

Filler words

In English we have many filler words that we use to give ourselves time to think about what we are going to say next, such as; *err, well, hmmm, like, you know* etc. Particularly when you are learning to speak a foreign language like Spanish you start a sentence and then halfway you get stuck as to what to say next and you need a few seconds to think. It is here that these “filler words” come in handy. In Spanish, “filler” words are known as “*muletillas*” or “*palabras de relleno*”. If you can learn a few of these words they will not only make you to sound more natural and therefore more like a native speaker, but they can also give you time to think about how to word what you want to say next. Read on to learn the key “filler words” (“*muletillas*”) in Spanish and sound like a true Spaniard!:

Bueno – *Well*

Pues – *Well* [“**bueno**” and “**pues**” are used in the same way]

Vale – *Ok*

Venga – *Come on*

Sabes – *You know*

A ver – *Let’s see*

Vamos a ver – *Let’s see*

Mira – *Look*

O sea – *I mean / Or rather*

Es decir – *That is to say*

Sin embargo – *However / Nevertheless*

Así – *Like this/that, So*

Entonces – *Then, So*

Luego – *Then / Later*

¿No? – *Isn’t it? / Isn’t that right?*

¿Verdad? – *Right? / True?*

¡Vaya! – *Wow!* [To express surprise, disgust, satisfaction]

Viste – *You see / Wasn’t it?* [Argentinean Spanish]

You can also use two filler words together:

Pues bien – *Right / Ok*

Así pues – *So then*

Bueno pues – *Ok then*

Pues entonces – *In that case*

Pues entonces nada – *Nothing in that case*

Pues nada – *Nothing*

Pues mira – *Well look*

Pues sí – *Yes then*

Pues vaya – *Wow*

Algo así – *Something like that*