

# IN1 - Tema 6.5: Paco had had a dream about this before: Paco visits Chicago



## Paco had had a dream about this before: Paco visits Chicago

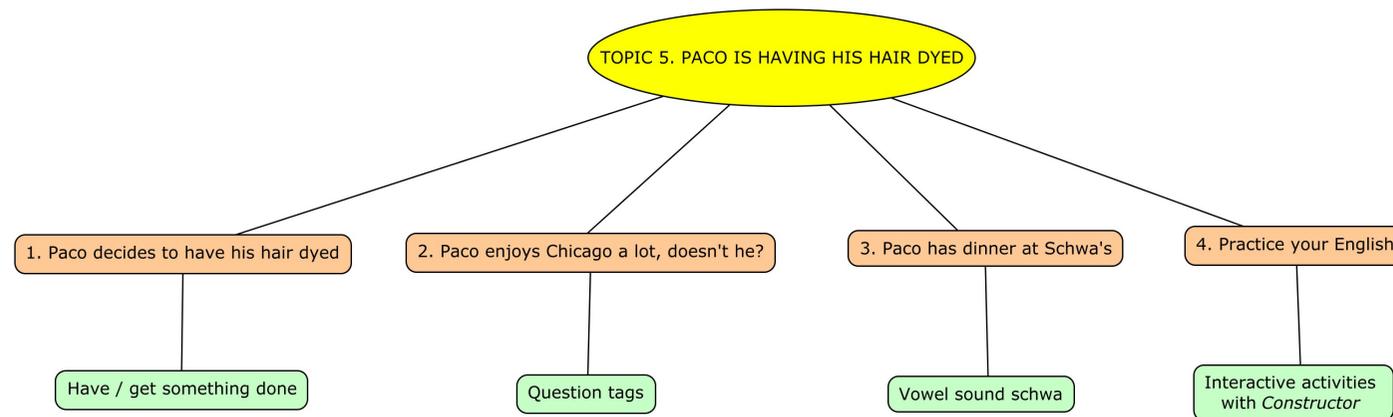
Inglés	
1.º Bachillerato	Contenidos
Paco had had a dream about this before:	
Paco visits Chicago	



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# Mapa conceptual

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## Fuentes para el profesorado

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Descarga del archivo CMAP

- [IN1\\_U6\\_T5.cmap.pdf \(Ventana nueva\)](#)
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## Introduction

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In this section we are going to study the *causative have* form, the *question tags* and the *schwa vowel sound /ə/*. This sound is very common in English. Identifying it is sometimes a bit difficult because its pronunciation is too slight, but, don't worry, you will easily learn how to recognize and reproduce it.



### Actividad de lectura

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**Chicago** is the [third largest city](#) in the United States, and with more than 2.8 million people, the largest city in the state of Illinois and the Midwestern United States. Located on the south-western [shores](#) of Lake Michigan and next to Indiana, Chicago is the third-most densely populated major city in the U.S., and [anchor](#) to the world's 26th largest metropolitan area with over 9.6 million people across three states. The Chicago-Naperville-Joliet MSA also [grew](#) more than an estimated 400,000 people between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2006. Except for the southwest corner of O'Hare International Airport in DuPage County, the city of Chicago is located in Cook County.

Chicago was founded in 1833, near a [portage](#) between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River [watershed](#). The Potawatomi were [forcibly](#) removed from their land following the Treaty of Chicago. The city became a major transportation and telecommunications [hub](#) in North America. Today, the city retains its status as a major hub, both for industry and infrastructure, with its O'Hare International Airport as the second busiest airport in the world. In 2007, the

city attracted 32.8 million domestic visitors and about 1.15 million foreign visitors.

In modern times, the city has taken on an additional dimension as a center for business and finance and is listed as one of the world's top ten Global Financial Centers. Chicago is a [stronghold](#) of the [Democratic Party](#) and has been home to influential politicians, including the current President of the United States, Barack Obama. The World Cities Study Group at Loughborough University [rated](#) Chicago as an "alpha world city" due to Chicago's important role in the global economic system.

Taken from [Wikipedia](#).

Would you like to watch a video tour of Chicago? If so, have a look at it.

Then, listen to the Illinois anthem.



Imagen de [McshadypL](#). Licencia GNU

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/xM146UA8aq4](http://www.youtube.com/embed/xM146UA8aq4)

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/t2B3bda3R24](http://www.youtube.com/embed/t2B3bda3R24)

Vídeo de [Manuel Molina](#) en [Youtube](#)

Vídeo de [LordDaine](#) en [Youtube](#)

Go to the Click here button and read the text carefully in order to find out which is the common mascot symbol for the Democratic Party in the United States and why. What about the one for the Republican Party?

The most common mascot symbol for the **Democratic Party is the donkey**. According to the Democratic National Committee, the party itself never officially adopted this symbol but has made use of it. They say that Andrew Jackson's opponents had labeled him a [jackass](#) during the intense [mudslinging](#) that occurred during the presidential race of 1828. A political cartoon titled "A Modern [Balaam](#) and his Ass" depicting Jackson riding and directing a donkey (representing the Democratic Party) was published in 1837. A political cartoon by Thomas Nast in an 1870 edition of *Harper's Weekly* revived the donkey as a symbol for the Democratic Party. Cartoonists followed Nast and used the donkey to represent the Democrats, (...)

Taken from [Wikipedia](#).

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY



By [patomena](#). GNU license.

#### REPUBLICAN PARTY



By [nickandmel2006](#). Creative Commons.

The party's founding members chose the name "**Republican Party**" in the mid-1850s in part as homage to Thomas Jefferson (it was the name initially used by his party). The name echoed the 1776 republican values of civic virtue and opposition to aristocracy and corruption.

