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FREE SPANISH READER · LEVEL ONE

Flight MH370

A true story in easy Spanish, written with words that look like English, so you can read it from day one.

81% of the words in this story are cognates or names you can recognize from English, or one of the 48 little words listed on page 2.

How to read this story

1. Read without stopping. Words like *información* look like English, so trust your guess.
2. A dotted word is explained in the box under its paragraph: first its meaning, then where it comes from. The origin is the link to English that makes it stick.
3. The little grammar words (the, of, and) are listed once, on the next page.

Little words

These short words carry the grammar. They are everywhere, so learn them here and they will not be marked in the story.

el The (masculine singular)

la The (feminine singular); her, it

los The (masculine plural); them

las The (feminine plural); them

lo The (neuter); him, it (direct object)

un A, an; one

una A, one (feminine)

de Of; from

del of the / from the

a To, at

al To the / at the (the contraction of a plus el)

en In / on / at

y And

e And, used before words beginning with i- or hi-

o Or

que that / which / than

con With

por for / by / through

para For / in order to

su His / her / its / their / your (formal)

sus His, her, its, their, your (formal plural)

se Himself, herself, itself, themselves; oneself; (impersonal) one, people

no No

ni Nor / not even

más more

ya Already / now

como As, like

pero but

sin Without

sobre On / about / envelope

entre Between; among

hasta until, up to

desde from / since

cuando when

esta This (feminine)

ese That (demonstrative)

esa That (feminine)

esos Those (masculine plural)

aquel That (one), over there

aquella That (feminine, something farther away)

ellos They (masculine)

había there was, there were; had (imperfect of haber)

fue Was; went

era Was / used to be (imperfect of ser); also: era, age

eran Were

estaba Was

tan So, such

también Also / too

Flight MH370

En la noche del 8 de marzo de 2014, el aeropuerto internacional de Kuala Lumpur funcionaba con la energía habitual de una terminal moderna. Cientos de pasajeros de muchos países —chinos, malasios, australianos, americanos, franceses, indonesios y de otras partes del mundo— esperaban para abordar el vuelo MH370 de Malaysia Airlines, un Boeing 777 con destino a Beijing, la capital de China. Entre ellos había estudiantes, hombres de negocios, familias con niños pequeños y un grupo de artistas chinos, calígrafos famosos que regresaban de una exhibición internacional. Para casi todos era un vuelo de rutina, en una ruta que la compañía operaba desde hacía años sin ningún incidente serio.

noche *night.* Noche comes from Latin nox, noctis, "night," the root of English "nocturnal" and "equinox," when night equals day.

cientos (ciento) *hundreds.* Ciento is "hundred," from Latin centum, which gives English "cent," "century," and "percent," "for each hundred."

muchos (mucho) *many.* Mucho comes from Latin multum, "much," the root of English "multiple," "multitude," and "multi-."

países (país) *countries.* País is French pays, and it gives Los Países Bajos, "the Low Countries," the Netherlands.

otras (otro) *other.* Otro is the alter of "alter ego," "the other self."

mundo *world.* Mundo is Latin mundus, "world," the mundi of "sic transit gloria mundi," "so passes the glory of the world," and of a "mappa mundi," a medieval world map.

esperaban (esperar) *were waiting, were hoping.* Esperar means both "to hope" and "to wait," from Latin sperare, "to hope."

vuelo *flight.* Vuelo is the noun of volar, "to fly," from Latin volare, "to fly."

hombres (hombre) *men.* Hombre is the homo of "Homo sapiens," and English has borrowed it whole, as in "a tough hombre."

negocios (negocio) *business.* Negocio is the root of English "negotiate," from Latin negotium, "business."

niños (niño) *children.* Niño is the El Niño of the weather reports: Peruvian fishermen named the warm current that arrives around Christmas after El Niño, the Christ child.

pequeños (pequeño) *small (masculine plural).* Pequeño probably belongs with French petit and Italian piccolo, and so with English "petite," "petty," and the piccolo, the small flute.

regresaban (regresar) *they were returning.* Regresar comes from Latin regressus, "a going back," from regredi, "to step back," made of re-, "back," and gradi, "to step."

