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Do you speak Spanish?

Many believe that you should be able to speak Spanish, if you wish to live in the country. That's quite right! However, when you take a closer look around among the non-working foreigners here on the coast, you will realize that very few really speak the Spanish language fluently. The majority can, nevertheless, communicate quite well. But there are of course, those for whom the language remains a barrier, and are, for that reason, still unable to fully integrate and do not have an easy ability to make Spanish friends. In their hearts they remain German, English or Dutch.

At home in Spain

Naturally, those who can speak the language, will gain a better insight into the Spanish way of life, although, it is not for us to say if that is going to help you to live a truly happier life in Spain, than those who have difficulty with the language. To the question of where do they feel at home, many people answer: "In Spain, of course!" It should be added, though, that it is very much young people who come to that conclusion. With advancing age, especially when people have already lived here a long time, different circumstances emerge, such as, the death of a partner, homesickness for the

family and the grandchildren, but also health problems and barriers to gaining friend, as well as, the language problem, with the result that they are more likely to feel at home where their roots are. This is also one of the many reasons for the frequent turnover of properties on the coast.

We are Europeans

Are we on the way to becoming Europeans? To even think as Europeans, and to support each other in a neighbourly way and work together? Of course! All the well-known large projects demonstrate that to us, in a more than impressive manner. However, unlike within such a professional and spectacular framework, like that at Airbus and in the case of the space travel programmes, on the Costa Blanca, the Germans, English, Dutch and people from many other nations meet on a private level and with much greater frequency than in London, Amsterdam and Hamburg put together.

In the same boat

Why? Because they have acquired properties here for quite similar motives; they are now neighbours and know that the Costa Blanca is a place where they can learn to understand one another better. And, by that, we do not just mean linguistically. Everyone knows that Europe is faced with a historic challenge. Many feel the need for the common bond and to be united together in a certain sense of partnership. In addition, even if we are in competition with each other in many areas, and each country has its own problems, we still see ourselves closely linked, in the long-term.

An interesting question

It's true that the lack of multilingualism among the older foreigners here on the coast is not really that much of a problem, but is, all the same, rather a disadvantage. Apart from the mother tongue, there will only be an approximate command of any other language. Obviously, people have had other things to do their whole life than study Spanish or English,

and in one's old age finding the energy, once again, to swot up on a foreign language, is not everyone's cup of tea. It is, however, sad, nowadays, not to be able to communicate or express yourself well. It is, of course, quite different for anyone just wishing to spend their holidays here, than for anyone intending a permanent move.



Solidarity is welcome

What stands considerably in communication, is the manner in which the various nationalities form cliques. There are, here, along with a German Costa Blanca Club, countless others, and together with all the English and Dutch counterparts, one could presumably, fill an entire handbook. Naturally, young people in particular, of all nationalities and in equal measure, derive great pleasure from the traditional and exuberant fiestas. Also private festivities and celebrations or sports events like golf or tennis tournaments, and many other opportunities provide ample basis for common ground.

A little bit wiser

To all those who (still) speak no Spanish, our motto is: "Don't worry, be happy". Just do your best. The Spanish appreciate it when you can speak a few words. The English are also making an effort to speak Spanish, not to mention, sometimes even German. Unbelievable. It appears to be of equal interest to everyone, that, whoever owns a house here, can, besides the proceeds from a sale, take even further gains with them, which although not necessarily measurable in ready cash, are of considerable merit. We believe that, not only will the experience enrich you, but also make you a little wiser and, perhaps, slightly more European.

Interesting, isn't it?

Nothing in life has so many disadvantages, that it does not have, at least, one advantage, that being, there would certainly be some people who would own no house in Spain today, if, at the time, everything that was signed had been understood. An interesting thought, don't you think? As we know, language is very much a limited means of communication. We must not only have the desire to gain a better understanding, but also, above all, to observe, learn and then listen to our inner voice, telling us



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what to do. We notice, frequently, with anyone looking for a home, that it is hard for them to reduce the many impressions to a common denominator. It is difficult from intellect alone. Throughout the course of our work, intuition helps us to draw the right conclusions.