

To Know: Saber v. Conocer

Spanish divides “to know” into 2 words, both found in Guantanamera:



Saber

to know, have knowledge of, know how to do

Conocer

to be familiar with or acquainted with, as in a person or place. Also means “to meet” when you meet somebody for the first time

English speakers usually have trouble with this in the beginning, but get the hang of it through practice. A good trick—think of “SABER” words as *things that can be LEARNED*. Listen to how Guantanamera uses each word differently:



quizás no sabes mi nombre

kee-SAHS no SAH-bays mee NOHM-bray

maybe you don't know my name



y ni conoces mi cerro

ee nee ko-NOH-says mee SEH-rroh

and you don't even know my hill

Another useful pair of words
from Guantanamera:

Jamás never

Siempre always