casi *almost.* Casi is Latin quasi, "as if, nearly," which English keeps as "quasi-," as in "quasi-official."

todos (todo) *all, everyone (masculine plural).* Todo comes from Latin totus, "whole, all," the toto of "in toto," "as a whole," and the source of English "total."

hacía (hacer) *was doing, was making; (in time expressions) had been.* Hacer comes from Latin facere, "to do, to make," the verb of "de facto," "in fact," and of "facsimile," from fac simile, "make alike."

años (año) *years.* Año is the annus of "anno Domini," A.D., "in the year of the Lord."

ningún (ninguno) *no, not any.* Ninguno is Latin nec unus, "not even one," worn down through Old Spanish neguno.

En la terminal, los monitores anunciaban las horas de salida y los agentes de seguridad revisaban pasaportes y documentos de identificación. El ambiente era relajado, casi festivo: parejas jóvenes que volvían de vacaciones, un grupo de estudiantes universitarios con sus mochilas, niños que corrían impacientes entre las sillas de la sala de espera. Nadie tenía razón para sospechar que aquella noche tan común marcaría el inicio de uno de los casos más extraordinarios en la historia de la aviación moderna.

salida *exit.* Salida is the "exit" sign in Spanish buildings: a going out, from salir, "to go out."

parejas (pareja) *pairs, couples.* Pareja is a little "pair": it comes from Late Latin paricula, a diminutive of par, "equal," the root of English "pair" and "peer."

jóvenes (joven) *young people.* Joven comes from Latin iuvenis, "young," the root of English "juvenile" and "rejuvenate," to make young again.

volvían (volver) *they were returning.* Volver is the turning in English "revolve," "evolve," and "involve."

mochilas *backpacks.* Mochilas is the plural of mochila, "backpack," a word that came into Spanish from Basque.

corrían (correr) *they were running.* Correr comes from Latin currere, "to run," and so does the "curriculum" of "curriculum vitae," "the course of one's life."

sillas (silla) *chairs.* Silla, "chair," comes from Latin sella, "seat," built on sedere, "to sit," the root of English "sedentary."

sala *room / hall.* Sala is the same word as English "salon" and "saloon."

nadie *nobody.* Nadie comes from Latin nati, "people born," used in negative sentences like "born people did not do it," which came to mean "nobody did it."

tenía (tener) *I/he/she/you had (was having).* Tener comes from Latin tenere, "to hold," the root of English "tenant," "maintain," "obtain," and "lieutenant," from French lieu tenant, "place holder."

inicio *beginning; start.* Inicio is Latin initium, "a beginning," from inire, "to go in, to enter upon," from in-, "in," and ire, "to go."

uno *one.* Uno is Latin unus, "one," as in "e pluribus unum," "out of many, one."

En total viajaban 239 personas: 227 pasajeros y 12 miembros de la tripulación. En la cabina, el capitán —un piloto veterano con más de 18 mil horas de experiencia— revisó los instrumentos con la calma de un profesional. Su copiloto, mucho más joven y todavía en entrenamiento avanzado bajo supervisión, confirmó los últimos detalles técnicos con el control de tráfico aéreo. Detrás, los auxiliares de vuelo organizaron el interior del avión, contaron el inventario de las bebidas y prepararon todo para un vuelo nocturno más. Nada indicaba que esa noche sería diferente de cualquier otra noche en la historia de la aviación comercial.

viajaban *they were traveling, used to travel.* Viajaban is the imperfect of viajar, "to travel," as in viajaban en tren, "they used to travel by train."

tripulación *crew.* Tripulación comes from tripular, "to man a ship," which traces to Latin interpolare, "to refurbish, to alter," the source of English "interpolate."

mucho *a lot / much.*

joven *young; young person.*

todavía *still / yet.* Todavía is toda vía, "all the way": what is still going has kept on all the way to now.

entrenamiento *training.* Entrenamiento is entrenar, "to train," plus -miento, "-ing."

bajo (bajar) *under / low / short.* Bajar is to go down, the verb of bajo, "low."