**The traditional mascot of the party is the elephant.** A political cartoon by Thomas Nast, published in *Harper's Weekly* on November 7, 1874, is considered the first important use of the symbol. In the early 20th century, the usual symbol of the

Republican Party in Midwestern states such as Indiana and Ohio was the eagle, as opposed to the Democratic rooster. This symbol still appears on Indiana, New York and West Virginia ballots.

Taken from [Wikipedia](#).



## Reflexiona

**The causative have form (have / get something done)**

Compare these two sentences. Is there any difference in meaning between them?



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- 1) *I cut my hair.*
- 2) *I have my hair cut.*

The first sentence (*I cut my hair*) means that I do it myself.

The second one (*I have my hair cut*) means that somebody else cuts my hair for me. (In this case it's probably a hairdresser).

We use *have something done* to mean another person does a service for us.



## Importante

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Question tags are mainly used in English to ask for agreement.

*"My, you are a mess, aren't you?"*  
(quotation from the film *The Big Sleep*)





Imagen de [U.S Army](#) en Wikipedia. Dominio público.

Imagen de [Ed Fitzgerald](#) en Wikipedia. Dominio público.

*The Big Sleep* is a 1946 film noir directed by Howard Hawks, the first film version of Raymond Chandler's 1939 novel of the same name. It stars Humphrey Bogart as detective Philip Marlowe and Lauren Bacall as the female lead in a film about the "process of a criminal investigation, not its results." (From [Wikipedia](#))

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"You know how to whistle, don't you Steve?"  
(from the film *To Have and Have Not*)

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/30DSfAA0brs](http://www.youtube.com/embed/30DSfAA0brs)

*To Have and Have Not* directed by Howard Hawks is a 1944 American romance-war-adventure film starring [Humphrey Bogart](#), [Walter Brennan](#) and [Lauren Bacall](#) in her film debut. Although it is nominally based on the [novel of the same name](#) by [Ernest Hemingway](#), the story was extensively altered for the film. (From [Wikipedia](#))

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## Springfield

Springfield is a common name and known, in part, for being a common place-name in the United States. According to the U.S. Geological Survey there are currently 34 populated places (in 25 states) named Springfield in the United States.

### Springfield, the State capital of Illinois



*Imagen de [Eovart Caçeir](#) en Wikipedia. Licencia GNU.*

Springfield is the third and current capital of the U.S. state of Illinois and the county seat of Sangamon County with a population of 116,482 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2006). Over 200,000 residents live in the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Sangamon County and adjacent Menard County. Present day Springfield was first settled in the late 1810s, around the time Illinois became a state. The most famous past resident is Abraham Lincoln, who lived in Springfield itself from 1837 until he went to the White House 1861. Major tourist attractions include a multitude of historic sites connected with Lincoln.



## Para saber más

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### Remember!

If you need any help with the meaning of any word in English, [click here to see this dictionary online](#).

This is a [grammar online](#) where you can find a lot of information to solve your doubts.

If you don't know the pronunciation of any word, you can check it here. Ask Mike about your doubts, you can also listen to the pronunciation of a word or a sentence [clicking here](#).



[Click here](#) to use Mike

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## 1. Paco decides to have his hair dyed (causative HAVE)

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The *causative have* (or also *have / get something done*) is an unusual structure in Spanish but not in English. **We use *causative have* when arranging for someone to do something for us** . If we say in Spanish *I cut my hair yesterday* we mean that somebody cut the hair for me and not myself. However, in English we should use the *causative have* structure: *I had my hair cut yesterday*, which implies that I went to the hairdresser and he or she cut my hair.

But it is not too difficult to learn the *causative have*. Just pay attention to this section and you will learn it easily.



### Actividad de lectura

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#### Paco and the Lost Generation

After having visited New York, Washington D.C. and Miami, Paco goes northward again in the States: Chicago. This is another interesting city Paco had in mind to visit.

He knew that many relevant literary figures were related to Chicago. He had read at University a short story by [Hemingway](#) (born in Oak Park, Illinois) and had also known about [John Dos Passos](#), the author of *Manhattan Transfer*. Dos Passos, born in Chicago in 1896, was another outstanding writer who belonged to the so-called Literary Lost Generation, together with John Steinbeck, [Scott Fitzgerald](#) and other writers. Paco knew a lot about them because many of their novels had been turned into films, like Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Steinbeck's *East of Eden* and *The Grapes of Wrath*.



Imagen de [Lloyd Arnold](#) en Wikipedia.

Dominio público.



Imagen de [Floriang](#) en Wikipedia.

Dominio público.



Imagen de [U.S federal government](#) en Wikipedia.

Dominio público

Paco wanted to visit the places he had seen on some postcards in a newsagent's: the Chicago Theatre, the Willis Tower, the University of Chicago, the skyline, the Navy Pier, the Field Museum and Crown Fountain in Millennium Park. As usual, he bought the Chicago Tribune and decided to have his hair cut. But while he was waiting at the hairdresser's, he thought that he had never got his hair dyed, so ..., why not do it now?

