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## Lesson 20. Reinforcing the knowledge of structures

*A house doesn't fall if it has been built on solid structures.*

To reinforce the knowledge of structures we will use three techniques:

### 1. Short translations

The first technique is short translations from Spanish to English.

The reason why I have chosen this method as the first one is very simple. If you are not an advanced student, every time you try to speak English, you translate from Spanish to English. If you don't know exactly what you have to say, your chances of being wrong are about 99%.

#### What kind of short translations will we do?

We will do short translations inspired by the textbooks of the First Certificate and the CAE. This will allow you to get a solid base if you wish to prepare any of these Cambridge exams in the future.

### 2. Listening to the audiobook

We will especially focus on chapters 10 to 19.

### 3. Watching videos of public speakers on Youtube

This is one of the most fun and effective ways to increase your knowledge of structures as you can combine listening with watching the way public speakers use an advanced level of the language.

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## Short translations

Learn 4 short translations by heart every day during the next 10 days.

### Day 1

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Si ella hubiese explicado sus razones la habríamos	If she had explained her reasons, we would have understood her.	ɪ f ʃ i h ə d ɪ k ˈ s p l eɪ n d h ə ˈ r iː z ə n z   w i w ʊ d h ə v ˌ ʌ n d ə ˈ s t ʊ d h ə	If shi had ek'spleind her rissonnss wui wud hav andérstud her



entendido			
¿Qué habrías hecho si hubieses estado en mi lugar?	What would you have done if you had been in my shoes?	ˈwɒt wʊd ju hæv dʌn ɪf ju həd biːn ɪn maɪ ˈʃuːz	Wuát wud iu hav don if iu had biin in mai shuss?
Yo habría venido inmediatamente si me hubieses llamado (por teléfono)	I would have come immediately if you had rung me.	ˈaɪ wʊd hæv kʌm ɪ ˈmiːdɪətli ɪf ju həd rʌŋ miː	Ai wud hav kam l'midietli if iu had rang mi
A menos que algo vaya mal, estaremos allí no más tarde de las 5.	Unless something goes wrong we'll be there no later than five o'clock.	ənˈles ˈsʌm θɪŋ gəʊz rɒŋ wɪl bi ðə nəʊ ˈleɪtə ðən faɪv ə ˈklɒk	An'les sámzing góuss rong wuil bi der no léiter dan fáiv o'klok

## Day 2

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
La historia se remonta a al menos 500 años	The story goes back at least 500 years.	ðə ˈstɔːri gəʊz ˈbæk ət liːst faɪv ˈhʌndrəd ˈjɪəz	De sstori góuss bak at list fáiv hándred iers
La leyenda data de 1960 cuando una pareja fue encontrada muerta en la casa.	The legend dates from 1960 when a couple was found dead in the house.	ðə ˈledʒənd deɪts frəm ˌnaɪnˈtiːn ˈsɪksti wen ə ˈkʌpl, wəz faʊnd ded ɪn ðə ˈhaʊs 	De léyend déits from nain'ting síxti wuen a kápel wass fáund ded in de haus
Puede que haya sido una broma	It may/might have been a joke.	ɪt meɪ maɪt əv biːn ə dʒəʊk	It méi/máit hav bin a yóuk
El delincuente ha sido divisado por gente del barrio	The criminal has been spotted by local people.	ðə ˈkrɪmɪnl, həz biːn ˈspɒtɪd baɪ ˈləʊkl, ˈpiːpl,	De kríminel hass bin sspotid báí de lócal pípol

## Day 3

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Si no deseabas ir ¿por qué le llamaste? (A él)	If you had no desire to go why did you call him?	ɪf ju həd nəʊ dɪˈzaɪə tə gəʊ waɪ dɪd ju kɔːl ɪm	If iu had nou di ssair tu gou wuai did iu kol him?
Para cuando lleguemos el tren ya se habrá ido	When we arrive the train will have left.	wen wi ə ˈraɪv ðə treɪn wɪ, hæv left	Wuen wi arraiv de tréin wuil hav left
¿Qué es todo este lío?	What is all the fuss about?	ˈwɒt s əːl ðə fʌs ə ˈbaʊt	Wuat iss ol de fas a'bout?
Suponiendo que llegas a casa pronto, podremos quedar con ellos para cenar	Assuming you get home early, we'll be able to meet them for dinner.	ə ˈsjuːmɪŋ tə ˈget həʊm ˈɜːli   wɪl bi ˈeɪbl, tə miːt ðəm fə ˈdɪnə	A'suming ju get houm erli wuil bi éibol tu mit dem for diner.

