

Spanish



Spanish has spread far and wide throughout the world. Besides being spoken in Spain it's the official language of almost all of the South American republics. It is also spoken in the six republics of Central America, in Mexico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, some parts of the USA, in the Balearic and Canary islands, in parts of Morocco and the west coast of Africa, and Equatorial Guinea. Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world. In all approximately 270 million people speak Spanish as a first language. A further 80 million speak it as a second language.

Pronunciation and usage varies between regions and countries but the differences aren't so great as to make each unintelligible to speakers from other regions. Spanish is a romance language closely related to Italian and Portuguese.

Consonant systems in both Spanish and English have similarities but vowel systems and sentence stress vary greatly. In Spanish, syllables all take about the same length; this is different to English where stress and rhythm give a lot of clue to meaning. Freer word order in Spanish means the word needing emphasis can be moved to the end of a sentence. Spanish intonation is 'flatter' than English and English listeners may find Spanish speakers difficult to understand.

Small but distinct differences in English vowel sounds can be hard for Spanish speakers to differentiate. *Sheep* and *ship*, *cart*, *cat* and *cut*, *caught*, *coat* and *cot*.

At the ends of words Spanish learners may use *t* instead of *d*, *k* for a final *g* and *p* for a final *b*. In Spanish there is no *z* and it will be replaced with *s*. As well, often *s* will sound like *sh* causing confusion with words like *she* and *see*. *B* and *v* will tend to sound very similar to Spanish speakers. Consonant clusters are less common in Spanish and sometimes they may leave out consonants to make it easier for them to say, e.g. *instan* for *instant*, *brefas* for *breakfast*.

Where English speakers might say *I like this* Spanish speakers will say *This pleases me*, so when they like something they may say *Hockey pleases me* instead of *I like hockey*.

Plural forms are similar to English but endings will also change on articles, adjectives and possessives, so Spanish speakers might say *reds roses* or *hers news dresses*.

Punctuation is similar to English though sometimes the Spanish will use semi-colons where in English a full stop would be preferred. Question and exclamation marks are written at both the beginning and end of the sentence. However, at the beginning the mark is written upside down.

When forming negative statements the negative word goes before the verb phrase, e.g. *Sally not see the car*. And sometimes instead of *not*, learners may use *no*, e.g. *I no see the plane*. For Spanish speakers the double negative is standard, e.g. *I not see nobody*. Both Spanish and English have articles but there are differences in their use. They will use *the* with mass nouns such as *the food*. They may also use *the* with

possessive pronouns. *These are the yours*. Sometimes the indefinite article *a* will be replaced with *one*. *I used to drive one car*.

There are many words in Spanish that are similar to English, but meanings are either slightly or very different. Here are some examples.

SPANISH	ENGLISH translation
<i>beneficio</i>	<i>profit</i>
<i>embarazada/embarassada</i>	<i>pregnant</i>
<i>eventual</i>	<i>possible</i>
<i>formal</i>	<i>reliable</i>
<i>lectura</i>	<i>reading matter</i>
<i>pariente/parent</i>	<i>relative</i>
<i>suburbio/suburbi</i>	<i>slum</i>

Spanish-speaking people have come to New Zealand from Spain and Central and South America. A large number have come from Chile where they fled to escape the Pinochet regime in the late 1970s.

Chileans greet each other with a handshake or hug and a kiss on the right cheek for women. Guests usually wait outside the door until invited in. The head of the family should be greeted first. Maintaining eye contact during conversation is important.



Spanish



GENERAL

ENGLISH	SPANISH	PRONUNCIATION
Hi/Hello.....	Hola.....	Oh lah
Bye/Goodbye.....	Hasta luego/Adiós.....	Astah looaigo/Adee-us
How are you?.....	¿Como está?.....	Komo esstah?
Fine/Well, and you?.....	Bien/¿y usted?.....	Bee-en/Ee ustead?
Not so good.....	No muy bien.....	No moy bee-en
What's your name?.....	¿Cómo se llama?.....	Komo se yahah?
My name is.....	Me llamo.....	Meh yamo
Pardon?.....	¿Perdón? ¿Cómo?.....	Peardone? Komo?
Yes.....	Si.....	See
No.....	No.....	Noh
I don't know.....	No sé.....	Noh se
Please.....	Por favor.....	Pore fahbore
Thank you.....	Gracias.....	Graseeah

DURING THE LESSON

Good!.....	¡Bien!.....	Bee-en!
Do you understand?.....	¿Entiende?.....	Entee-ende?
Try again.....	Intente otra vez.....	Intendeh oltra vez
Do you want some help?.....	¿Necesita alguna ayuda?.....	Niyahseta algoona aryoudah?
Don't worry, learning takes time.....	No se preocupe, aprender toma tiempo.....	Noh say preyhkoopah, aprender towmah tee-enpoh
Shall we take a break now?.....	¿Tomamos un descanso ahora?.....	Tohmahmos oon deskanso ah-orah?
Let's finish (the lesson) now.....	Terminemos (la lección) ahora.....	Tearmeenaymos ah-orah
You're doing well.....	Va muy bien.....	Ba moy bee-en
Can you say it now?.....	¿Puede repetirlo ahora?.....	Pwearde repehteerloh ah-ora?
Can you answer (the question)?.....	¿Puede contestar?.....	Pwearde contesstar?
Now you ask me.....	Ahora usted me pregunta.....	Ah-orah ustead meh preygoontah
See you next week.....	Hasta la semana próxima.....	Asta lah saymahnah prockseemah