

Spanish 101



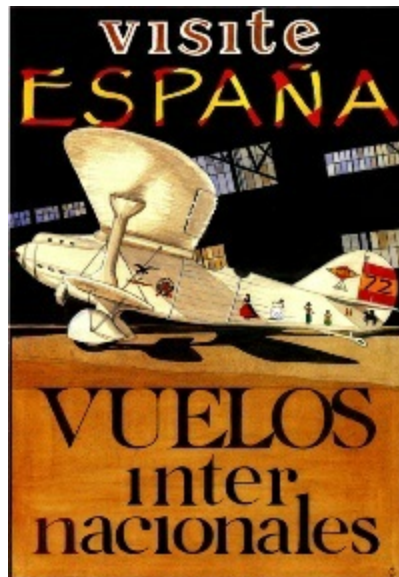
A Phrasebook and Guide

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Spanish 101

Basic Phrases and Pronunciation

Compiled and Edited by Gabriel Drexler



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Spanish or **Castilian** (Spanish: *español* or *castellano*) is an Iberian Romance language, and the fourth most widely spoken language in the world according to some sources, while other sources list it as the 2nd or 3rd most spoken language. It is spoken as a first language by about 352 million people, or by 417 million including non-native speakers (according to 1999 estimates). Some assert that, after English, Spanish can now be considered the second most important language in the world (probably replacing even French), due to its increased usage in the United States, the high birth rate in most of the countries where it is official, the growing economies of the Spanish-speaking world, its enormous influence on the global music market, and simply due to the broad number of areas on the Earth's surface that the language is spoken in.

This guide will give you the basics you need to start your studies, take a vacation, and open up some new horizons in your life!

Vowels

a

like 'a' in "art"

e

like the 'ay' in "day"

i

like 'ee' in "see" or "deed"

o

like 'ow' in "low"

u

like 'oo' in "hoop"

Consonants

b

like 'b' in "bed": boca

c

when followed by 'e' or 'i', like 'c' in "cell" (Latin America) or 'th' in "thin" (Spain): cine; otherwise like 'k' in "kid": calle, doctor

ch

like 'ch' in "touch": muchacho

d

like 'd' in "dog": dedo

f

like 'f' in "fine": faro

g

when followed by 'e' or 'i', like 'ch' in "loch" (general = heh-neh-RAHL), otherwise like "g" in "go" (gato). In the clusters "gue" and "gui", the "u" is silent (guitarra), unless it bears a diaeresis, as in "güe" and "güi" (pedigüeño).

gu, gü

like 'Gu' in McGuire or 'w' in "wire" (agua, agüita)

h

silent: hora= or-ah

j

like 'h' in english: jamón

k

like 'c' in "cat": kilo

l

like 'l' in "love": lapis

ll

like 'y' in "you" or, occasionally (in some parts of Latin America), like an English "j": lluvia ("lluvia" could be both "you-vya" or "jew-vIA")

m

like 'm' in "mother": mano

n

like 'n' in "nice", and like 'n' in "anchor": noche, ancla

ñ

like 'ny' in "canyon": cañón, piñata

p

like 'p' in "pig": perro

q

like 'q' in "quiche" (always with a silent "u"): queso, pronounced KAY-so.

r, rr

Spanish has two "r" sounds which are very different from their counterparts in most languages, and certainly very different from the English. As a result most English speakers lisp their r's when they come to Spanish. However, if you use your native pronunciation it's unlikely that people understand perro (dog) when you meant pero (but), and they may not understand you at all.

single flap r (ere)

Always written "r", this sound is created by putting the tip of the tongue up against where the front of the roof of the mouth meets the upper teeth, very similar to the action English speakers make to pronounce l or t. This is not widely taught but can be practiced by anyone. Particular care should be taken when r appears after a consonant, eg in the word otro (other). tr is a particular sound in English, which if you use in Spanish will be an incomprehensible lisp. One must separate the two sounds out, as in wha(t) (r) rubbish, clicking the r properly.

rolled r (erre)