## Day 4

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
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Más vale que ordenes tu habitación antes de que lleguen tus padres	You'd better tidy up your room before your parents arrive.	ʃud ˈbetə ˈtaɪdi ʌp jə ru:m bɪ ˈfɔ: jə ˈpeərənts ə ˈraɪv	lud béter táidiap ior rum bífor ior pérents a'raiv
Ojalá no te hubiese visto	If only I hadn't seen you.	ɪf ˈəʊnli ˈaɪ ˈhædnt ˈsi:n ju	ɪf ónli ái hadnt sin iu
Si te marchaste pronto ¿por qué no estabas en casa a la hora de cenar?	If you left early, how come you weren't home for dinner?	ɪf ju left ˈɜ:li   ˈhaʊ kʌm ju wɜ:nt həʊm fə ˈdɪnə	ɪf iu left érlɪ, hau kam iu wuernt hóm for díner?
Si te vas a la jungla te estás aventurando a lo desconocido.	If you go to the jungle you are venturing into the unknown.	ɪf ju gəʊ tə ðə ˈdʒʌŋgl, ju ə ˈventʃərɪŋ ˈɪntə ði ˌʌn ˈnəʊn	ɪf iu góu tú de yángel iú ár véntering íntu di an'noun

### Day 5

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Con eso vale	That will do.	ðæt wɪl du:	Dat wuɪl du
No sé si él lo logrará	I don't know if he will make it.	ˈaɪ dəʊnt nəʊ ɪf hi wɪl ˈmeɪk ɪt	Ai dóun nóu ɪf hi wuɪl méikit
Me parece que el último es el más apropiado	It seems to me that the latter is the most appropriate.	ɪt ˈsi:mz tə mi: ðæt ðə ˈlætə z ðə məʊst ə ˈprəʊpriət	ɪt símss tu mi dat de láter iss de móust a'propriet
Esto es lo último en gafas.	This is the ultimate in glasses.	ðɪs ɪz ði ˈʌltɪmət ɪn ˈglɑ:sɪz	Dis iss dí áltimét in glases

### Day 6

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
El delincuente anda todavía suelto	The criminal is still on the loose.	ðə ˈkrɪmɪnl, z stɪl ɒn ðə lu:s	De kriminal iss sstɪl ɒn de lus
Me pareció que su (de él) discurso fue mejor que la media en su totalidad	I thought his speech was better than average on the whole.	ˈaɪ ˈθɔ:t ɪz spi:tʃ wəz ˈbetə ðən ˈævərɪdʒ ɒn ðə həʊl	Ai zót hiss sspicj wuáss béter dan ávrech ɒn de hol.
Los médicos siempre deben estar preparados para lo inesperado	Doctors have to be prepared for the unexpected.	ˈdɒktəz həv tə bi prɪ ˈpeəd fə ði ˌʌnɪk ˈspektɪd	Dókterss hav tu bi préperd for de ánekspektid
Esto es fuera de lo común	This is out of the ordinary	ðɪs ɪz aʊt əv ði ˈɔ:dɪnəri	Dis iss áut of de órdinari

### Day 7

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Soy bueno para las matemáticas	I'm good at maths.	aɪm gʊd ət məθ s	Aim gud at mazz
Está ansioso por verte	He is keen on seeing you.	hi z ki:n ɒn ˈsi:ɪŋ ju	Hi iss kiin ɒn siing iu
Se me olvidó felicitarlo para su (de él) cumpleaños	I forgot to congratulate him on his birthday.	ˈaɪ fə ˈgɒt tə kən ˈgrætʃʊleɪt ɪm ɒn ɪz ˈbɜ:θdeɪ	Ai for'gat tu kon'gratuleit him ɒn hiss bérzdei
En la vida hay que estar a las duras y a las maduras	In life you have to take the rough with the smooth.	ɪn laɪf ju həv tə teɪk ðə rʌf wɪð ðə smu:ð	ɪn láɪf iu hav tu teɪk de raf wuíz de smuz

