

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

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Learn about 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

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Two-Way Dictionary

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

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INTRO

Spanish

español es·pa·nyol

Who Speaks Spanish?

Official Language

NORTH &
CENTRAL AMERICAMEXICO
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
NICARAGUA
EL SALVADOR
COSTA RICA
PANAMA

CARIBBEAN

CUBA
PUERTO RICO
DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA
CHILE • BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
URUGUAY • PERU
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
ECUADOREUROPE
& AFRICASPAIN
EQUATORIAL
GUINEA

Widely Understood USA

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 (*castellano* *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

Understanding

KEY PHRASES

Do you speak English?

¿Habla inglés?
pol

ab·la een·gles

I (don't) understand.

(No) Entiendo.

(no) en·tyen·do

What does ... mean?

¿Qué significa ...?

ke
seeg·nee·fee·ka ...

There are two words for 'Spanish': *español* **es·pa·nyol** and *castellano* **kas·te·lya·no**. *Español* is used in Spain, whereas *castellano* is more likely to be used by Latin Americans.

Q Do you speak (English)?

¿Habla (inglés)?
ab·la (een·gles)

Q Does anyone speak (English)?

¿Hay alguien que hable (inglés)?
ai al·gyen ke ab·le een·gles

A I (don't) speak Spanish.

(No) Hablo español.
(no) ab·lo es·pa·nyol

A I speak a little (Spanish).

Hablo un poco de (español).
ab·lo oon po·ko de (es·pa·nyol)

I'd like to practise Spanish.

Me gustaría practicar español.
me goos·ta·ree·a prak·tee·kar
es·pa·nyol

I need an interpreter who speaks (English).

Necesito un intérprete que hable (inglés).
ne·the·see·to oon in·ter·pre·te
ke ab·le (een·gles)