

Have you ever heard the word *chuchaqui*?

Let me tell you a story about it.

About 15 years ago, I went to a family reunion.

An aunt who lives in Spain came to visit, and all the family (around 50 people) got together.

I got to the meeting place at noon, and my uncles and some cousins were sitting, drinking beer together.

— Do you want a beer?— They asked.

— Yes, why not.— I answered.

I don't know how or why, but my mom let me stay with them. By that time I was probably 18, and my uncles were in their 40s.

I remember being there, talking, laughing and drinking beer with them, and I don't know what happened, but the next thing I remember is waking up on a couch, feeling terrible, and wanting to vomit.

That day I learned that it's not a good idea for a teenager drinking alcohol with a group of people who have decades of experience doing that.

When I tried to get up from the couch, I couldn't. I felt terribly dizzy, but somehow I got to the bathroom and I vomited all the alcohol that I had in my stomach.

That helped.

After that I went back to the party and someone gave me some food (I missed lunch so I only got leftovers,) and then my mom took me back home.

Surprisingly she wasn't mad. Actually she laughed the next day when I woke up, because I couldn't even get out of bed.

The hangover was terrible.

But I learned my lesson. I never drank alcohol with my uncles again, at least not in the way I did that day.

And yes, they still remember what happened and make fun of me.

By the way, do you remember the word I asked you about at the beginning of this email?

» Chuchaqui.

Well, that's a word we use in Ecuador for hangover, and it's way more common to say "chuchaqui" than "resaca," the actual Spanish word.

So if you ever come to Ecuador and get drunk, that's the word you should use the next day.

And if you want to learn more Ecuadorian words to talk to your friends about chuchaqui or anything else:

[Spanish lessons with an Ecuadorian teacher.](#)

P.S. I'm a bit chuchaqui today, so I'm going for an encebollado, the Ecuadorian cure for hangover. I'll tell you about it another day.

Spanish with Andrés

Valle de los Chillos, Sangolqui
Ecuador

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