## Day 8

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Ella es la responsable de este departamento	She is (the one) responsible for this department.	ʃi z ðə wʌn rɪ 'spɒnsəbl̩, fə ðɪs dɪ 'pɑːtmənt	Shí iss de wuan rís ponsebo for diss dípartment
No sé cuál es el sentido de todo esto	I don't know what the point of all this is.	'aɪ dəʊnt nəʊ 'wɒt ðə pɔɪnt əv ɔːl ðɪs ɪz	Ái doúnt nou wuat de póint of ol dis iss
Ya es hora de que te ganes la vida por tu cuenta	It's about time you make a living on your own.	ɪts ə 'baʊt 'taɪm ju 'meɪk ə 'lɪvɪŋ ɒn jər əʊn	Ít's a 'baut táim iu méik a líving on ior óun
Nos enfrentamos a un despido después de la huelga	We are facing the sack after the strike.	wɪ ə 'feɪsɪŋ ðə sæk 'ɑːftə ðə straɪk	Wui ár féising de sak áfter de straik

## Day 9

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Él es más rápido que yo haciendo eso	He is quicker (at) doing this than I am.	hi z 'kwɪkər ət 'duːɪŋ ðɪs ðən 'aɪ æm	Hi iss kuíker at duing diss dan ái am
Cuanto más tiempo estoy sentado aquí, menos ganas tengo de ponerme de pie	The longer I sit here, the less I feel like standing up.	ðə 'lɒŋgə 'aɪ sɪt hɪə   ðə les 'aɪ fiːl 'laɪk 'stændɪŋ ʌp	De lónger ai sit hir de les ai fil láik sstanding ap
Parecía que el anciano no entendía lo que estaba ocurriendo	It seemed as the old man didn't know what was going on.	ɪt 'siːmd əz ði əʊld mæn 'dɪdnt nəʊ 'wɒt wəz 'gəʊɪŋ ɒn	It simd ass di ould man didn't nóu wuat wuass góing on
Él trabajó como contable en la empresa la mayor parte de su vida	He worked as an accountant in the company for most of his life.	hi wɜːkt əz ən ə 'kaʊntənt ɪn ðə 'kʌmpəni fə məʊst əv ɪz laɪf	Hi wuórkt ass an a 'kauntant in de kámpani for móust of his láif

## Day 10

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Ellos no estuvieron a la altura de las expectativas	They fell short of the expectations.	'ðeɪ fel ʃɔːt əv ði ɪkspek'teɪʃnz	Dei fel short of di ekspek'teishonss
Seguro que llueve más tarde	It's bound to rain later.	ɪts baʊnd tə reɪn 'leɪtə	Its báind tu réin leiter
Está previsto que lleguemos a las siete	We are due to arrive at seven o'clock.	wɪ ə djuː tu ə 'raɪv ət 'sevn, ə 'klɒk	Wuí ar du tu áraiv at séven o'clock
Se le tiene en alta estima	He is highly thought of.	hi z 'haɪli 'θɔːt əv	Hi iss háili zotof