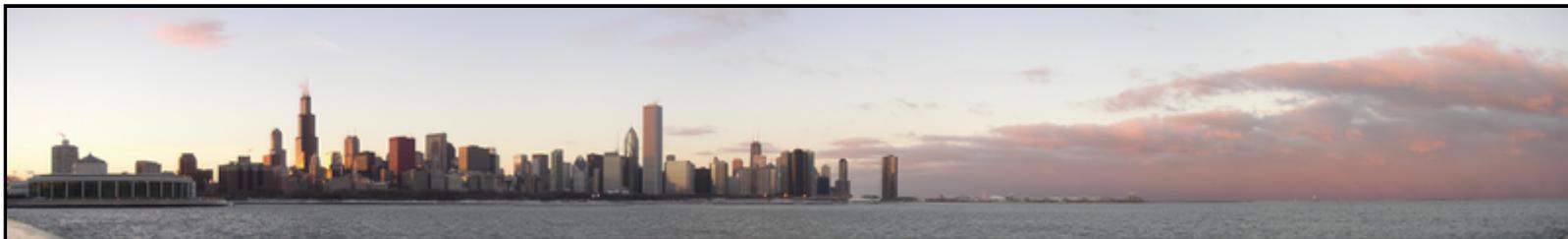


Imagen de [AllyUnion](#) en Wikipedia Licencia GNU

**QUESTIONS ON GRAMMAR:**

- 1) Find in the text the name of a place where you can buy newspapers, postcards, books, etc.
- 2) Find in the text the name of a place where you can have your hair washed, cut, dyed, etc
- 3) In the sentence *Paco had decided to have his hair cut*, do you think he is going to cut his hair by himself or somebody is going to cut his hair?

### **QUESTIONS ON WRITERS:**

- 1) When was Ernest Hemingway awarded with the Nobel Prize for literature?
- 2) Did Hemingway take part in any European war as a journalist?
- 3) What's the title of Dos Passos' novel about life in New York city, which was a commercial success and introduced experimental stream-of-consciousness?
- 4) Mention the three novels of Dos Passos' major work about U.S.A. trilogy.
- 5) What is Fitzgerald's most famous and celebrated novel?
- 6) What was Fitzgerald's posthumously published novel?

Answer the questions above about the three writers' lives and work.

**You have to click on the author names' links and look for the information required.**



### QUESTIONS ON GRAMMAR:

- 1) Newsagent's.
- 2) Hairdresser's.
- 3) Somebody else is going to cut his hair.

### QUESTIONS ON WRITERS:

- 1) Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in **1954**.
- 2) Yes, he did. **In 1937 Hemingway reported on the Spanish Civil War** for the North American Newspaper Alliance. In fact, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Fifth Column* are about the Spanish Civil War.
- 3) The novel is ***Manhattan Transfer***.
- 4) His major work is the *U.S.A.* trilogy comprising ***The 42nd Parallel* (1930), *Nineteen Nineteen* or *1919* (1932), and *The Big Money* (1936)**.
- 5) ***The Great Gatsby***, which has been filmed five times. The most famous version was made in 1974, directed by J. Clayton and performed by Robert Redford as Gatsby and Mia Farrow as Daisy Buchanan. The most recent version was in 2013 with Leonardo di Caprio as Gatsby.
- 6) A fifth, unfinished novel, ***The Love of the Last Tycoon***, was published posthumously.



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Look at this explanation of the causative HAVE:

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/32iQJ2EC8FY?rel=0](http://www.youtube.com/embed/32iQJ2EC8FY?rel=0)



## Ejercicio Resuelto

Paco would have liked to be a writer. Obviously not everyone can be a writer. Let's have a look at some other jobs.

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A decorative horizontal bar at the bottom of the page, consisting of two purple rectangular segments.

Jobs	What they do
1. optician	A. have your car repaired
2. veterinary surgeon	B. have your blood pressure taken
3. mechanic	C. have your hair cut
4. doctor	D. have your eyes tested
5. hairdresser	E. have your dogs vaccinated

Match a profession from 1 to 5 with something that you have done by that person or in that place.

1. opticians D. We have/get our eyes tested by opticians.
2. veterinary surgeon E. We have/get our dogs vaccinated by vets.
3. mechanics A. We have/get our cars repaired by mechanics.
4. doctors B. . We have/get our blood pressure taken by the doctor.
5. hairdressers C. We have/get our hair cut by the hairdresser.



## Ejercicio Resuelto

### Causative Have

1. The mechanic changed the oil in my car.
2. My husband paints our house every year.

- 3: The hairdresser has dyed Paco's hair.
4. The doctor takes my father's blood pressure everyday.
5. William, the veterinary surgeon in my area, is going to check my dog's stomach.

Rewrite these sentences using *have* or *get*.

1. I had the oil changed in my car. (simple past)
2. We have our house painted every year. (simple present)
3. Paco has had his hair dyed. (present perfect)
4. My father has his blood pressure taken every day. (simple present)
5. My dog is going to have its stomach checked by William, the veterinary surgeon in my area. (future)



Reflexiona

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*Have something done* and *Get something done* are both used to refer to actions which are done for the subject rather than by the subject.



Imagen de [Seattle M.A.](#) bajo licencia Creative Commons.

### 1. Have something done

*I'm having my car repaired at my friend's garage.*

### 2. Get something done

*Your car doesn't work properly. Get it repaired soon!*



## Comprueba lo aprendido

Complete the sentences using **have / get something done** in the correct form tense:

1) My sister is going \_\_\_\_\_ at the new hairdresser's.

- a) to have her hair cut.
- b) to cut her hair.

Correct.

Wrong. She is not going to cut her hair by herself. Somebody is going to cut her hair for her.

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto

2) I \_\_\_\_\_ by my little brother yesterday.

- a) had washed my car
- b) had my car washed

Wrong. It doesn't make any sense if we use a past perfect here.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta

3) Will Peter \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) have his guitar tuned?
- b) had his guitar tuned?

Correct.

Wrong. *Will* can't be followed by a past tense, but by an infinitive.

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto



Curiosidad

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### Basketball: Chicago Bulls

As you know Paco is very fond of sports. He loves basketball and he loves the Chicago Bulls. Have you ever heard of the Chicago Bulls? Have you ever heard of Michael Jordan? Sure you have.