últimos (último) *last, final (ones).* Último is the root of English "ultimate," "ultimatum," a last demand, and "ultra-."

detrás *behind.* Detrás is de, "from," plus tras, "behind, after," from Latin trans, "across, beyond," the "trans-" of "transatlantic" and "transport."

avión *airplane.* Avión holds Latin avis, "bird," the root of English "aviation" and "aviary" and of Spanish ave, "bird."

contaron (contar) *counted; told, recounted (they).* Contar is both "to count" and "to recount," just as an English "teller" counts money and a storyteller tells tales.

bebidas (bebida) *drinks, beverages.* Bebida is "a thing drunk," the feminine participle of beber, "to drink," used as a noun, as comida, "food," is made from comer.

todo *all; everything.*

nada *nothing.* Nada comes from Latin (res) nata, "a thing born," used in sentences like "not a thing born," which wore down to mean "nothing."

sería (ser) *he/she/it would be.* Ser, "to be," carries Latin esse, "to be," the root of English "essence": Spanish es, "is," is Latin est, and soy, "I am," goes back to sum.

cualquier (cualquiera) *any, whatever.* Cualquiera is cual, "which," plus quiera, "it may want": whichever one may want, and so "any at all."

otra (otro) *another, other (feminine).*

A las 12:41 de la madrugada, el avión aceleró por la pista y ascendió hacia el cielo oscuro. Muchos pasajeros ya se preparaban para dormir durante las seis horas de vuelo hasta Beijing. La tripulación sirvió las primeras bebidas y distribuyó mantas. Todo parecía normal: la altitud se

estabilizó a 35 mil pies, la velocidad era constante y el avión navegaba exactamente según su plan de vuelo original.

madrugada *the early morning hours, dawn, the small hours before sunrise.* Madrugada comes from madrugar, "to get up early," from Vulgar Latin maturicare, built on Latin maturare, "to ripen, to hurry."

hacia *toward.* Hacia, "toward," began as Old Spanish faz a, "face to": to go hacia a place is to go the way one's face is turned.

cielo *sky, heaven.* Cielo is Latin caelum, "sky, heaven," which gives English "celestial," heavenly.

durante *during.* Durante is English "during," and both began as the present participle of a verb meaning "to last," Spanish durar and French durer.

seis *six.* Seis, "six," comes from Latin sex, "six," the root of English "sextet" and "sexagenarian," a person in their sixties.

sirvió (servir) *he/she served.* Servir is English "serve," from Latin servire, "to be a slave, to serve," from servus, "slave, servant," which also gives "servant" and "serf."

primeras (primero) *first (feminine plural).* Primero comes from Latin primarius, "of the first rank," from primus, "first," the source of English "primary" and "prime."

mantas (manta) *blankets.* Manta, "blanket," comes from manto, "cloak," from Late Latin mantum, a shortening of mantellum, "cloak," the source of English "mantle."

parecía (parecer) *seemed, was seeming.* Parecer is a cousin of English "appear": both come from Latin parere, "to come into view."

pies (pie) *feet.* Pie comes from Latin pes, pedis, "foot," the root of English "pedal," "pedestrian," and "biped."

según *according to.* Según, "according to," comes from Latin secundum, "following, in line with," from sequi, "to follow": what goes según something follows it.

Cerca de la una de la madrugada, el avión se aproximó al límite entre el espacio aéreo de Malasia y el de Vietnam. En ese punto, el protocolo internacional exige una transferencia de comunicación: el control de Malasia pasa la información al control de Vietnam y el avión confirma el cambio con una respuesta simple. La transmisión final, a la 1:19, fue tranquila y rutinaria: "Good night, Malaysian three seven zero". Una despedida cordial, sin ninguna tensión ni ningún signo de emergencia en la voz.

cerca *near / fence.* Cerca is the circa of English dates, as in "circa 1900," "around 1900."

punto *point / dot.* Punto is English "point," from Latin punctum, "a prick, a dot," from pungere, "to prick."

cambio *change.* Cambio is the noun of cambiar, the same word as English "change," and it is the sign over money exchange counters.

despedida *farewell, goodbye; send-off; dismissal.* A despedida began as a request: Old Spanish espedirse meant to ask leave to go, and the verb holds pedir, "to ask."

ninguna (ninguno) *none, not a single one (feminine).*

voz *voice.* Voz is the voice in English "vocal," "vowel," and "advocate," someone called to speak for another.