## 2- Listening to the audiobook

Listen chapter 10 to 19 and try to memorise four sentences from each chapter

### Chapter 10

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
El cuadro envejece; Dorian no	The picture gets old; Dorian doesn't.	ðə 'pɪktʃə 'gets əʊld   'dɔːiən 'dʌznt	De pikcher gets ould, dórian dassent
A pesar de los años, conservaba una extraordinaria belleza	Despite his years he conserved his extraordinary beauty.	dɪ 'spɑɪt ɪz 'jɪəz hi kən'sɜːvd ɪz ɪk'strɔːdn ,ri 'bjʊːti	Dɪ'spɑɪt hiss ierss hi hi kon'sɜːvd hiss ek'straordinari biuti
Cuanto más sabía, más quería saber	The more he knew, the more he wanted to know.	ðə mɔː hi njuː   ðə mɔː hi 'wɒntɪd tə nəʊ 	De mor hi niu, de mor hi wuantid tu nou
Una o dos veces al mes abría las puertas de su casa	Once or twice a month he would open the doors of his house.	wʌns ɔː twaɪs ə mʌn θ hi wʊd 'əʊpən ðə dɔːz əv ɪz 'haʊs	Wuans or tuais a monz hi wud ópen de dorss of hiss háus

### Chapter 11

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Sintió miedo y no supo porqué	He felt afraid and he didn't know why.	hi felt ə 'freɪd ənd hi 'dɪdnt nəʊ waɪ	Hi fel a'freid and hi didn't nóu wuai
¡Qué suerte habernos cruzado!	How lucky to have come across you.	'haʊ 'lʌki tə həv kʌm ə 'krɒs ju	Hau laki tu hav kam a'kros iu
Permítame entrar por un momento	Let me in for a moment.	let miː ɪn fər ə 'mɒmənt	Letmi in for a móument
¿Qué tienen que ver esas historias conmigo?	What do all these stories have to do with me?	'wɒt də ɔːl ðiːz 'stɔːrɪz həv tə də wɪð miː	Wuat du ol diss sstoris háv tu du wuiz me?

### Chapter 12

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
La lámpara producía sombras en la pared	The lamp produced shadows on the wall.	ðə læmp prə'djuːst   'ʃædəʊz ɒn ðə wɔːl	De lámp pro'dust shádous on de wuol
Descorra esa cortina y verá la mía.	Draw back this curtain and see mine.	drɔː 'bæk ðɪs 'kɜːtn , ənd 'siː maɪn	Dro bak dis kérten and si máin
El horror no había podido ocultar toda su extraordinaria belleza.	The horror hadn't been able to hide all that extraordinary beauty.	ðə 'hɒrə 'hædnt biːn 'eɪbl , tə haɪd ɔːl ðət ɪk'strɔːdn ,ri 'bjʊːti	De hórór hándnt bin éibol tu háid ol de ek'straordinari bíuti
Todos llevamos dentro el cielo y el infierno	Each of us has heaven and hell in him.	ɪːtʃ əv əz həz 'hevn , ənd hel ɪn ɪm	Ich of ass has héven and hel in him

### Chapter 13

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Él había decidido no pensar en lo sucedido	He had decided not to think about what had happened.	hi həd dɪ 'saɪdɪd nɒt tə 'θɪŋk ə 'baʊt 'wɒt həd 'hæpənd	Hi had di'saidid not tu zink a'baut wuát hapend
Su amistad terminó de repente	Their friendship ended suddenly.	ðəə 'frendʃɪp 'endɪd sʌdn.li	Der fréndshio endid sádenli
Era una cuestión de vida o muerte	It was a question of life and death.	ɪt wəz ə 'kwɛstʃən əv laɪf ənd deθ	It wuass a kueshion of láif and déz
Lo que tiene que hacer es destruir el cadáver que está arriba	What you have to do is to destroy the corpse which is upstairs.	'wɒt ju həv tə dəz tə dɪ 'strɔɪ ðə kɔ:ps wɪtʃ ɪz ɪp'steəz	Wuat iu hav tu du iss tu di'stro de kórpss wuich is ap'sterss