The **Chicago Bulls** are an American professional basketball team based in Chicago, Illinois, playing in the Central Division of the Eastern Conference in the National Basketball Association (NBA). The team was founded in 1966. They play their home games at the United Center. The team is well known for having one of the greatest dynasties in NBA history during the 1990s, winning six championships in 8 years with two



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record 72 games during the 1995–96 NBA season and are the only team in NBA history to win at least 70 games in a single season. During the 1990s, the Bulls helped spread the popularity of the NBA around the world. The 1998 NBA Finals, the Bulls' most recent championship appearance, was the most watched championship series in NBA history.

Taken from [Wikipedia](#).

three-peats. All six of those championship teams were [led](#) by Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and coach Phil Jackson.

The first three championship teams included the likes of Bill Cartwright, Horace Grant, John Paxson and B.J. Armstrong, while the [latter](#) three championship teams had Luc Longley, Steve Kerr, Ron Harper, Toni Kukoč and Dennis Rodman on the [roster](#). The Bulls won an NBA

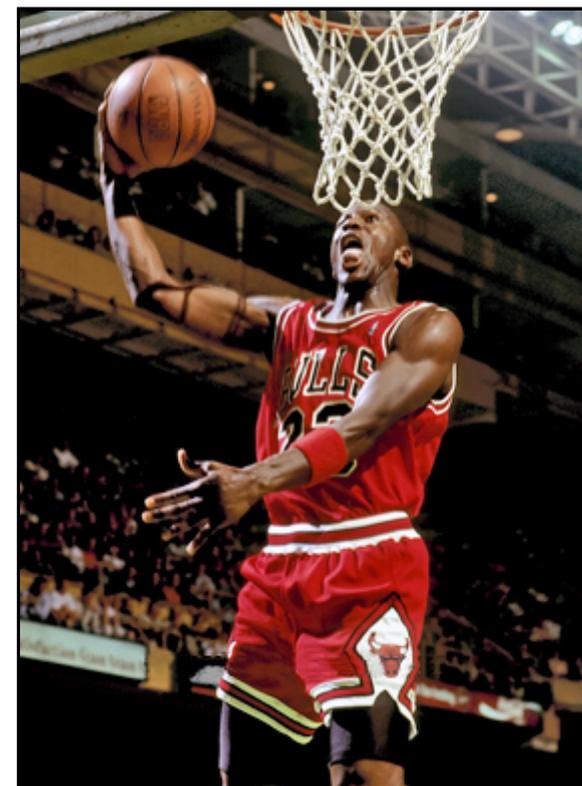


Imagen de [Lipofsky](#) en Wikipedia. Licencia GNU .

## Chicago Bulls Theme Song



## Importante

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The difference between *have and get something done* is that *have* is a bit more formal than *get*.

*Have your car repaired soon if you don't want to ...*

The verb *get* is more usual than *have* in the imperative form.

*Get your hair cut now!*

Watch this video to see more examples of the *causative have* structure.

## The Causative Form



Imagine that you become rich and could have all kinds of things done for you. Make up five sentences using the *causative have*, for example, you could say:

*I'd have my hair done once a week.*

Imagen de [e walk](#) en flickr. Licencia [CC](#).

*I'd have my lunch cooked by professional staff.*



A very useful website to learn a lot about the [causative have structure](#).

If you consider that you need further practice, here you have some exercises:

<a href="#">Exercise 1</a>	<a href="#">Exercise 2</a>	<a href="#">Exercise 3</a>
<a href="#">Exercise 4</a>		<a href="#">Exercise 5</a>

A good way to learn English is to watch movies in English or even with subtitles in English. This helps you a lot with your understanding of the language. Here you can watch some trailers and scenes for Goldman's *The Princess Bride*, Puzo's *The Godfather* and Capote's *Brealfast at Tiffany's*.

Why don't you see if you can watch some movies in English?

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >>](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/WNNUcHRiPS8>

The Princess Bride

Video de [jmythwow](#) en [Youtube](#)

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >>](#)

[http://www.youtube.com/embed/i96VS\\_z8yZg](http://www.youtube.com/embed/i96VS_z8yZg)

The Godfather

Video de [Hamza Nazzal](#) en [Youtube](#)

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >>](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/2nnTSePPCVk>

Brealfast at Tiffany's

Video de [fairlilith](#) en [Youtube](#)

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## 2. Paco enjoyed Chicago a lot, didn't he?(Question tags)

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We're sure that you have heard lots of question tags in English. They are not difficult, are they? Read the exercises of this section carefully and you will be able to use question tags easily, won't you?



### Curiosidad

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#### Springfield (Illinois State): Abraham Lincoln's resting place

**Abraham Lincoln** (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865) served as the 16th President of the United States from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865. He successfully led his country through its greatest internal crisis, the American Civil War, preserving the Union and ending slavery. Before his election in 1860 as the first Republican president, Lincoln had been a country lawyer, an Illinois state legislator, a member of the United States House of Representatives, and twice an unsuccessful candidate for election to the U.S. Senate. As an outspoken opponent of the expansion of slavery in the United States, Lincoln won the Republican Party nomination in 1860 and was elected president later that year. His tenure in office was occupied primarily with the defeat of the secessionist Confederate States of America in the American Civil War. He introduced measures that resulted in the abolition of

slavery, [issuing](#) his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and promoting the passage of the Thirteenth [Amendment](#) to the Constitution. Six days after the large-scale [surrender](#) of Confederate forces under General Robert E. Lee, Lincoln became the first American president to be assassinated.

Taken from [Wikipedia](#).

