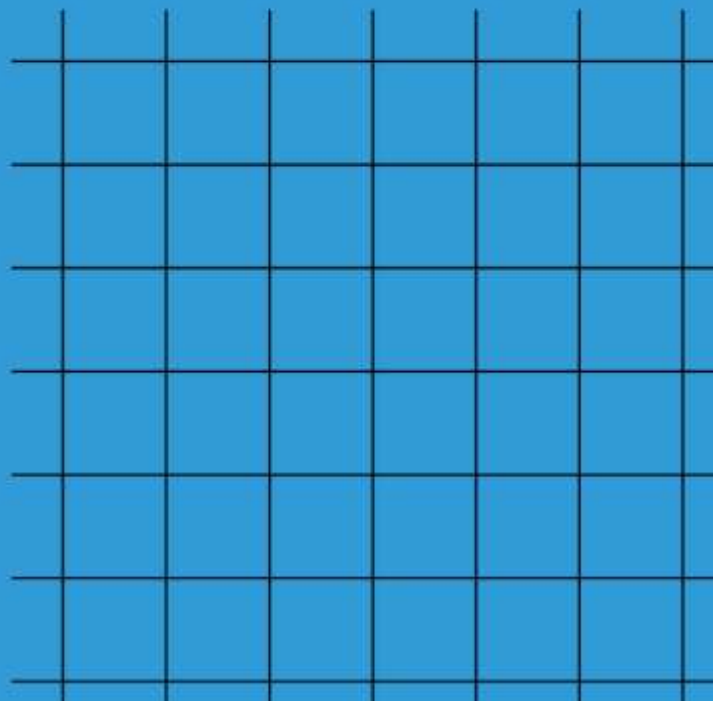


10 PHRASES TO SOUND LIKE AN ECUADORIAN



It doesn't matter which country you visit, you will find some words and expressions that only locals will understand.

I think that makes a place special, and Ecuador is not an exception.

We have tons of expressions, and I have prepared this mini ebook to share some of the ones I use or hear most often with you.

If you are planning to visit Ecuador, or if you have Ecuadorian friends and you want to surprise them by saying something in "Ecuadorian Spanish", this ebook is for you.

Before we start, it's important to mention that, even in small countries, expressions and slang may be different depending on the city or region.

What you will read here will be especially useful for Quito (the capital city) and its surroundings, but some of these expressions are used in other cities too.

So, if you're far from Quito, try using them and see how people react. If you see they understand, just keep talking, and if not, just tell them "people in Quito speak like that"

Ok, now that that's clear, let's start.

1. Chulla vida

You have the opportunity to do something fun or exciting, but a little risky. Do you take it?

I would. Maybe. Ok, maybe not. It depends.

But if I did, I would tell myself “*chulla vida*” first, and then go for it.

Chulla vida is the Ecuadorian (and especially Quitoian) equivalent to YOLO, and oftentimes we use that phrase to justify an impulsive or rash decision.

2. Achachay

Think about these three situations:

- It's a cold day. It's raining and you don't have a sweater.
Achachay.
- You go for a hike, and suddenly it turns cloudy and windy.
Achachay.
- You are going to take a shower, but the water is really cold.
Achachay!

You got it. *Achachay* means “I'm cold”. It is an indigenous word that we took and made part of our daily language.

3. Chuchaqui

You go to a party with your friends. You have fun. You dance a lot. And you drink a lot of alcohol. How do you feel the next day?

Not very good, I'm guessing.

Well, that feeling after a night of drinking, you call it hangover, and we call it *chuchaqui*.

Fun fact: Even while the obvious “treatments” for *chuchaqui* are water, pain relievers, coffee, or B vitamins, in many places in Ecuador a popular “treatment” is *encebollado*, a really good fish soup.

What can I say, Ecuador is a unique place.

4. No seas malito(a)

- *No seas malito*, help me lift this box.
- *No seas malita*, pass me the salt.
- *No seas malito*, open the window.

We use that phrase to make requests in a polite but also informal way. If you try to translate it, you will get something like “don’t be a little meanie” (weird, right?), but for us Ecuadorians it totally makes sense.

5. Irse a volver

This phrase is crazy. It literally means “go to come back”.

Check out this “conversation”

- Hey, is your mom at home?
- No, *se fue a volver*.

Or...

- *Me voy a volver*, I won’t be long.

I know. It sounds crazy. Now let me explain it to you:

When we use this phrase, we mean that we are going somewhere and we will be back (kind of) soon.

That's it. Ecuadorian slang.

6. Chévere

- Are you enjoying the party? Then, the party is *chévere*.
- You have a super cool friend? Well, your friend is *chévere*.
- You want to learn Spanish? I think it's *chévere* that you want to learn a new language.

It doesn't matter in what context you hear this word, it always means something positive.

And by the way, you will hear this word not only in Ecuador, it's commonly used in other countries around Latin America.

7. Chuta

- You failed the exam? Chuta. That's bad.
- You were fired? Chuta. I'm sorry.
- You lost your wallet? Chuta. I hope you can get it back.

We tend to say "chuta" to show surprise or as an exclamation, like in the examples above.

Just remember that, like the other expressions, it's only used in informal situations.

8. Habla serio

What would you say if I told you that I found \$100 on the ground when I was walking in the park?

If a friend told me that, I would think two things:

- a. He is lying, or
- b. He is extremely lucky

And in both cases I would tell him “*habla serio*” (talk seriously).

We use that phrase to say “what you’re saying doesn’t make sense”, or “I’m surprised by what you said”.

By the way, if I tell you that, I’m lying. I never find things, I just lose them.

9. Hacer vaca

A literal translation would be “to make cow”. It doesn’t make any sense. Right?

What do you think I could be trying to say?

Are you picturing an actual cow?

No. It has nothing to do with cows, or milk, or meat. It has to do with money.

Imagine this:

You are hanging out with your friends. It’s late and you are hungry, and so are they.

You have \$5, one of your friends has \$7 and the other one has \$3.

That’s enough money for a medium pizza, so you collect the money and call the restaurant.

That is “*hacer vaca*”. Something that we all do from time to time [collect money to buy something], just with a creative name.

10. ¡De una!

- We are going to the movies tonight. Do you want to come?
- *¡De una!*

- I buy the food and you buy the drinks. What do you think?
- *¡De una!*

- We are collecting money to buy a pizza. Do you want to pitch in?
- *¡De una!*

I think it's already clear.

We say “*de una*” to show we want to join the plan, or we agree with it, whatever it is.

That's it!

10 phrases you should know if you are going to talk to an Ecuadorian.

Whether you already have Ecuadorian friends, or you are going to visit Ecuador for the first time, these phrases will be useful to understand more about how we talk in our daily life, make (even more) friends, and of course, sound more natural.

If you want more resources to learn Spanish, or you want to learn more about Ecuador, visit my website spanishwithandres.com

Thank you for reading.