### Chapter 14

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Estaba muy nervioso, pero sus modales eran tan elegantes y naturales como siempre	He was very nervous, but his manners were as grateful and natural as ever.	hi wəz 'veri 'nɜ:vəs   bət ɪz 'mænəz wər əz 'grɛɪtʃəl ənd 'nætʃrəl əz 'evə	Hi wuass veri nérvess bat hiss máners wuer ass gréitful and násheral ass éver
Pero en la cena no pudo comer nada	But at dinner he couldn't eat anything.	bət ət 'dɪnə hi 'kʊdnt i:t 'eniθɪŋ	Bat at díner hi kudnt it enizing
Creo que está enamorado	I think he is in love.	'aɪ 'θɪŋk hi zɪn lʌv	Ai zink hi iss in lov
Me hace sentir bien; mejor que la medicina que me recetan	You make me feel well; better than the medicine they prescribe.	ju 'meɪk mi: 'fi:l wəl   'betə ðən ðə 'medsn. 'ðeɪ prɪ'skraɪb	Iu méik mi fiil wuel béter dan de médisin déi préskraib

### Chapter 15

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Le ardía la garganta y sus delicadas manos se retorcían nerviosas	His throat burned and his delicate hands twitched nervously.	hɪz θrəʊt bɜ:nd ənd ɪz 'delɪkət hændz twɪtʃt 'nɜ:vəsli	Hiss zróut bernd and his déliket handss tuícht nérvessli
Vio a un marinero extendido sobre una mesa	He saw a sailor sprawled across a table.	hi 'sɔ:r ə 'seɪlə sprɔ:ld ə 'krɒs ə 'teɪbl.	Hi so a seilor sprold a'kros a teibol
Dos mujeres molestaban a un anciano	Two women were teasing an old man.	tu: 'wɪmɪn wə 'ti:zɪŋ ən əʊld mæn	Tu wuimen wuer tissing an old man
Él respiró profundamente y tembló de placer	He breathed deeply and trembled with pleasure.	hi brɪ:ðd 'di:pli ənd 'treɪbl d wɪð 'plezə	Hi brid dípli and trémbold wuiz plésher

## Chapter 16

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
No me lo recuerde	Don't remind me of that.	dəʊnt rɪ 'maɪnd mi : əv ðæt	Dount rímaɪnd mi of dat
Dorian está bastante inaguantable esta noche	Dorian is quite unbearable tonight.	'dɔ : iən z kwaɪt ʌn 'beəərəbl , tə 'naɪt	Dorian iss kuáit an'bearabol túnait
¿Y por qué se enfada?	And why does she get angry?	ənd waɪ dəz fi 'get 'æŋgri	And wuái dass shi get ángri?
Cada triunfo crea un enemigo	Every triumph creates an enemy.	'evri 'traɪəmf kri : 'eɪts ən 'enəmi	Évri traimf kréits an énemi

## Chapter 17

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
También pensaba que quizá solo era fruto de su imaginación	He also thought it was just a figment of his imagination.	hi 'ɔ : lsəʊ 'θɔ : tɪt wəz dʒəst ə 'fɪgmənt əv ɪz ɪ , mædʒɪ 'neɪfɪn ,	Hi ólso zot it wuass chast a figment of hiss ímagna'shion
¡Qué tontería, Dorian!	What nonsense, Dorian!	'wɒt 'nɒnsns   'dɔ : iən	Wuat nónsens, dórian!
Volvieron arrastrando un cuerpo	They returned dragging a body.	'ðeɪ rɪ 'tɜ : nd 'dræŋɪŋ ə 'bɒdi	Déi rí'ternd dráging a bodi
Le pareció que la mala suerte le perseguía.	He thought that bad luck was following him.	hi 'θɔ : t ðæt bæd lʌk wəz 'fɒləʊɪŋ ɪm	Hi zot dat bad lack wuass fólouing him

## Chapter 18

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
Le ruego no cambie	I beg you not to change.	'aɪ beg ju nɒt tə tʃeɪndʒ	Ai beg iu not tu chéinch
No he ido al club durante días	I haven't been to the club for days.	'aɪ 'hævnt , t bi : n tə ðə klʌb fə deɪz	Ai hávent bin tu de klab for déiss
No tengo la menor idea	I haven't the slightest idea.	'aɪ 'hævnt , t ðə 'slaɪtɪst aɪ 'dɪə	Ai hávent de sslaitist aí'dia
¿Se le ha ocurrido pensar que Basil fue asesinado?	Has it occurred to you that Basil was murdered?	həz ɪt ə 'kɜ : d tə ju ðæt 'bæzl , wəz 'mɜ : dəd	Hassit o'kerd tu iu dat bássl wuass mérded?

