

Spanish Conversation Report December 2023

Our final meeting of 2023 was kindly hosted by Stella Kirton at Hamsterley.

Our attendance was down to just three of us but that did not prevent the members from receiving their 'homework'. Roald Dahl's wonderful story of 'Matilda' is now completed and we will move to online learning for three months while I am in Spain and others are travelling.

Spanish spelling is so easy compared to what any learners of English have to put up with. We have 600 spelling rules and probably as many exceptions. We have at least nine sounds for the letter 'a' while the Spanish have just one. All sounds easy until we come to conjugate verbs.

Spanish is a drop pronoun language. They don't use I, you, she, it, he, we or they. These are signified by verb endings but that also causes difficulty especially when reading, trying to work out who said what, when the same word can mean: I spoke, you spoke, he spoke, she spoke and it spoke (perhaps the parrot!). It all depends on the context say the Spanish teachers! But it doesn't stop these sort of headaches!

Michael Harris December 2023

