

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:

a adjective
f feminine
inf informal
lit literal

m masculine
n noun
pl plural
pol polite

sg singular
v verb

Contents

PAGE

6



About Spanish

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

Introduction	6
Top Phrases	8
Pronunciation	10
Grammar	14

PAGE

31

Travel Phrases

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



Basics

31

Understanding	32
Numbers & Amounts	34
Times & Dates	36



Practical

41

Transport	42
Border Crossing	55
Directions	57
Accommodation	60
Shopping	74
Communications	84
Money & Banking	91
Business	94

Sightseeing	96
Senior & Disabled Travellers.....	101
Travel with Children.....	103



Social **105**

Meeting People.....	106
Interests	120
Feelings & Opinions.....	125
Going Out	130
Romance	136
Beliefs & Culture.....	140
Sports.....	142
Outdoors	147



Safe Travel **153**

Emergencies	154
Police	156
Health	158



Food **167**

Eating Out	168
Self-Catering.....	182
Vegetarian & Special Meals.....	187

PAGE
190



Menu Decoder

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

PAGE
205



Two-Way Dictionary

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

English–Spanish Dictionary	205
Spanish–English Dictionary	237

Index	267
--------------------	-----

INTRO

Spanish

español es·pa·nyol

Who Speaks Spanish?

Official Language



Why Bother

You'll be seduced by this melodic language and have fun trying to roll your *rr*'s like the locals – not to mention ordering scrumptious tapas or engaging in all the shouting at the *fútbol*.

Distinctive Sounds

The strong and rolled *r*, harsh and guttural *kh* and, in European Spanish, 'lispings' *th*.

Spanish in the World

Over the last 500 years, Spanish in Latin America has evolved differently to the

300 MILLION speak Spanish as their first language

100 MILLION speak Spanish as their second language

Spanish of Europe. Among other differences, you'll easily recognise Latin Americans by the lack of lisp in their speech – ie *cerveza* (beer) is *ther·ve·tha* in Europe but *ser·ve·sa* across the Atlantic.

Spanish in Spain

Spanish, or Castilian (*castelano ka·ste·lya·no*) is primarily the language of Castille (covering the largest territory in Spain). However, Catalan, Galician and Basque are also official languages, and locals in these regions are very proud of their own language.

False Friends

Warning: many Spanish words look like English words but have a different

meaning altogether, eg *suburbio soo·boor·byo* is a slum district, not a suburb (which is *barrio ba·ryo* in Spanish).

Language Family

Romance (developed from Vulgar Latin spoken by Roman soldiers and merchants during the conquest from the 3rd to the 1st century BC). Close relatives include Portuguese, Italian, French and Romanian.

Must-Know Grammar

Spanish has a formal and informal word for 'you' (*Usted oo·ste* and *tú too* respectively). The verbs also have a different ending for each person, like the English 'I do' vs 'he/she does'.

Donations to English

Thanks to Columbus' discovery of the New World in 1492, a large corpus of words from indigenous American languages has entered English via Spanish. You may recognise *canyon*, *guerrilla*, *ranch*, *tornado*...

5 Phrases to Learn Before You Go

- 1** **What time does it open/close?**
¿A qué hora abren/cierran? *a ke o-ra ab-ren/thye-ran*

The Spanish tend to observe the siesta (midday break), so opening times may surprise you.

- 2** **Are these complimentary?**
¿Son gratis? *son gra-tees*

Tapas (bar snacks) are available pretty much around the clock at Spanish bars. You'll find they're free in some places.

- 3** **When is admission free?**
¿Cuándo es la entrada gratuita?
kwan-do es la en-tra-da gra-twee-ta

Many museums and galleries in Spain have admission-free times, so check before buying tickets.

- 4** **Where can we go (salsa) dancing?**
¿Dónde podemos ir a bailar (salsa)?
don-de po-de-mos eer a bai-lar (sal-sa)

Flamenco may be the authentic viewing experience in Spain, but to actively enjoy the music you'll want to do some dancing.

- 5** **How do you say this in (Catalan/Galician/Basque)?**
¿Cómo se dice ésto en (catalán/gallego/euskera)?
ko-mo se dee-the es-to en (ka-ta-lan/ga-lye-go/e-oos-ke-ra)

Spain has four official languages, and people in these regions will appreciate it if you try to use their local language.

10 Phrases to Sound Like a Local

What's up? :: ¿Qué pasa? :: ke pa·sa

Great! :: ¡Genial! :: khe·nyal

How cool! :: ¡Qué guay! :: ke gwai

That's fantastic! :: ¡Estupendo! :: es·too·pen·do

Really? :: ¿En serio? :: en se·ryo

You don't say! :: ¡No me digas! :: no me dee·gas

Sure. :: Seguro. :: se·goo·ro

OK. :: Vale. :: va·le

Of course! :: ¡Por supuesto! :: por soo·pwes·to

Whatever. :: Lo que sea. :: lo ke se·a



ABOUT Spanish

Pronunciation

Spanish pronunciation isn't difficult, as most sounds are similar to the sounds found in English. The relationship between Spanish sounds and their spelling is straightforward and consistent. There are some easy rules to follow and once you learn them you shouldn't have problems being understood. As in most languages, Spanish pronunciation can vary according to region – this book focuses on Castilian Spanish.

Vowel Sounds

SYMBOL	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT	SPANISH EXAMPLE	TRANSLITERATION
a	alms	agua	a·gwa
ai	aisle	bailar	bai·lar
e	red	número	noo·me·ro
ee	bee	día	dee·a
ey	hey	seis	seys
o	go	ojo	o·kho
oo	book	gusto	goo·sto
ow	cow	autobús	ow·to·boos
oy	boy	hoy	oy