



## ***Nota cultural*** ***La mentirita***



*La mentirita*, "the little lie," is actually an art form. In Mexico, saying "no" or declining an invitation may be considered rude or even hurtful. People simply say "sí" automatically in most cases. That can be a problem if you get invited to *un bautizo*<sup>1</sup> and *una boda*<sup>2</sup> taking place on the same day!

*La mentirita* to the rescue! You make up any plausible though obviously fake story like ...

"My mom broke her hip, and the only specialist is in San Luis Potosí and we have to go there this Saturday, so I cannot attend."

Everyone recognizes it's a *mentirita*. But it would be rude to call you on it, and besides, if it's a really good *mentirita*, they will remember it and use it themselves sometime!

1. a baptism
2. a wedding

What do you say when you want to decline an invitation? Do you tell the truth? Do you accept the invitation anyway? Do you tell a *mentirita*? What do you think is considered most acceptable in the United States? Do you remember a time when you told a *mentirita*? When was it? What were the circumstances? Do you think the people you told believed you?