CHAPTER SIX

DATES

The date of a christening or marriage ceremony is usually located at the very beginning of an entry. Typically it consists of the day, month, and year of the ceremony. However, variations of the date may appear. For example, some scribes used phrases which referred to the dates of previous entries to make note of the date.

The purpose of this chapter is to explain the words and phrases used to present the date of a ceremony. The chapter consists of the following two sections:

Section 1—Months, Days, Years
Section 2—Variations in Dates
Section One
MONTHS, DAYS, YEARS

Months

Below are the Spanish words for the twelve months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. January</td>
<td>enero or henero</td>
<td>8. August</td>
<td>agosto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. February</td>
<td>febrero</td>
<td>9. September</td>
<td>septiembre or setiembre</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. March</td>
<td>marzo or marco</td>
<td>10. October</td>
<td>octubre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. April</td>
<td>abril</td>
<td>11. November</td>
<td>noviembre or noviembre</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. May</td>
<td>mayo or maio</td>
<td>12. December</td>
<td>diciembre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. June</td>
<td>junio</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. July</td>
<td>julio or jullio</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You will notice that except for enero (“January”), the words for Spanish months are very similar to their English equivalents. For most of the months, the first three letters are the same in both languages.

Although it is not the practice in modern Spanish to capitalize the names of months, in the records you will be extracting they will often be capitalized, making them easier for you to find.

The Spanish word for “month” is mes. The month in christening and marriage entries is often preceded by the words en el mes de (“in the month of”) or del mes de (“of the month of”).

Self-Evaluation
Translate the following words. Check your answers.

1. agosto
2. maio
3. setiembre
4. julio
5. henero
6. marzo
7. diciembre
8. junio
9. del mes de abril
10. en el mes de noviembre
11. en el mes de octubre
12. del mes de febrero

Answers
Days of the Year

Learning the Spanish words for the numbers 1 through 31 may at first seem like an imposing task, but it is not too difficult if you break it into manageable groups. Group 1 covers the numbers 1 through 10; group 2, 11 through 15; group 3, 16 through 19; group 4, 20 through 29; and group 5, 30 and 31.

Group 1: 1 through 10
1st  primero or 1º  6  seis
   uno                       7  siete
   dos                       8  ocho
   tres                      9  nueve
   cuatro or quatro        10  diez
   cinco

Once you have learned the numbers 1 through 10 well, you will have the foundation for learning the other numbers. The Spanish word for “one” is uno. However, it is rarely used for the first day of the month. Instead, scribes used the ordinal number primero (“first”) or the numeral 1º. But uno (“one”) is used for forming compound numbers, so you will have to learn it also.

Self-Evaluation
Translate the following words. Check your answers.
1. quatro
   2. diez
   3. seis
   4. uno
   5. nueve
   6. siete
   7. ocho
   8. cinco
   9. primero
   10. dos

Answers
1. four 2. ten 3. six 4. one 5. nine
   6. seven 7. eight 8. five 9. first 10. two

Group 2: 11 through 15
11  once  14  catorce
12  doce  15  quince
13  trece

Note that once through quince all end in -ce.

Group 3: 16 through 19
16  diez y seis or dieciseis
17  diez y siete or diecisiete
18  diez y ocho or dieciocho
19  diez y nueve or diecinueve

Sixteen through 19 are compounds, made up of diez (“ten”), y (“and”), and the corresponding number (6 through 9). For example, “sixteen” is diez y seis (“ten and six”). These compounds can also be written as single words. When they are combined in this way, the z of diez changes to c and y changes to i. Thus, diez y seis can also be written dieciséis; diez y siete can be written diecisiete; and so forth.