Pocos minutos después ocurrió algo extraordinario. El transpondedor del avión —el instrumento electrónico que transmite automáticamente la posición, la altitud y otros datos vitales a los radares civiles— se desactivó. En un instante, el MH370 desapareció de las pantallas de los controladores, tanto en Malasia como en Vietnam. No hubo señal de auxilio ni comunicación de emergencia. El silencio fue total e instantáneo.

pocos (poco) *few.* Poco comes from Latin paucus, "few, little," the root of English "paucity," a scarcity.

después *after / afterward.* Después holds Latin post, "after," the P in "p.m.," post meridiem, "after midday."

algo *something.* Algo comes from Latin aliquod, "something," built from alius, "other," and quod, "what."

otros (otro) *other (masculine plural).*

pantallas (pantalla) *screens.* Pantalla first named a shade, such as a lampshade, and was later extended to the screen that shows a film or a computer display.

tanto *so much; as much.* Tanto comes from Latin tantus, "so great, so much," which English keeps in "tantamount," at root "amounting to as much."

hubo (haber) *there was, there were.* Haber comes from Latin habere, "to have, to hold," the verb of "habeas corpus," "you shall have the body," the order to bring a prisoner before a judge.

Durante los primeros minutos, los controladores intentaron restablecer el contacto por radio una y otra vez, sin resultado. El avión, con sus 239 pasajeros y tripulantes, simplemente había desaparecido del sistema de vigilancia civil, como si aquel gigante mecánico se hubiera evaporado en la oscuridad del cielo sobre el mar de China Meridional.

primeros (primero) *first (masculine plural).*

intentaron (intentar) *they tried.* Intentar is a close relative of English "intend" and "intent": to try something is to set one's intent on it.

vez *time / occasion.* Vez is the "vice" of "vice versa," "the turn reversed," and of "vice president," one who serves in turn for another.

tripulantes (tripulante) *crew members.* Tripulante is "one who crews," from tripular, "to man a ship or aircraft," with la tripulación, "the crew."

si *if.* Si, "if," is Latin si, "if," unchanged for two thousand years.

hubiera (haber) *had; there would have been (imperfect subjunctive of haber).*

mar *sea.* Mar is Latin mare, "sea," the root of English "marine," "maritime," and "submarine."

Sin embargo, aunque el transpondedor estaba silencioso, los radares militares de Malasia —que operan de otra manera, más primitiva pero perfectamente funcional— continuaron detectando un objeto no identificado. Lo que registraron esos radares, cuando los analistas examinaron los datos días después, resultó sorprendente. En vez de continuar hacia el norte, hacia Beijing, el avión ejecutó un giro de casi 180 grados y se dirigió hacia el oeste. Cruzó la península de Malasia en dirección al estrecho de Malaca.

embargo *embargo (only in the phrase sin embargo, "however, nevertheless").* Sin embargo is "without hindrance," and so "nevertheless."

aunque *although / even though.* Aunque is aun, "even," plus que, "that," much as English builds "even though."

giro *turn; twist; money order.* Giro, "turn," is the gyro of "gyroscope," from Latin gyrus, "circle," from Greek gyros, "ring."

oeste *west.* Oeste is English "west," borrowed into Spanish from French ouest, which took it from Old English.

estrecho *narrow; a strait.* Estrecho is the Spanish form of English "strait," so the Strait of Gibraltar is el Estrecho de Gibraltar.

Los expertos en aviación quedaron perplejos. ¿Por qué un avión comercial, sin ninguna alerta previa, cambiaría su trayectoria de manera tan drástica y aparentemente tan deliberada? El MH370 continuó su ruta anormal sobre el estrecho de Malaca, una de las rutas marítimas más activas del mundo, sin que ningún barco lo notara. Después giró hacia el noroeste, hacia el inmenso océano Índico: un área vasta, remota y casi vacía de tráfico aéreo o marítimo.

quedaron (quedar) *they remained, stayed.* Quedar is English "quiet" turned into a verb: to stay is to come to rest.

qué *what.* Qué comes from Latin quid, "what," the quid of "quid pro quo," "something for something," and the quo there is a form of the same word.

cambiaría (cambiar) *would change.* Cambiar is the same word as English "change."

barco *boat / ship.* Barco grew out of barca, "small boat," the word inside English "embark" and "bark," an old name for a sailing ship.

giró *he/she/it turned.* Giró is "he, she, or it turned," the preterite of girar, "to turn, to spin": giró a la derecha, "he turned right."

