



Join us Online

Hola! It's Sam, from the Cambridge Spanish Centre. We hope that you're well. Unfortunately, it looks like it could be a few weeks before we see you in person again. But don't worry! Until then, we'll be here online and will keep in touch via email. We look forward to seeing you as soon as the lockdown is over! All the best wishes, and stay safe.



Our Online Classes

Please write to: info.cam.spanishcentre@gmail.com

Children - Primary-School-Age
Saturdays - 10:30 –11:30 a.m.

Children - Secondary-School-Age
Saturdays - 11:30 –12:30 p.m.

Teens - GCSE Group Classes
Saturdays - 12:30 –2 p.m.

Beginners
Fridays - 1–2 p.m.

Intermediate
Wednesdays - 7:30 –9 p.m.

Advanced
Wednesdays - 6 –7:30 p.m.

Lessons Continue Online

We hope all of you have received the news: Lessons are continuing online through [Zoom](#), an online video software. Teachers will also be using email to set tasks and homework. If you need a hand getting set up, you can email us at any time: info.cam.spanishcentre@gmail.com.

Step 1: Grab a laptop or tablet and check that the microphone and speakers work. A camera might help so we can all see each-other, but it's not required. Phones also work (but be sure to connect over wifi rather than by phone to avoid call charges).

Step 2: Download Zoom. If you haven't already, clicking this [link](#) will start the download.

Step 3: Find the meeting link in an email from the Cambridge Spanish Centre. Click on it and wait for the session to start.

Entertain yourself, learn Spanish!

Cultural events at the Cambridge Spanish Centre have been postponed, but don't let this slow down your exploration of Spanish language media! Here are a few favourite Spanish language productions to keep you entertained during the lockdown!

1. Radio Ambulante (Podcast) (U): This was the planned focus of the Cambridge Spanish Centre's new Podcast Club! While Podcast Clubs have been postponed, you can still listen at home with new episodes each week! Radio Ambulante is a non-fiction production created by Investigative Journalists who explore a wide variety of stories from the Latin American region. For Spanish

learners, transcripts of the podcast are available online so you can follow along and learn as you listen. [More information here.](#)

2. Coco (Film) (U): An amazing family-friendly film from Mexico which went on to win an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film in 2017. The film tells the story of a young child, Miguel, who pursues his love for singing in spite of his family's ban on music. If you buy this film, be sure to get the Spanish copy! [The trailer's here!](#)

3. Money Heist (or) La Casa De Papel (TV Series) (15): Hands down one of the best 'edge of my seat' series I've seen in this decade! Also, fully bingeable on Netflix. Money Heist is a Spanish drama which centres on a geeky genius known only as 'The Professor' and his plan to print billions of euros in the Royal Mint of Spain. It's a must-see! [Here's the trailer!](#)

4. Relatos Salvajes (Film) (15): A darkly comedic film from Argentina. It's an anthology film composed of six standalone shorts united by a common theme of violence and vengeance. It's a lot of fun, but be prepared for a little violence! [Here's the trailer!](#)

And now, something completely different - a feature from Peru that makes no mention of 'masks', 'pandemics' or 'exponential curves' ...

The Uro People of Peru: Life on a Lilyypad

An exploration of a magical place far from here



Tucked away in an inlet of Lake Titicaca close to the town of Puno lies a curious cluster of floating islands. These are home to the Uro, an indigenous group of about 2,500 people who have made the lake their home for hundreds if not thousands of years.

The islands are made of Totora, a reed native to South America. The roots of the plant are buoyant and form the bottom layer of the island. Layers of reeds are then weaved on top to provide a solid platform on which houses are built. Because the bottom layers of reed rot quickly, new reeds are constantly added to the island's top layer. It's not an exact science. Every so often, things go wrong, and someone falls through the reeds and splashes into the lake.

Electricity is short on the floating islands, so the Uro communicate using a system of watchtowers. Messages are sent using fire signals, panpipes and mirrors. But the Uro are not averse to modern technologies. Back on Puno, a nearby redbrick city on dry land, the Uro have a radio station which transmits traditional Uro music for several hours a day.

The Uro have survived domination by both the Incas and the Spanish. Both groups were critical of the Uro viewing them as a 'primitive' and 'unsanitary' society. An early colonial author described the Uro language as 'the most vulgar in the King's realm'. The Uro were allowed to survive on the condition they paid

tributes and provided slaves, first to the Incas then to the Spanish.

While unpopular in the pre-colonial and colonial periods, the Uro have found popularity with the increasing numbers of tourists who visit Peru each year. By giving boat rides, tours and selling handicrafts to visitors, the Uro earn money to buy food and other goods from the chaotic markets in Puno.

But while tourists are attracted by the perceived idyll, life on the island can be challenging. Heavy rain can cause the islands to sink. Quarrels with neighbours sometimes lead to one's island being unceremoniously unmoored: cast off into the vast waters of the lake. Quality of diet tends to hinge on how good one is at catching catfish.

But as days in lockdown turn to weeks, your author's imagination runs free: perhaps life on a floating Lilypad might not be so bad after all.

That's it from the Cambridge Spanish Centre. We look forward to seeing you soon. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us; info.cam.spanishcentre@gmail.com

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