Lesson 2: Gustar, Caer Bien, Parecer

We have already studied verbs with an Indirect Object, verbs that need a pronoun and are conjugated according to the object or person that we have next to the verb that in this context is the subject.

(A mí) ME

(A ti/vos) TE Gusta el chocolate

(A él/ella/Usted) LE Gustan las manzanas

(A nosotros-as) NOS

(A ellos/ellas/Ustedes)LES

We already know that "Gustar" means "To Like", but we need to know when and when not to use it in regards to when we are talking about other people. Another verb/expression "Caer Bien/Mal" exists and it is used also to express "to like" or "to dislike". It is important to know which verb we should use depending on the person we are talking about.

When we use **GUSTAR** in regards to a person, we are speaking about the beauty of a person. We think he/she is attractive sexually. We "LIKE" them, if you know what I mean!

"Me gusta Mariano porque tiene un cuerpo atlético y ojos muy lindos" (I like Mariaon because he has an athletic body and very beautiful eyes.)

"Me gustan las mujeres morochas" (I like dark haired girls.)

"Me gusta ella, tiene una cara preciosa" (I like her, she has a lovely face.)

CAER BIEN/MAL means that we like a person in general and it has no relation to liking someone sexually or physically.

Me cae bien Armando, él es muy inteligente y además es humilde. (I like Armando, he is very intellegent and he is humble.)

Me caen mal esos chicos, son muy egocéntricos. (I don't like those guys, they are very egotistic.)

A mi mamá no le cae bien mi novio, piensa que él es un poco vago. (My mom doesn't like my boyfriend, she thinks he is a bum.)

Also, we have another difference when we speak about food or drinks. If I say: "Me gusta el vino blanco", I am saying I like the taste. If I say "Me cae mal el vino blanco", I'm saying it is bad for my health. In this case we only use the negative form: Me cae mal, and it is very common in the past tense:

Me cayó mal el vino/Me cayeron mal las empanadas fritas. We use this when we eat something and it doesn't sit well in our stomach.

Another verb that is important in making opinions is **PARECER** (to think about, have an opinion):

We use an Indirect Object with it and in the following forms:

Me parece + Adjective

Me parece + un/a + noun + Adjective

Me parece + que + phrase with Verb

¿Qué te parece el libro "Cien años de Soledad"? (What do you think about the book "100 years of Solitude"? /What is your opinion about it?)

Me parece brillante. (I think it's brilliant.)

Me parece un libro original. (I think it's an original book.)

Me parece que es el libro ideal para leer en la playa. (I think it's an ideal book to read on the beach.)