Self-Evaluation
Translate the following words. Check your answers.
1. tres
   2. diez y seis
   3. doce
   4. cuatro
   5. uno
   6. trece
   7. dieciséis
   8. quince
   9. diez y nueve
   10. once

Answers
1. three 2. sixteen 3. twelve 4. four 5. one
   6. thirteen 7. seventeen 8. fifteen 9. nineteen
   10. eleven
Group 4: 20 through 29
20 veinte
21 veinte y uno or veintiuno
22 veinte y dos or veintidós
23 veinte y tres or veintitres
24 veinte y cuatro or veinticuatro
25 veinte y cinco or veinticinco
26 veinte y seis or veintiséis
27 veinte y siete or veintisiete
28 veinte y ocho or veintiocho
29 veinte y nueve or veintinueve

“Twenty” is veinte. To make the numbers 21 through 29, take veinte y (“twenty and”) and add the appropriate number, 1 through 9. For example, “twenty-five” is veinte y cinco.

These numbers are sometimes written as one word, with the last e of veinte changing to an i: veintiuno, veintidós, etc.

The o at the end of veintiuno is dropped under certain conditions, such as in the phrase en veintiuno días del mes de mayo (“on the twenty-first day of May”).

Group 5: 30 and 31
30 treinta
31 treinta y uno

“Thirty” is treinta. Both words start with t. Applying the same principles used to form the compounds 16 through 19 and 21 through 29, you can see that 31 will be treinta y uno (“thirty and one”). Compounds from 31 on are usually written as separate words.

The Spanish word for “(the) day” is (el) día. Do not confuse días (“days”) and diez (“ten”). Both may occur in the date phrase.

Both English and Spanish have two sets of numbers—cardinal numbers and ordinal numbers. The cardinal numbers are the ones we use when we count: one, two, three, four, etc. We use ordinal numbers (first, second, third, fourth, etc.) when we arrange or consider things in a particular order. For example, we say “third base” or “the nineteenth century” or “the fourth house from the corner.”

Dates in Spanish records are usually written out. When we write out the day of the month in English, we use ordinal numbers, such as “the Fourth of July.” In Spanish, however, the cardinal numbers are used for the days of the month, for example, el cuarto de julio (“the four(th) of July”). The one exception is the first of the month, for which the ordinal number primero is almost always used, instead of the cardinal number uno.

Self-Evaluation
Translate the Spanish words below into English. Check your answers.
1. treinta
2. nueve
3. veintiuno
4. catorce
5. veinte y cinco
6. diez y ocho
7. veinte
8. diez
9. ocho
10. veinticuatro
11. veintidos
12. quince
13. treinta y uno
14. veinte y siete
15. quatro
16. el día trece
17. el día primero
18. el diecisiete de enero
19. el doce de abril
20. el veinte y seis de julio

Answers
1. thirty 2. nine 3. twenty-one 4. fourteen
5. twenty-five 6. eighteen 7. twenty 8. ten
9. eight 10. twenty-four 11. twenty-two
12. fifteen 13. thirty-one 14. twenty-seven
15. four 16. the thirteenth day 17. the first day
18. the sixteenth of January 19. the twelfth of April
20. the twenty-sixth of July
The Spanish word for "year" is año.

Although you may extract records covering a period of over 300 years, you need to know only eleven numbers besides those you have already learned. Knowing these twelve words and applying the principles learned in the last section, you will be able to read dates from 1500 to 1899.

40 cuarenta  400 cuatrocientos
50 cincuenta  500 quinientos
60 sesenta  600 seiscientos
70 setenta  700 setecientos
80 ochenta  800 ochocientos
90 noventa  1000 mil

The Spanish words for the numbers 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, and 90 are made up of a stem (derived from the words for 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, respectively) and the ending -enta:

4 cuatro  40 cuarenta
5 cinco  50 cincuenta
6 seis  60 sesenta
7 siete  70 setenta
8 ocho  80 ochenta
9 nueve  90 noventa

Other numbers less than 100 are formed in the same way in which we formed the number 31. For example, to make the number 76, take the word setenta ("seventy") and add y ("and") plus seis ("six"): setenta y seis.

