

Spanish

Saying what people can and must do [2/2]

- *PODER* and *DEBER* (plural persons)

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hasta luego

[see you later!]

h

[remember this is a
silent letter in Spanish!]

hasta ahora

[until now/up to now]

hola

[hello]

hasta la próxima

[until next time]

hasta mañana

[see you tomorrow!]



limpiar	to clean, cleaning
empezar	to start, starting
terminar	to finish, finishing
lavar	to wash, washing
la ropa	clothes
el suelo	floor
la basura	rubbish
el alemán	German
el minuto	minute
decir	to say, saying
ver	to see, seeing
el estudiante	student



Poder

Use a verb infinitive (e.g. decir) after 'poder'.

Remember, the infinitive refers to the *general meaning* of the verb. It often ends in -ar, -er and -ir.

Use the verb 'poder' to say what people can (or are able to) do.

To say 'we can', use '**podemos**':

Podemos decir todo en alemán. **We can** say everything in German.

To say 'you (plural) can', use '**podéis**':

Podéis decir todo en alemán. **You can** say everything in German.

To say 'they can', use '**pueden**':

Pueden decir todo en alemán. **They can** say everything in German.



Deber

Use a verb infinitive (e.g. limpiar) after 'poder'.

Remember, the infinitive refers to the *general meaning* of the verb. It often ends in -ar, -er and -ir.

Use the verb 'deber' to talk about obligations (what people must do).

To say 'We must' say '**debemos**':

Debemos limpiar el suelo. **We must** clean the floor.

To say 'you (plural) must' say '**debéis**':

Debéis limpiar el suelo. **You must** clean the floor.

To say 'they must' say '**deben**':

Deben limpiar el suelo. **They must** clean the floor.



Summary

1. The verb 'pueden' means 'they can/are be able to
2. 'Debéis' is 'you (plural) must/have to
3. Deber and poder must be followed by the
infinitive form of the verb.
4. 'Deben limpiar' is 'they should clean'.
5. 'Podemos terminar' is 'we can finish'.

