



Mexican Spanish

PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY

Look out for the following icons throughout the book:



'Shortcut' Phrase

Easy to remember alternative to the full phrase



Q&A Pair

'Question-and-answer' pair – we suggest a response to the question asked



Look For

Phrases you may see on signs, menus etc



Listen For

Phrases you may hear from officials, locals etc

LANGUAGE TIP

Language Tip

An insight into the foreign language

CULTURE TIP

Culture Tip

An insight into the local culture

How to read the phrases:

- Coloured words and phrases throughout the book are phonetic guides to help you pronounce the foreign language.
- Lists of phrases with tinted background are options you can choose to complete the phrase above them.

These abbreviations will help you choose the right words and phrases in this book:

f feminine

m masculine

pol polite

inf informal

pl plural

sg singular

lit literal

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About Mexican Spanish

Learn about Mexican Spanish, build your own sentences and pronounce words correctly.

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Travel Phrases

Ready-made phrases for every situation – buy a ticket, book a hotel and much more.



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Menu Decoder

Dishes and ingredients explained – order with confidence and try new foods.

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Two-Way Dictionary

Quick reference vocabulary guide – 3500 words to help you communicate.

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5 Phrases to Learn Before You Go

- 1** **Where can I buy handicrafts?**
¿Dónde se puede comprar artesanías?
don-de se pwe-de kom-prar ar-te-sa-nee-as

Star buys in Mexico are the regional handicrafts produced all over the country, mainly by the indigenous people.

- 2** **Which *antojitos* do you have?**
¿Qué antojitos tiene? *ke an-to-khee-tos tye-ne*

'Little whimsies' (snacks) can encompass anything – have an entire meal of them, eat a few as appetisers, or get one on the street for a quick bite.

- 3** **Not too spicy, please.**
No muy picoso, por favor. *no mooy pee-ko-so por fa-vor*

Not all food in Mexico is spicy, but beware – many dishes can be fierce indeed, so it may be a good idea to play it safe.

- 4** **Where can I find a *cantina* nearby?**
¿Dónde hay una cantina cerca de aquí?
don-de ai oo-na kan-tee-na ser-ka de a-kee

Ask locals about the classical Mexican venue for endless snacks, and often dancing as well.

- 5** **How do you say ... in your language?**
¿Cómo se dice ... en su lengua?
ko-mo se dee-se ... en su len-gwa

Numerous indigenous languages are spoken around Mexico, primarily Mayan languages and Náhuatl. People will appreciate it if you try to use their local language.

10 Phrases to Sound Like a Local

Hey! :: **iOye!/iOiga!** inf/pol :: o·ye/oy·ga

How's things? :: **¿Qué tal?** :: ke tal

What's new? :: **¿Qué onda?** :: ke on·da

Cool, dude! :: **iChido, güey!** :: chee·do gway

Awesome! :: **iCámara!** :: ka·ma·ra

Check this out! :: **iCheca esto!** :: che·ka es·to

Wow, really? :: **iÓrale!** :: o·ra·le

Are you serious? :: **¿Te cae?** :: te kai

You must be kidding! :: **iNo manches!** :: no man·ches

Whatever. :: **Me vale.** :: me va·le