Después de las 2:22 de la madrugada, el objeto desapareció también del radar militar. Durante horas no existió ninguna información confirmada sobre su posición. Pero había una fuente de datos que nadie había considerado en las primeras horas de la crisis: el sistema satelital de Inmarsat, un proveedor de comunicación global para aviones comerciales.

fuente *fountain, spring; source.* Fuente is the fountain in la fuente de la juventud, the "Fountain of Youth" that Ponce de León was said to seek.

aviones (avión) *airplanes.*

Aunque el avión ya no transmitía su posición por los canales normales, su sistema satelital continuaba enviando señales automáticas cada hora, una especie de intercambio electrónico entre el avión y el satélite en órbita. Eran simples confirmaciones técnicas de que el sistema seguía activo. No contenían ningún mensaje humano, ninguna palabra. Pero contenían algo crucial: el ángulo y la frecuencia exacta de cada transmisión.

enviando (enviar) *sending.* Enviar is "to put on the road," from Latin in-, "on," plus via, "road."

cada *each, every.* Cada comes from Greek kata, "down, one by one," which Late Latin borrowed in phrases like cata die, "day by day."

seguía (seguir) *he/she was following.* Seguir means "to follow" and "to keep on," and comes from Latin sequi, "to follow," the root of English "sequel," "sequence," and "consequence."

palabra *word.* Palabra is the same word as English "parable."

Los ingenieros de Inmarsat, con cálculos complejos basados en el efecto Doppler y en la geometría de los satélites, determinaron algo asombroso. El avión había continuado volando casi siete horas después de su última comunicación verbal, mucho más tiempo del necesario para llegar a Beijing. La última señal, registrada cerca de las 8:11 de la mañana, sugería que el combustible se había agotado en algún punto del sur del océano Índico, a miles de kilómetros de la costa occidental de Australia.

asombroso *amazing, astonishing.* Asombroso is built on sombra, "shadow": asombrar first meant to throw a shadow over, then to frighten, and then to astonish.

volando (volar) *flying.* Volar is "to fly," from Latin volare, the root of English "volatile," quick to fly off or evaporate.

siete *seven.* Siete, "seven," comes from Latin septem, "seven," the sept- of "September," once the seventh month of the Roman year, and of "septet."

llegar *to arrive.* Llegar began as a sailor's word.

mañana *morning; tomorrow.* Mañana is the "mañana" of English, an easygoing "tomorrow, sometime later."

combustible *fuel.* Combustible, "fuel," is what is combustible, able to burn.

agotado (agotar) *exhausted, worn out; sold out, out of stock.* Agotar is a plus gota, "drop": to drain something to the last drop.

algún (alguno) *some, any.* Alguno joins two Latin words, aliquis, "someone," and unus, "one," so it is "some one."

sur *south.* Sur is English "south" come home: Old English suþ passed into French as sud, and Spanish borrowed it from French.

miles (mil) *thousands.* Mil is Latin mille, "thousand," the root of English "million," "millennium," and "mile": the Roman mile was mille passus, "a thousand paces."

occidental *western.* Occidental is English "occidental," from Latin occidens, "setting," the part of the sky where the sun goes down.

Esta revelación transformó la búsqueda. Al principio se concentraba en el mar de China Meridional, cerca de la ruta original; ahora se expandió hacia el sur, hacia una de las regiones más remotas y hostiles del planeta. Australia, China, Malasia, los Estados Unidos y muchas otras

naciones coordinaron una operación multinacional sin precedentes.

búsqueda *search, quest.* Búsqueda is the noun of buscar, "to look for," made with the ending -da as llegada, "arrival," is made from llegar.

ahora *now.* Ahora is Latin hac hora, "at this hour," and Old Spanish still said agora.