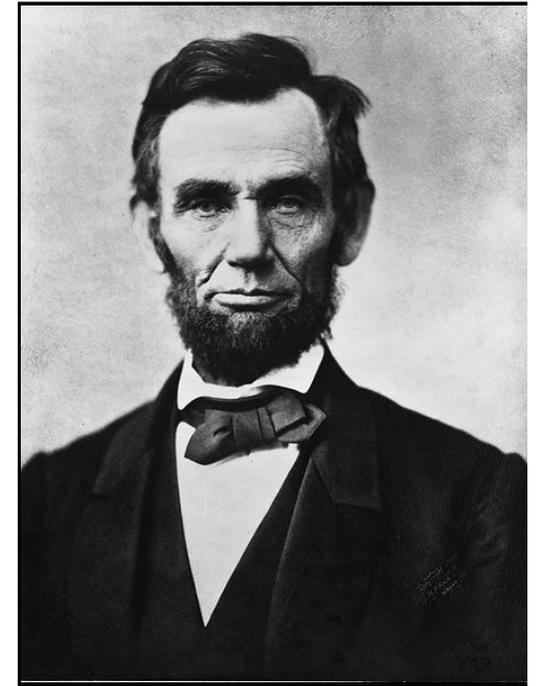


Imagen de [Alexander Gardner](#) en Wikipedia. Dominio público.



## Reflexiona

### Questions Tags

Question tags are very common in English. They are placed at the end of a sentence and they ask for confirmation. They mean: *Am I right?* or *Do you agree with me?*

Click on [this link](#) to see an explanation in Spanish. Here's another [one](#).

As you have probably deduced, the basic structure to form a question tag is:

<b>+</b> <b>Positive statement</b>	<b>-</b> <b>negative tag?</b>
<i>Today is Sunday,</i>	<i>isn't it?</i>
<b>-</b> <b>Negative statement,</b>	<b>+</b> <b>positive tag?</b>
<i>You don't like pizza,</i>	<i>do you?</i>



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English Vocabulary and Gram...



**Listen to this video about question tags and say if the questions below are true or false:**

- 1) Questions tags are added at the beginning of the sentence.
- 2) We use questions tags to check if something is true.
- 3) We don't use questions tags to ask the listener to agree with what we have said.

**Complete the sentences with the missing information:**

- 4) If the main sentence is positive, the verb in the question tag is \_\_\_\_\_. And if the main sentence is negative, the question tag is \_\_\_\_\_.

- 5) When the main sentence contains \_\_\_\_\_( have, will, can, could, etc.), we repeat the auxiliary verb in the question tag.
- 6) When the main sentence doesn't contain an auxiliary verb, the question tag uses the verb \_\_\_\_\_(in present simple) or \_\_\_\_ (in simple past ) .
- 7) If the subject of the sentence is *nothing, everything, something* and *anything*, we use \_\_\_\_ as the subject in the tag.
- 8) With \_\_\_\_\_, we use tags **will you/can you, would you**. For example: Help me with this, can you?

1) **FALSE**. Questions tags are added **at the end** of a sentence.

2) **TRUE**.

3) **FALSE**. **We do use questions tags to ask the listener to agree** with what we have said.

4) If the main sentence is positive, the verb in the question tag is **negative** . And if the main sentence is negative, the question tag is **positive** .

5) When the main sentence contains **an auxiliary or modal verb (have, will,can,could, etc)**, we repeat the auxiliary verb in the question tag.

6) When the main sentence doesn't contain an auxiliary or modal verb, the question tag uses the verb **do/does(n't)** (in simple present) or **did(n't)** (in past).

7) If the subject of the sentence is *nothing, everything, something* and *anything*, we use **it** in the tag.

*Nothing is easy, is it?*(Note: nothing = negative, so the question tag is positive. Compare with: *Everything is easy, isn't it?*)

8) With imperatives, we use tags **will you/can you, would you**.

## Intonation in question tags

We can change the meaning of a tag question with our voice's intonation. With rising intonation, it sounds like a real question. But if our intonation falls, it sounds more like a statement that doesn't require a real answer:

	INTONATION		
<i>You don't know where Lincoln was born,</i>	<i>do you?</i>	/ rising	real question
<i>Springfield is a beautiful town,</i>	<i>isn't it?</i>	\ falling	not a real question



### Ejercicio Resuelto

- 1) It's not raining now, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 2) Your friend Mary likes pizza, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 3) You don't know who the most intelligent person in the class is, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 4) Paco is visiting Chicago now, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 5) Come with me to the supermarket, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 6) His classmates haven't failed the exam, \_\_\_\_\_?

Write the correct question tag to finish the questions above.

- 1) It's not raining now, **is it?**
- 2) Your friend Mary likes pizza, **doesn't she?**

3) You don't know who the most intelligent person in the class is, **do you?**

4) Paco is now visiting Chicago , **isn't he?**

5) Come to the supermarket with me, **won't you?**

6) His classmates haven't failed the exam, **have they?**



## Comprueba lo aprendido

Complete the sentences below with the appropriate question tag.

1) Paco is visiting Chicago, \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) isn't he?
- b) does he?

Correct.

Wrong. We can't use the auxiliary form *does* with the verb *to be*.

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto

2) Your father shouldn't have said that, \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) would he?
- b) should he?

Wrong. You must always use the same verb in the question tag, so you can't say *would*.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta

3) Your sister would have passed the test if she had studied harder, \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) would she?
- b) wouldn't she?

Wrong. If the main clause is in the affirmative form the question tag has to be negative.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta

4) The children weren't at school yesterday morning, \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) were they?
- b) was they?

Correct.

Wrong. You always have to keep the same verb form, so you can't use *was* but *were*.

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto



Para saber más

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Information about the [question tags with explanations in Spanish](#).

Try to do these exercises about question tags to improve your knowledge about this grammar point.

<a href="#">Exercise 1</a>	<a href="#">Exercise 2</a>	<a href="#">Exercise 3</a>
<a href="#">Exercise 4</a>	<a href="#">Exercise 5</a>	<a href="#">Exercise 6</a>

Have a look here to check some [information about the question tags in English](#).

Watch this video about the President of the United States who abolished slavery in the States.

