saber* and *conocer* both mean "to know." On closer inspection, however, these two verbs perform two very different functions: *Saber* means "to know information," while *conocer* means "to know, or be familiar with, a person, place, or thing."

Saber

First we will consider *saber*, and its various uses. Essentially, *saber* means "to know facts and information." It implies full knowledge (while *conocer* implies familiarity).

<i>saber (to know information)</i>	
sé	sabemos
sabes	sabéis
sabe	saben

Note that *saber* is irregular only in the *yo* form.

Saber: To know information. When dealing with facts and information, you will use *saber*.

Sé tu dirección. *I know your address.*

Él no sabe dónde trabajo. *He doesn't know where I work.*

Sabemos el número de teléfono. *We know the telephone number.*

ejercicio 1-7-1

1. I know your name. _____
2. You know the answer. _____

3. She knows where you live. _____
4. We don't know why he is angry. _____
5. Do you know who has the money? _____
6. They don't know anything about me. _____
7. Does he know where María is? _____
8. You (*pl. fam.*) know a lot. _____

Saber que . . . : To know that In English we have the option of saying either "I know that he's here somewhere," or simply, "I know he's here somewhere." In Spanish, we do not have that option and must include the relative pronoun *que* (that) which always will be followed by a complete sentence.

Sé que su nombre es Juan. *I know that his name is John.*

¿Sabes que ella está embarazada? *Do you know that she is pregnant?*

Ellos no saben que los vemos. *They don't know that we see them.*

ejercicio

I-7-2

1. I know that John is tall. _____
2. You know that I'm hungry. _____
3. She knows that you're thirsty. _____
4. Do you know that I'm twenty-nine years old? _____
5. We know that he is in a hurry. _____
6. They don't know that I'm here. _____
7. Do you (*pl. fam.*) know that there are snakes (*culebras*) in the garden (*el jardín*)? _____
8. He doesn't know that you're in the garden. _____

Saber + infinitive: To know how to do something. To say that you know *how* to do something in Spanish, you simply add the infinitive immediately after the conjugated *saber*. Do **not** add *cómo* (how).

Sé leer. *I know how to read.*

No sé cocinar. *I don't know how to cook.*

Él sabe escribir bien. *He knows how to write well.*

Sabemos esquiar. *We know how to ski.*

ejercicio I-7-3

1. I know how to sing. _____
2. You know how to speak Spanish. _____
3. She knows how to cook very well. _____
4. He doesn't know how to speak French. _____
5. Fred and Ginger know how to dance. _____
6. You (*pl. fam.*) know how to play the piano. _____
7. Do you know how to ski? _____
8. Who knows how to open this door? _____

traducción I-7-4

John is my mechanic. He knows a lot about cars, and I am happy because I don't know anything about cars. No, it's not completely true. I know where the gas tank is and I know how to fill it. I know how to drive and I know that I can't park in front of a fire station. John knows that he has to know about cars and about people, because many people know very little about cars.

vocabulario

(to) drive	conducir	(to) know about	saber de
(to) fill	llenar	mechanic	el mecánico
fire station	la estación de bomberos	(to) park	aparcar
gas tank	el tanque de gasolina	people (in general)	la gente
in front of	enfrente de	true	cierto

Conocer

If you are *familiar* with a person, a place, or a thing, you will need the verb *conocer*. The key word here is *familiarity*, for one can never know another person, place, or thing completely.

<i>conocer (to be familiar with)</i>	
conozco	conocemos
conoces	conocéis
conoce	conocen

Note that, as with *saber*, the verb *conocer* is irregular only in the *yo* form.

Conocer + a: To know a person. When talking about knowing another person (or someone's pet animal—not a stray), the conjugated *conocer* will be followed by the personal *a* except when you use an object pronoun.

Conozco a Felipe.
I know Phillip.

Lo conocemos.
We know him.

Tú conoces a María.
You know Mary.

La conocéis.
You know her.

María conoce a Eduardo.
Mary knows Edward.

María y Jorge lo conocen.
Mary and George know him.

ejercicio

I-7-5

1. I know Antonia. _____
2. You know Isabel. _____
3. He knows his father-in-law. _____
4. We know you. _____
5. You (*pl. fam.*) know Juan. _____
6. She knows Juana and Paco. _____
7. Do you know my cats Fifi and Fufu? _____
8. He doesn't know me. _____
9. I know her. _____
10. You know her. _____

11. He knows him. _____
12. You know us. _____
13. You all (*pl. fam.*) know him. _____
14. She knows them. _____
15. Yes, I know them. _____
16. Nobody here knows me. _____

Conocer + location: To know a place. To visit is to become familiar. Whether you know a location inside-out (like your hometown) or hardly at all (where you went on a sixth-grade field trip), you will use *conocer*. To indicate how well you know a place, you use *muy bien* (very well) or *muy poco* (hardly at all).

Conozco Puerto Rico. *I know/am familiar with/have been to Puerto Rico.*

La actriz conoce muy bien Hollywood. *The actress knows Hollywood very well.*

Las arañas conocen bien mi sótano. *Spiders know my basement well.*

Él conoce muy poco Las Vegas. *He is slightly familiar with Las Vegas.*

ejercicio	1-7-6
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1. I (don't) know Chicago. _____
2. The President knows Washington, D.C., well. _____
3. The mayor knows the city well. _____
4. Dorothy knows Oz. _____
5. They don't know/haven't been to Paris. _____
6. Have you been to/Do you know Ireland? _____
7. George knows the jungle (*la selva*). _____
8. The bird knows its tree (*el árbol*). _____

Conocer + noun: To know, be well versed in an area. Virtually everybody has at least one area of talent, whether it be cooking, politics, or changing a tire. Perhaps you have read all of Shakespeare's plays or Agatha Christie's mysteries. Whatever your area(s) of expertise, you *know* that field, and to say so you will use *conocer*.

Mi mecánico conoce bien los motores alemanes. *My mechanic knows German engines well.*

El fotógrafo conoce las cámaras japonesas. *The photographer knows Japanese cameras.*

Juanito conoce los libros del Dr. Seuss. *Johnny knows Dr. Seuss's books.*