muchas (mucho) *many (feminine).*

Barcos equipados con sonar avanzado, aviones militares con tecnología de detección infrarroja y submarinos autónomos de alta precisión exploraron miles de kilómetros cuadrados del fondo oceánico, en una región con profundidades de hasta seis mil metros y condiciones climáticas violentas. La operación costó más de 150 millones de dólares y se convirtió en la búsqueda de aviación más extensa y más cara jamás organizada.

barcos (barco) *boats, ships.*

sonar *to sound / to ring.* Sonar, "to sound, to ring," comes from Latin sonare, from sonus, "sound," the root of English "sound" itself, "sonic," "sonata," and "resonate."

alta (alto) *tall, high (feminine).* Alto, "high, tall," comes from Latin altus, "high," the source of English "altitude" and "exalt," and of the alto voice in a choir.

cuadrados *squares; squared (plural).* Cuadrados is the plural of cuadrado, "square" or "squared": metros cuadrados, "square meters."

fondo *bottom / fund / background.* Fondo, "bottom," comes from Latin fundus, "bottom, base, estate," the root of English "fund," "foundation," and "profound," from the depths.

profundidades (profundidad) *depths.* Profundidad is English "profundity," the ordinary Spanish word for "depth."

cara (caro) *face; side (of a coin or object); nerve, cheek.* Caro has both senses of English "dear": costly and beloved.

jamás *never; ever.* Jamás is Latin iam magis, "already more," fused into one word, and both parts survive alone as ya, "already," and más, "more."

Mientras tanto, el público de todo el mundo siguió cada detalle del drama. Compañías privadas de tecnología satelital publicaron imágenes del océano en plataformas digitales e invitaron a millones de voluntarios a examinar cada sección de las fotografías desde sus casas, en busca de posibles fragmentos del avión. Los canales de noticias internacionales dedicaron horas de programación al análisis de cada dato nuevo y cada teoría nueva. Nunca antes un caso de aviación había generado tanta atención global.

mientras *while, meanwhile.* Mientras holds the same Latin as English "interim," "meanwhile."

siguió (seguir) *he/she followed.*

casas (casa) *houses.* Casa is the house in English "casino," Italian for "little house."

busca (buscar) *a search.* Buscar is probably the source of English "busk" and "busker": the street performer goes about seeking a living.

nuevo *new; (as a noun, nueva) a piece of news.* Nuevo is the "New" in Nuevo México, New Mexico, and Nueva York.

nueva (nuevo) *new (feminine); (noun) a piece of news.*

nunca *never.* Nunca comes from Latin numquam, "never," built from ne, "not," and umquam, "ever," exactly as English "never" is "not ever."

antes *before.* Antes is ante, "before," with an adverb -s, and ante is the a of a.m.: ante meridiem, "before midday."

tanta (tanto) *so much, so great.*

Pero mes tras mes, y después año tras año, el océano Índico guardó su secreto. Ningún fragmento significativo, ninguna señal de la caja negra, ninguna evidencia física apareció en el área calculada por los expertos. Las familias de las víctimas esperaban con una combinación devastadora de esperanza y desesperación.

mes *month.* Mes comes from Latin mensis, "month," which gives English "menstrual" and "semester," from sex menses, "six months."

caja *box; cash register, checkout.* Caja is the same word as English "case," the kind that holds things, and it is behind "cash" as well.

negra (negro) *black (feminine); a black woman; a quarter note (in music).* Negro comes from Latin niger, "black," the root of English "denigrate," to blacken someone's name.

esperanza *hope.* English "despair" and "desperate" are esperanza taken away: Latin de-, "without," plus sperare, "to hope."

Finalmente, en julio de 2015, más de un año después de la desaparición, un residente de la isla de Reunión —un territorio francés en el océano Índico occidental, a miles de kilómetros del área de búsqueda oficial— encontró un objeto extraño en la playa durante una caminata matutina. Era un fragmento de metal cubierto de conchas y organismos marinos, con la forma característica de un flaperon, una parte específica del ala de un Boeing 777. Después de un análisis detallado, los expertos lo confirmaron: aquel fragmento pertenecía al vuelo MH370.

encontró (encontrar) *found, met.* Encontrar is English "encounter," from Latin in- plus contra, "against": to come up against something.

playa *beach.* Playa is the playa of Playa del Carmen in Mexico, "the beach of Carmen."