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/L80\\_q2tPveo](http://www.youtube.com/embed/L80_q2tPveo)

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### 3. Paco has dinner at Schwa's (pronunciation of Schwa)

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The *schwa* is the vowel sound in many lightly pronounced unaccented syllables in words of more than one syllable. It is sometimes signified by the pronunciation "uh" or symbolized by an upside-down rotated **e**. A *schwa* sound can be represented by any vowel. In the exercise below you can see some examples in common words:

Schwa in a

*alarm*



Imagen de [debsilveren](#)  
Flickr. Licencia [CC](#)

Schwa in e

*ferocious*



Imagen de [Sabbath P](#) en Flickr.  
Licencia [CC](#)

Schwa in i

*family*



Imagen de [gruntzooki](#) en Flickr.  
Licencia [CC](#)

Schwa in o

*sailor*



Imagen de [T. Hawk](#) en Flickr.  
Licencia [CC](#)

Schwa in u

*circus*



Imagen de [def110](#) en Flickr.  
Licencia [CC](#)



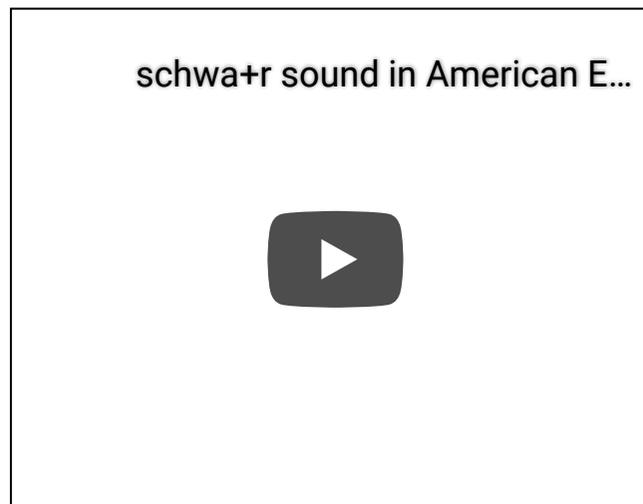
Importante

Watch these videos about the vowel sound *schwa*.

You can listen to the explanations and then practice your pronunciation with the video on the left.

Besides, you can learn some differences in pronunciation with American English *schwa* with the video on the right.

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/CKKPVG09vxU](http://www.youtube.com/embed/CKKPVG09vxU)



## Ejercicio Resuelto

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1) doctor 2) banana 3) protect

4) tomorrow 5) difficult 6) survive

7) summer 8) level 9) theatre

10) pupil 11) measure 12) wizard

**Look at the words above and decide where in the word the schwa sound occurs.**

- 1) doctor 2) banana 3) protect  
4) tomorrow 5) difficult 6) survive  
7) summer 8) level 9) theatre  
10) pupil 11) measure 12) wizard



## Reflexiona



The mid-central vowel sound (rounded or unrounded) in the middle of the vowel chart, stressed or unstressed. In IPA phonetic transcription, it is written as [ə]. In this case the term *mid-central vowel* may be used instead of *schwa* to avoid ambiguity.

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The most important point of this lesson is that *schwa* is always unstressed.

Since there is at least one schwa in most words of more than one syllable, there are a lot of *schwas* in English speech.



**Beyoncé Giselle Knowles** was born on September 4, in 1981. She is often referred professionally under the mononym **Beyoncé**. She is an American singer, songwriter, record producer, actress and model.



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beyonce- halo



The song Halo, by Beyoncé (2008)

### QUESTIONS:

1) How many of these words contain the sound schwa?

make / never / again / shut / grace/ light / awakened / forget / feel / even / know / doubt

2) Say where the sound schwa is in these words:

addicted / really / there / surround / away

**Listen to the song and answer the questions above.**

1) never / again / awakened / forget / even / know / doubt

2) addicted / really / there / surround / away

**Notice that the pronunciation may vary in some words:**

gravity: ['grævɪtɪ] or /'grævəti/

addicted: /ə'dɪktəd / or /ə'dɪktɪd/



**Comprueba lo aprendido**

---

**Take into account what you have learnt about the schwa sound and decide where this sound is in these words:**

1) about

- a) about
- b) about

Correct.

Wrong. The phonemic transcription of this word is /ə'baʊt/.

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto

2) together

- a) together
- b) together

Wrong. The transcription of this word is /tə'geðər /.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto

2. Opción correcta

3) difference

- a) differenceu
- b) differencee

Wrong. The transcription of this word is /'dɪfrəns/.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta



## Curiosidad

### Some curiosities about the Schwa sound

Did you know that the schwa ...

- 1) comes from an Hebrew word which means *no vowel sound*?
- 2) is the most common vowel sound in English?
- 3) is represented by the upside down e letter?

4) may be found in any vowel in English?

5) is not only a vowel sound but also a [restaurant in Chicago](#)? No, we aren't joking.



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**Para saber más**

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This web page is very useful for learning the [International Phonetic Alphabet \(IPA\) sounds](#). Use this phonetic chart to learn the sounds of English.

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## Further practice

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Topic 5 deals with three grammar points, which are the final ones in this unit: (1) have / get something done (2) question tags and (3) the vowel sound schwa /ə/. The activities proposed below will help you understand the form and uses of these structures. Pay attention to them and enjoy doing these tasks.



### Ejercicio Resuelto

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#### Have/Get something done

- 1) We use *causative have* when arranging for someone to do something for us.
- 2) The *causative have* structure implies that we do the things ourselves.
- 3) The *causative have* means that we ask somebody else to help us finish a project.



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Say which of the statements above about the *causative have* form is true.

