



34 Uses of “Dar”!

A Special *Notes in Spanish* Report On A Very Versatile Verb!

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Phrases with the verb 'Dar'

Dar en la diana – To get something right

He dado en la diana, he acertado quien era el asesino.
I guessed right. I knew who the killer was.

Dar lo mismo / dar igual – To not have a preference

- *¿Prefieres cenar carne o pescado?*
- *Me da lo mismo / Me da igual.*
- Would you like to have meat or fish for supper?
- I don't mind.

Dar asco – To find something disgusting

He comido tanto pollo en las dos últimas semanas que ahora me da asco.
I've eaten so much chicken over the last two weeks that now I find it disgusting.

Dar un empujón – To give someone (or something, like a piece of work) a push / a bit of encouragement

Me voy a quedar a trabajar hasta tarde porque quiero darle un empujón al proyecto.

I'm going to stay late at work as I'd like to give the project a good push.

Voy a estudiar Inglés este fin de semana porque le tengo que dar un buen empujón antes del examen.

I'm going to study English this weekend as I need to make a big effort before the exam.



NOTES IN SPANISH

Hay que dar un empujón a María para que se anime a presentarse al examen de conducir.

I have to encourage Maria to take her driving test.

Dar carta blanca – To give license / carte blanche

Como es mi cumpleaños mi madre me ha dado carta blanca para que vuelva a casa a la hora que quiera.

As it is my birthday today, my mum has given me carte blanche to come back home as late as I like.

Dar con – To find

No pude dar con los motivos de la huelga.

I couldn't find the reason for the strike.

No pude dar con Juan por más que le busqué.

I couldn't find Juan, as much as I looked for him.

Dar de comer – To feed

Tengo que dar de comer a mi gato.

I have to feed my cat.

Dar en – To hit

Me di en la cabeza con la puerta.

I hit my head on the door.



NOTES IN SPANISH

Darse cuenta – To realize

Me di cuenta de mi error justo después de haber entregado el examen.
I realized my mistake just after I had handed in my exam.

Dar la luz – To turn the light on

¡Da la luz, que no veo nada!
Turn the light on, I can't see anything!

Dar a luz – To give birth

Mi hermana dio a luz ayer.
My sister had her baby yesterday.

Qué más da – What does it matter

Si tu hija está contenta con él, ¿qué más te da a ti?
She's happy with him, what's it to you?

Dar la lata – To be a pain

Quieres dejar de darme la lata. ¡Estás haciendo mucho ruido!
Don't be a pain. Stop making noise!

Dar en el clavo – To hit the nail on the head

Has dado en el clavo, hace exactamente 5°C.
You've hit the nail on the head, the temperature is exactly 5°C.



NOTES IN SPANISH

No dar ni clavo - Not to do anything / any work

Hoy no he dado ni clavo, me he pasado el día tomando café y charlando con mis compañeros de trabajo.

I haven't done a thing, I've spent the day having coffee and speaking to my colleagues.

¡Te voy a dar! - I'm going to hit / get you !

¡Si no te callas, te voy a dar!

If you don't shut up, I'm going to get you.

Dar a – To look out on

Mi habitación del hotel da a la calle.

My hotel room looks out on the street.

Darse prisa – To hurry

¡Date prisa, que llegamos tarde!

Hurry up or we're going to be late!

Dar por – To consider

Lo doy por perdido.

I consider it lost.

Darse por vencido – To give up

A pesar de las dificultades no se dio por vencido.

Despite the difficulties she didn't give up.



NOTES IN SPANISH

Dar pena – To feel sorry

Me da pena la gente que vive en la calle.
I feel sorry for the people who live on the street.

Dar vergüenza – To embarrass

Me da vergüenza cantar en el karaoke.
I'm embarrassed to sing karaoke.

Dar rienda suelta – To give free rein

Tienes que dar rienda suelta a tu imaginación.
You have to let your imagination run wild.

Dar por hacer algo – To get the urge / feel like doing something

El sábado por la tarde me dio por ir al cine sola.
On Saturday afternoon I got the urge to go to the cinema by myself.

A veces me da por comer chocolate y no puedo parar.
Sometimes I feel like eating chocolate and I can't stop.

Darse de alta – To sign up or register

Me quiero dar de alta en un seguro médico privado.
I want to sign up for private health insurance.



NOTES IN SPANISH

Dar el alta – To discharge

Le han dado el alta en el hospital.

They've discharged her from the hospital.

Dar a entender – To imply

Dio a entender que sería un año difícil para la empresa.

He implied that it would be a difficult year for the company.

¡Qué le den! (Very Slang) - He can *\$%##@¡ off!

Mi jefe quiere el informe en una hora. ¡Qué le den!

My boss wants the report in an hour. He can *\$%##@¡ off!

Dar la razón – To agree with completely / To be on someone's side

Por fin me dio la razón e hicimos las paces.

He finally admitted I was right and we made peace.

Dar mil vueltas a algo / alguien – To run rings around

Esta ciudad da mil vueltas a Londres.

This city is much better than London.

Dar vueltas a algo – To think something over

No puedo parar de dar vueltas al accidente de coche que tuve ayer.

I can't stop thinking about the car accident that I had yesterday.



NOTES IN SPANISH

Dar el día – To get the day off / To give someone a hell of a day

Me han dado el día en el trabajo.
They've give me the day off at work.

Mi hija me ha dado el día, primero se ha caído en un charco, y le he tenido que cambiar toda la ropa, y luego no ha parado de llorar en toda la tarde.
My daughter has given me a hell of a day, firstly she fell in a puddle and I had to change all of her clothes and then she didn't stop crying all afternoon.

Dar a la lengua – To talk a lot

Cuando quedo con mis amigas a cenar no paramos de darle a la lengua.
Whenever I meet my friends for supper we don't stop talking.

Dar sopas con hondas – To outshine

A pesar de que tienen la misma edad Eva da sopas con honda a Julia. Lee y escribe muchísimo mejor.
Despite being the same age, Eva outshines Julia. She reads and writes much better.

We hope you find this report useful!

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