caminata *a hike, a long walk.* Caminata is caminar, "to walk," plus -ata, an ending for a stretch of doing something: a good long walk.

matutina *morning.* Matutina is the feminine of matutino, "of the morning," as in la sesión matutina, "the morning session."

cubierto (cubrir) *covered; also a place setting of silverware.* Cubrir is English "cover."

ala *wing; also the brim of a hat, or a flank in sports or the military.* Ala is the wing in English "aisle," once the side wing of a church, and in "aileron," the hinged flap on an aircraft wing, French for "little wing."

pertenecía (pertenecer) *he/she belonged.* Pertenecer is English "pertain" with a Spanish ending: what pertains to someone belongs to them.

En los meses y años siguientes aparecieron fragmentos similares en las costas de Mozambique, Tanzania, Sudáfrica y la isla de Mauricio. Todos eran compatibles con los patrones de las corrientes del océano Índico y todos confirmaban la teoría general: el avión había terminado su vuelo en algún punto remoto del sur de ese océano inmenso. Pero nunca se recuperó ninguna sección grande del fuselaje, ni las cajas negras con su información técnica, a pesar de años de exploración sistemática.

meses (mes) *months.*

siguientes (siguiente) *following, next.* Siguiente, "next, following," comes from seguir, "to follow," from Latin sequentem, "following," the root of English "sequence" and "subsequent." ¡El siguiente! is "Next!" at a counter, and al día siguiente means "the following day."

patrones (patrón) *patterns; bosses, patrons.* Patrón is English "patron," and also "pattern," which began as the same word: a patron sets the model to copy.

cajas (caja) *boxes.*

negras (negro) *black.*

pesar *to weigh; (noun) grief, regret.* Pesar is "to weigh," from Latin pensare, "to weigh," the twin of pensar, "to think," to weigh in the mind.

Con el tiempo, varias teorías competían por explicar la tragedia, sin ningún consenso entre los expertos. Algunos investigadores propusieron una falla mecánica catastrófica, posiblemente en el sistema de oxígeno o en los instrumentos electrónicos, seguida de una despresurización gradual que incapacitó a todos a bordo y dejó el avión en piloto automático hasta agotar el combustible.

Otros analistas sugirieron una acción humana deliberada, aunque ninguna evidencia concreta confirmó esa hipótesis. Otros consideraron factores relacionados con la carga del avión, incluyendo materiales peligrosos en la sección de carga.

algunos (alguno) *some.*

falla (fallar) *fault, flaw, defect.* Fallar in the sense "to fail, to miss" comes from Vulgar Latin fallire, from Latin fallere, "to deceive, to let down," which also gives English "fail," "fault," and "false."

seguida *en seguida, "right away, at once"; a succession, a run.* Seguida lives mostly in en seguida (also enseguida), "right away," literally "in following": straight after.

bordo *the board or side of a ship, as in "a bordo," aboard.* Bordo is English "board" in its ship sense, and a bordo is "aboard."

dejó (dejar) *left, let.* Dejar is the Spanish cousin of English "relax," to let loose.

agotar *to exhaust, use up, run out of, deplete.*

carga *load, cargo; charge.* Carga is a load, the same word as English "cargo" and "charge," from spoken Latin carricare, "to load a cart."

peligrosos (peligroso) *dangerous ones.* Peligroso is "perilous," built on peligro, "danger," from Latin periculum, "trial, danger," the root of English "peril."

La comisión oficial de investigación, formada por expertos de varias naciones, publicó su reporte final en 2018, después de años de análisis. Su conclusión tenía una honestidad casi dolorosa: no existía suficiente evidencia técnica para determinar la causa exacta de la desaparición. El caso quedó oficialmente sin resolver. Sin nuevos hallazgos ni restos principales recuperados, las operaciones de búsqueda se dieron por concluidas. El destino final del avión y de las 239 personas a bordo permanece sumido en el misterio.

dolorosa (doloroso) *painful, sorrowful (feminine); La Dolorosa, the sorrowing Virgin Mary.* Doloroso, "painful," is dolor, "pain," plus -oso, "full of," the -ous of English "dolorous."