The word for 100 is ciento (or cien, under certain conditions). It is related to the English word century. The words for 600, 700, and 800 are made by adding the suffix -ciento ("hundreds") to the corresponding number, 6 through 8. The word for 500 is an exception: the cinco becomes quin-, and the c of cientos is dropped to make quinientos.

5 cinco  500 quinientos
6 seis  600 seiscientos
7 siete  700 setecientos
8 ocho  800 ochocientos
9 nueve  900 novecientos

The Spanish word for "thousand" is mil. It is related to the English word millennium, which means a period of a thousand years.

Whereas in English we seldom write out the name of a year, in Latin American parish registers the year of christening is often written out. When we write out years in English, we group the thousands and the hundreds together; for example, "eighteen forty-five." Spanish speakers, however, treat the year as if it were any other large number—as if it were written 1,845, for example, instead of 1845. They would write mil ochocientos cuarenta y cinco, "one thousand, eight hundred, forty-five."

Occasionally a scribe would abbreviate the year by dropping the mil (for example, ochocientos cuarenta y cinco) or both the mil and the hundreds (for example, cuarenta y cinco). If both are dropped, you will have to determine the complete year from the context of the record, usually from other entries recorded the same year.

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Self-Evaluation

Translate the Spanish words below into English. Check your answers.

1. sesenta y siete
2. treinta y cuatro
3. quinientos noventa y tres
4. mil seiscientos cuarenta y nueve
5. ochenta y uno
6. mil ochocientos veinte y dos
7. seiscientos cincuenta y ocho
8. setecientos cinco
9. ochocientos treinta y ocho
10. setenta y seis
11. noventa y cuatro
12. cuarenta y tres
13. mil setecientos setenta y dos
14. mil quinientos
15. seiscientos cincuenta y nueve
16. ochocientos diez
17. ochenta y seis
18. mil setecientos sesenta y cinco
19. mil quinientos noventa y nueve
20. mil ochocientos catorce
Answers
1. sixty-seven  2. thirty-four  3. five hundred ninety-three  4. one thousand six hundred forty-nine
5. eighty-one  6. one thousand eight hundred twenty-two  7. six hundred fifty-eight
8. seven hundred five  9. eight hundred thirty-eight  10. seventy-six
11. ninety-four  12. forty-three  13. one thousand seven hundred seventy-two  14. one thousand five hundred
15. six hundred fifty-nine  16. eight hundred ten  17. eighty-six  18. one thousand seven hundred sixty-five  19. one thousand five hundred ninety-nine
20. one thousand eight hundred fourteen

Self-Evaluation
For each of the phrases below, write the day, month, and year. Check your answers.
1. el quince de febrero de mil ochocientos bautizó a María

2. en veinte de agosto de mil ochocientos cuarenta y ocho

3. en primero de junio del año mil quinientos ochenta y siete

4. en quatro de abril de seiscientos ochenta y siete, bautizó a Julio

5. en once días del mes de enero de mil setecientos setenta y ocho

6. diez días del mes de marzo de mil ochocientos cincuenta y tres

7. en treinta días de el mes de noviembre mil setecientos veinte y uno

8. en diez y ocho de abril de mil y seiscientos y catorce

9. en veinte y quatro de octubre de este presente año de mil ochocientos sesenta y cinco

10. en doce días del mes de julio de mil setecientos noventa y seis

11. a dieciséis días del mes de henero de mil setecientos y sesenta

12. trece de maio de mil y seiscientos y setenta y cuatro

13. a siete días del mes de marzo del año del Señor de mil ochocientos veinte y cuatro

14. en seis de diciembre de mil setecientos veinte y tres

15. En Teropaco a tres de setiembre de mil ochocientos veintidos

Answers
1. 15 February 1800  2. 20 August 1848  3. 1 June 1587  4. 4 April 1687  5. 11 January 1778  6. 10 March 1853  7. 30 November 1721  8. 18 April 1614
9. 24 October 1865  10. 12 July 1796  11. 16 January 1760  12. 13 May 1674  13. 7 March 1824  14. 6 December 1723  15. 3 September 1822