

(To improve your Spanish comprehension skills, please watch the presentation of this topic on [YouTube](#), and read this along with the Spanish version of the newsletter.)

On October 21, teacher Claritza gave a presentation on “Trades or Craft Work.” The importance of these jobs for the people of Antigua was discussed, not only because they are part of the informal economy of many Guatemalans, but also because they are an important part of our culture as well.

Objective

To become aware of the trades or jobs of the Antiguans, and second, this is important vocabulary that students can add to their Spanish language learning.

Below, I present some of these jobs or trades.

1. Carpentry (*La Carpintería*)

It is the craft of working and carving wood. It is known for its rich artisan tradition and the production of a variety of furniture and decorative objects. For example: colonial furniture, musical instruments, toys, etc.

2. Blacksmith (*La Herrería*)

Iron is forged in different workshops, making balconies, doors, chandeliers and lamps. These workshops have traditional and modern techniques.

3. Masonry (*La Albañilería*)

It is an essential part of the construction of houses in Antigua, especially due to its colonial architecture and historical character. Many of its buildings are made of stone, brick and block.

4. Fruit Vendors (*Los Vendedores de Frutas*)

On the street we can find fresh fruit vendors, they are people who work in the informal economy.

5. Pottery (*La Alfarería*)

It has pre-Hispanic roots, and the working techniques have also been passed down from generation to generation. They work with clay and use an ancestral method to bake their pieces. They make domestic items such as pots, cups, and floors, etc.

6. Shoemaking (*La Zapatería*)

The manufacture of boots began around 1965. They are made from cowhide, crocodile skin and some other animals.

7. Silversmith (*La Platería*)

It is a trade that dates back to colonial times and has great economic importance due to the manufacture of religious and decorative objects. Jewelry: rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings.

8. Tortillas Vendor (*La Tortillería*)

In many places in Antigua, you can see a tortilleria, in restaurants, or on the streets. Tortillas are made from corn. Traditional tortillas are thick and handmade.

9. Sweet Shop (*La Dulcería*)

It is part of Guatemalan gastronomy, the typical sweets have very deep roots in the culture since colonial times. The oldest candy store is “Doña María Gordillo”. For example: sweet sticks (*canillitas de leche*), sweet potato candies (*camotes*), sweet pumpkins (*chilacayotes*), etc.

10. Drivers of Public Transportation (*Pilotos de Transporte Público*)

The truck (*la camioneta*) is one of the most common means of transport, also known as the “chicken bus” (colorful and decorated buses) and is cheaper to travel by for both nationals and foreigners.

[El Tuk Tuk](#): It is another fast means of transportation around Antigua.

Sayings and Proverbs

- *Si amas lo que haces, nunca será un trabajo.*
 - If you love what you do, it will never be a job.
- *Viendo trabajar al maestro, se aprende el oficio pronto.*
 - Watching the master work, you learn the trade quickly.
- *En cualquier trabajo u obra, el que no ayuda estorba.*
 - In any job or work, he who does not help, hinders.

[Full Vocabulary List](#) added during the presentation.

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We appreciate your comments, suggestions and giving us a “like” in advance. Don't forget to share our social networks with your friends, colleagues and family.

¡Gracias por participar, hasta pronto!