quedó (quedar) *stayed, remained, ended up.*

nuevos (nuevo) *new.*

hallazgos (hallazgo) *findings, discoveries.* Hallazgo comes from hallar, "to find," which goes back to Latin afflare, "to breathe on," probably first used of hounds sniffing out game.

dieron (dar) *they gave.* Dar comes from Latin dare, "to give," whose participle datum, "a thing given," is English "data" and "date," once the day written on a letter as "given."

permanece (permanecer) *he/she remains.* Permanecer is the verb behind English "permanent": both come from Latin permanere, "to stay to the end," from per-, "through," and manere, "to stay."

sumido (sumir) *sunk into, plunged, absorbed.* Sumir comes from Latin sumere, "to take up," the root of English "consume," "assume," and "presume."

Words from this story

Every explained word, by its dictionary form. Cover the right side and test yourself.

agotar To exhaust, use up, run out of, deplete
ahora Now
ala wing; also the brim of a hat, or a flank in sports or the military
algo Something
alguno Some / any
alto Tall / high; stop!
año Year
antes Before
asombroso Amazing, astonishing
aunque Although / even though
avión Airplane
bajar To go down / to lower
barco Boat / ship
bebida A drink or beverage
bordo The board or side of a ship, as in "a bordo," aboard
buscar To look for, to search
búsqueda Search, quest
cada Each, every
caja Box; cash register, checkout
cambiar To change
cambio Change
caminata A hike, a long walk
carga Load, cargo; charge
caro Expensive; dear
casa House
casi Almost
cerca Near / fence
cielo Sky, heaven
ciento Hundred
combustible Fuel
contar to count / to tell (a story)
correr to run
cuadrados Squares; squared (plural)
cualquiera whichever / anyone
cubrir To cover
dar to give
dejar to leave / to let, allow
despedida Farewell, goodbye; send-off; dismissal
después after / afterward
detrás behind
doloroso painful, sorrowful
durante During
embargo Embargo (only in the phrase sin embargo, "however, nevertheless")
encontrar To find / to meet
entrenamiento Training
enviar To send
esperanza Hope
esperar To hope / to wait / to expect
estrecho Narrow; a strait
fallar to fail, to miss; to break down; to rule, hand down a verdict
fondo bottom / fund / background
fuente Fountain, spring; source
giro turn; twist; money order
giró He/she/it turned
haber To have (as an auxiliary); there to be
hacer To do, to make
hacia toward
hallazgo A find, a discovery
hombre man
inicio Beginning; start
intentar to try
jamás never; ever
joven young; young person
llegar to arrive
madrugada The early morning hours, dawn, the small hours before sunrise
mañana morning; tomorrow
manta Blanket
mar sea
matutina Morning
mes month
mientras while, meanwhile
mil thousand
mochilas Backpacks
mucho A lot / much
mundo World
nada Nothing
nadie Nobody
negocio Business
negro Black
ninguno None / not any
niño Boy / child
noche Night
nuevo New; (as a noun, nueva) a piece of news
nunca Never
occidental Western
oeste West

otro Other / another
país Country
palabra Word
pantalla screen (movie, television, computer); lampshade
parecer To seem / to appear
pareja Couple / partner
patrón Boss, employer; patron saint; pattern or template
peligroso Dangerous
pequeño small
permanecer To remain; to stay
pertenecer to belong
pesar To weigh; (noun) grief, regret
pie Foot
playa Beach
poco little / few
primero first
profundidad Depth, profundity
punto point / dot
qué what
quedar to stay / to remain / to be left / to agree to meet
regresar to return / to go back
sala Room / hall
salida Exit
seguida En seguida, "right away, at once"; a succession, a run
seguir To follow / to continue
según According to
seis Six
ser To be
servir To serve
si If
siete Seven
siguiente Following / next
silla Chair
sonar To sound / to ring
sumir To plunge, to sink, to submerge (in grief, in thought)
sur South
tanto So much; as much
tener To have
todavía Still / yet
todo All; everything
tripulación Crew
tripulante A crew member, of a ship, plane, or spacecraft
último Last
uno One
vez Time / occasion
viajaban They were traveling, used to travel
volar To fly
volver To return
voz Voice
vuelo Flight

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