1) *We use causative have when arranging for someone to do something for us. CORRECT*

2) The causative have structure implies that we do the things by ourselves. NOT CORRECT

3) The causative have means that we ask somebody else to help us finish a project. NOT CORRECT



## Ejercicio Resuelto

---

### Have/Get something done

1. The mechanic fixed my father's car last week.
2. Somebody paints my house every year.
3. The hairdresser has cut Paco's hair.
4. We redecorate our house once a year.
5. Antonio likes somebody to wash his car every Sunday.

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## Ejercicio Resuelto

---

### Question Tags

- 1) Questions tags are added at the beginning of the sentence.
- 2) We use questions tags to check if something is true.
- 3) We don't use questions tags to ask the listener to agree with what we have said.

- 4) Question tags are placed at the end of the tag question.
- 5) When the main sentence contains an auxiliary verb, we repeat the auxiliary verb in the question tag.
- 6) When the main sentence doesn't contain an auxiliary verb (BE; HAVE) or modal verb (CAN; WILL; etc), the question tag uses the verb ***do/does(n't) or did(n't)***.
- 7) If the subject of the sentence is *nothing, everything, something* and *anything*, we use ***it*** as the subject in the tag.

**Say if the statements above about question tags are true or false.**

Questions tags are added at the beginning of the sentence. FALSE

Los Question tags van al final de la frase.

**2) We use questions tags to check if something is true. TRUE**

3) We don't use questions tags to ask the listener to agree with what we have said. FALSE

Usamos question tags para pedir confirmación o acuerdo.

**4) Question tags are placed at the end of the tag question. TRUE**

**5) When the main sentence contains an auxiliary verb, we repeat the auxiliary verb in the question tag. TRUE**

6) When the main sentence doesn't contain an auxiliaryverb (BE; HAVE) or modal verb (CAN; WILL; etc), the question tag uses the verb ***do/does or did***. TRUE. He likes chocolate, doesn't he?

**7) If the subject of the sentence is *nothing, everything, something* and *anything*, we use *it* as the subject in the tag. TRUE**

Nothing is easy, is it? Everything is there, isn't it?



## Ejercicio Resuelto

### Question Tags



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- 1) You won't come with us to Madrid, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 2) Andrés is from Madrid, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 3) He has lived in that house for a long time, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 4) Your children like pizza a lot, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 5) Your sister played basketball before, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 6) He wasn't working when I phoned him, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 7) You wouldn't like to come to the supermarket with me, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 8) She doesn't go to the gym on Sundays, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 9) They are from Illinois, \_\_\_\_\_?
- 10) The students must study harder, \_\_\_\_\_?

Complete the sentences with the appropriate question tag. Take into account the verb given in the sentence.

- 1) You won't come with us to Madrid, **will you?**
- 2) Paul is from Liverpool, **isn't he?**

- 3) He has lived in that house for a long time, **hasn't he?**
- 4) Your children like pizza a lot, **don't they?**
- 5) Your sister played basketball before, **didn't she?**
- 6) He wasn't working when I phoned him, **was he?**
- 7) You wouldn't like to come to the supermarket with me, **would you?**
- 8) She doesn't go to the gym on Sundays, **does she?**
- 9) They are from Illinois, **aren't they?**
- 10) The students must study harder, **mustn't they?**



## Ejercicio Resuelto

---

### Vowel sound schwa /ə/

- 1) It may be found in any vowel in English.
- 2) It is not a very common vowel sound in English.
- 3) It is represented by the upside down e letter.
- 4) It can only be found in diphthongs.
- 5) It comes from an Hebrew word which means *no vowel sound*.

6) It is the most common vowel sound in English.

7) It comes from the Latin language.

**Which of these statements about the vowel sound schwa are true?**

1) **It may be found in any vowel in English. TRUE**

2) It is not a very common vowel sound in English. FALSE

3) **It is represented by the upside down e letter. TRUE**

4) It can only be found in diphthongs. FALSE

5) **It comes from an Hebrew word which means *no vowel sound*. TRUE**

6) **It is the most common vowel sound in English. TRUE**

7) It comes from the Latin language. FALSE



## Ejercicio Resuelto

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1) doctor 2) banana 3) protect 4) tomorrow 5) difficult 6) survive

7) summer 8) level 9) theatre 10) pupil 11) measure 12) wizard

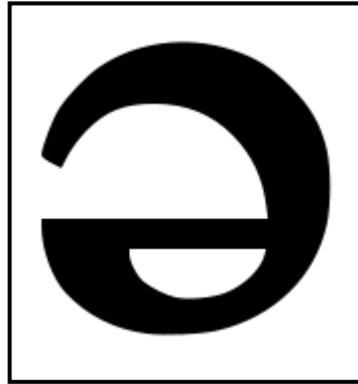


Imagen de [Howcheng](#) en Wikipedia.

Dominio público.

Utiliza [este enlace](#) para escuchar su pronunciación.