## Chapter 19

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate pron.
El pasó caminando a dos jóvenes	He walked past two young men.	hi 'wɔ : kt pɑ : st tu : jʌŋ men	Hi wuákt pást tú íang men
Se arrepintió de haber deseado que el cuadro	He regretted having wished that the	hi rɪ 'gretɪd 'hævɪŋ wɪʃt ðæt ðə 'pɔ : trɪt	Hi rigretid háving wuíshd dat de pórtreit



cargara con el peso de sus pecados	portrait would bear the weight of his sins.	wɔɪd beə ðə weɪt əv ɪz sɪnz	wud bear de wu'eɪtəv hiss sɪnss
Basil había pintado el cuadro que había arruinado su vida	Basil had painted the portrait that had ruined his life.	<sup>1</sup> bæzəl, həd <sup>1</sup> peɪntɪd ðə <sup>1</sup> pɔ:trɪt ðæt həd <sup>1</sup> ru:ɪnd ɪz laɪf	Bassel had péintɪd de portriet dat had ruɪnd hiss láɪf
¿Qué quería decir?	What did it mean?	<sup>1</sup> wət dɪd ɪt mi:n	Wuát didit min?

### 3. Watching videos on Youtube of Public Speakers

I have chosen two public speakers on Youtube to show you how you can increase your vocabulary and reinforce the knowledge of structures.

These public speakers are Obama (American English) and the Queen of England (British English). Please, only choose one of them to increase your vocabulary. Choosing both will be harder because of the different accents.

[Here](#) you have Obama.

[Here](#) you have the Queen of England.

If you don't like either of them, check out TED <http://www.ted.com/>, Toastmasters <http://www.toastmasters.org/> or similar pages in order to find speakers that you would like to mimic. It is important that you like the speaker because it will make the exercises more fun and you'll be more motivated.

#### What to do with these videos?

##### a) Listen to only 1 minute of each video over and over again

Notice pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary and structure. In other words, pay attention to ALL the details and try to remember them by repeating them aloud.

Then, when you feel that you've mastered the first minute, continue with the next minute and so on until the end of the video.

##### b) Get a physical or virtual notebook and write down the new structures.

Example with Obama

In the first seconds of his speech Obama says:

- **Tonight, after 200 years of a former colony won the right to determine its own destiny.**





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You may know all the words of this clause, but not how to express an idea with them. Therefore, you'll have to dissect it like this:

"Tonight, after 200 years of a former colony."  
- (it) won the right to determine its own destiny.

"Former colony", you have to visualise the time when the United States was a colony of England, and analyse the word "former" (ex).

You can check out other terms in wordreference which go together with the word "former".

For example: former president, former wife and former husband.

These combinations are very important because they teach us when you can use one word with another, and when not.

- "Won the right". Won the right, won the match, won the race and won the lottery.

- "Its own destiny." Its own house, its own car and its own job.

Example with the Queen of England: at 1:08 minutes, she says:

• **We've seen that it's in hardship that often we find strength from our families.**

As we have seen in the case of Obama's speech, you may know all the words separately but not how to express them in this structure.

So I dissect it:

- We've seen that it's in hardship  
- (That) often we find strength from our families.

You can imagine "hardship". The Queen of England, for example, and the hard times she had facing the death of Diana.

You can look up more examples with hardship in the dictionary.

For example: "After a youth spent in hardship and privation"

You should listen to the new sentence in IVONA or similar software.



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Notice that she says: "IN hardship" not "~~on~~ hardship".

There is no "the" either, "~~the~~ hardship" as it is in Spanish, "adversidad."

-to find strength. You should look up more examples of sentences with "find strength".

Then, you should read them and then try to pronounce them.

**IMPORTANT.** Do not spend hours searching for vocabulary and new phrases. Take just three examples and practise for 10 minutes every day. Another day, another three examples. You always have to set short goals or otherwise you'll end up overwhelmed and perhaps feeling like you want to stop trying.