**Can you find the vowel sound schwa in these words?**

1) *doctor* 2) *banana* 3) *protect* 4) *tomorrow* 5) *difficult* 6) *survive*

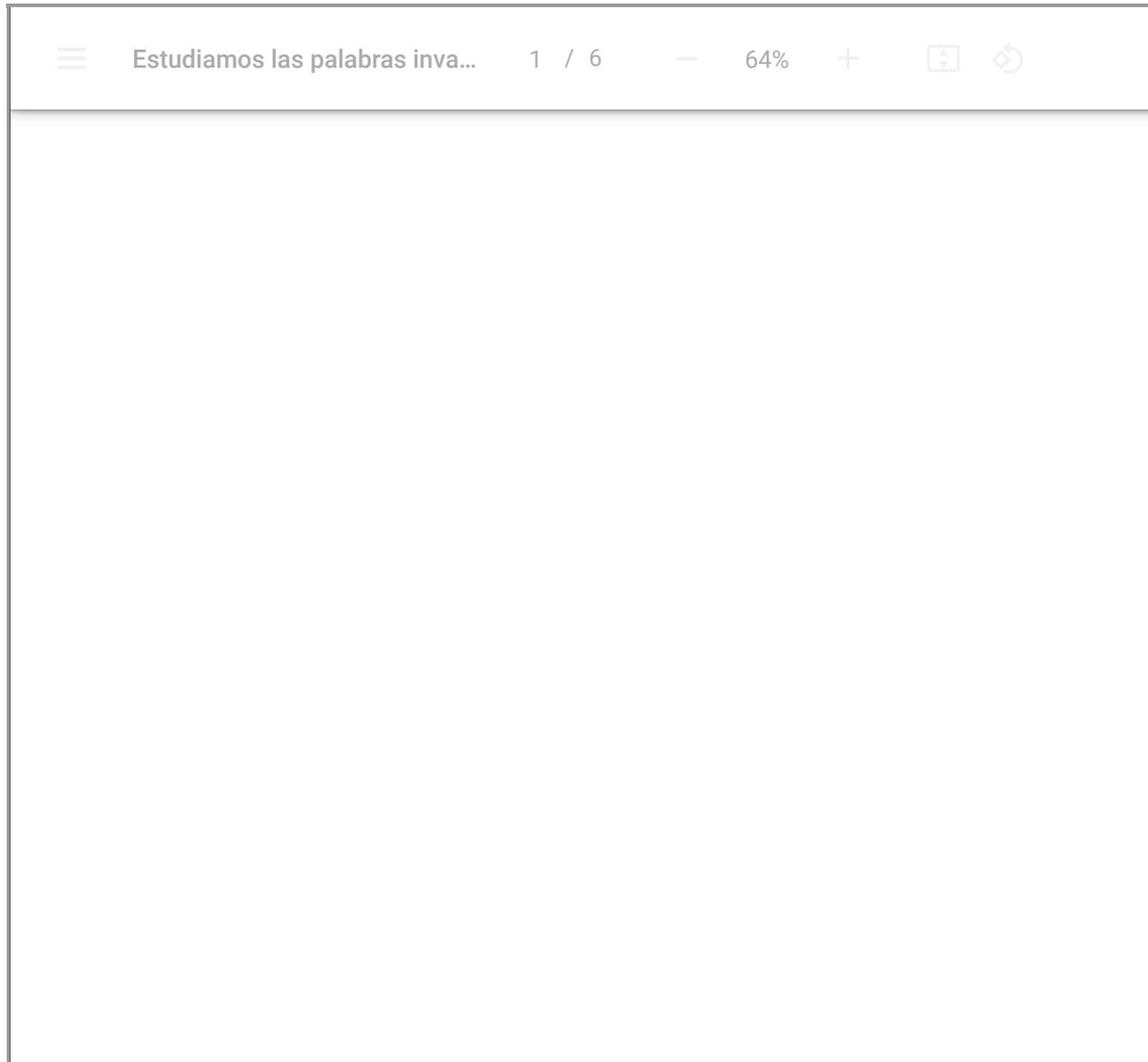
7) *summer* 8) *level* 9) *theatre* 10) *pupil* 11) *measure* 12) *wizard*

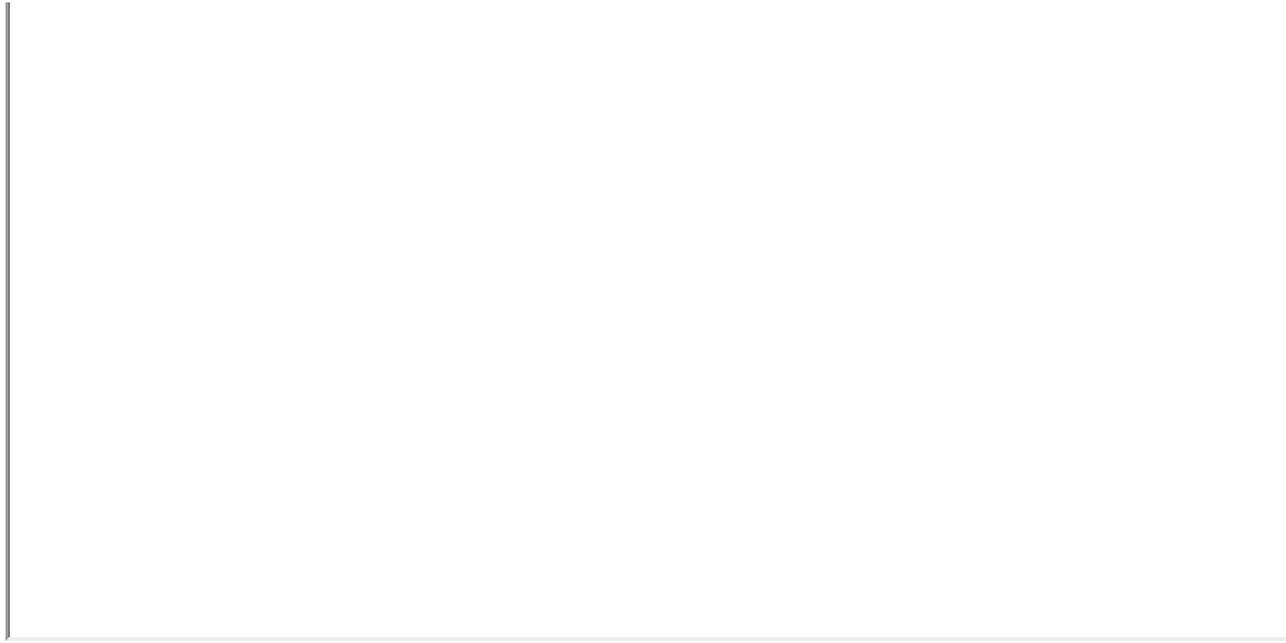
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# Resumen

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