Written "r" at the beginning of the word, or after "l", "n", or "s" (ropa, enredo). Written "rr" between vowels (cerro). It's a multiply vibrating sound. Whereas all English can learn to tap out a single r it seems that many adult non-Spanish speakers simply do not have the ability to vibrate the tongue in the way needed to pronounce rr.

s

like 'ss' in "hiss": sopa

t

like 't' in "top": tapa

v

like 'b' in "bed": vaca, pronounced BAH-kah. To distinguish v from b when spelling, one says v chica or b grande to know the difference.

w

like 'w' in "weight" in English words, whisky (pronounced WEESS-kee). Like 'b' in "bed" in Germanic words.

x

like 'x' in "sex" (sexo). Like 'ss' in "hiss" at beginning of a word (xilófono). Like 'ch' in "loch" in the words México, mexicano, Oaxaca, and oaxaqueño.

y

like 'y' in "yes": payaso. Like 'y' in "boy": hoy.

z

like 's' in "supper" (Latin America), like 'th' in "thin" (Spain): zorro. See c above.

Diphthongs

ai, ay

like 'eye': baile

au

like 'ow' in 'cow': causa

ei, ey

like 'ay' in "say": reina, rey.

eu

like "ooo" euro = "ooo-row"

ia

like 'ya' in 'Kenya': piano

ie

like 'ye' in "yes": pie = "pee-yeh"

io

like 'yo': dio

iu

like 'ew' in few: ciudad = "see-you-thaad"

oi, oy

like 'oy' in "boy": soy

ou

like 'ou' in "though". Present only in foreign words: show

ua

like 'wa' in "wallet": cuatro

ue

like 'we' in "well": puedo

ui, uy

like 'wi' in "winter": ruido

ui

like 'ooy': cuido = "coo-wee-dough"

uo

like "wa" in "water": averiguo

Word Stress

Word stress can affect the meaning of the word and generally follows these rules:

If a word is marked with an accent, then that syllable receives the stress.

Additionally, if the accent marks a diphthong, a syllable break occurs between the two vowels of the diphthong.

If a word is NOT marked with an accent, then:

1. If the word ends in a consonant other than N or S, the stress occurs on the last syllable.

2. If the word ends in a vowel, N or S, the stress occurs on the next to last syllable.

Examples:

círculo (SEER-koo-loh)

circle

circulo (seer-KOO-loh)

I circulate

circuló (seer-koo-LOH)

(s)he/it circulated

estás (ehss-TAHSS)

you are

estas (EHSS-tahss)

these

origen (oh-REE-hehn)

origin

orígenes (oh-REE-hehn-ehss)

origins

ciudad (syew-DAHD)

city

ciudades (syew-DAH-dehss)
cities

An accent can also be used to differentiate between words that are pronounced the same but have different meanings:

si = if
sí = yes

tu = your
tú = you

mi = my
mí = me

el = the
él = he

Basic Phrases

Hello (informal).

Hola. (OH-lah). For the formal equivalent of Hola, see good morning, good afternoon, good evening below.

How are you? (informal)

¿Cómo estás? (KOH-moh ehss-TAHSS?)

How are you (formal)

¿Cómo está usted? (KOH-mo ehss-TAH oo-stehd?)

Fine, thank you.

Muy bien, gracias. (mooy BYEHN, GRAH-syahss)

What is your name? (informal)

¿Cómo te llamas? (KOH-moh tay YAH-mahss?)

What is your name? (formal)

¿Cómo se llama usted? (KOH-mo say YAH-mah ooss-TAID?)

My name is _____ .
Me llamo _____ . (may YAH-moh _____ .)

Nice to meet you.
Encantado/a. (EHN-kahn-TAH-doh)

Please.
Por favor. (POHR fah-BOHR)

Thank you.
Gracias. (GRAH-SYAHSS)

You're welcome.
De nada. (day NAH-dah)

Yes.
Sí. (SEE)

No.
No. (NOH)

Excuse me. (getting attention)
Disculpe. (dees-KOOL-pay)

Excuse me. (begging pardon)
Perdón. (pair-DOHN)

I'm sorry.
Lo siento. (loh SYEHN-toh)

Goodbye.
Adiós. (ah-DYOHSS)

Goodbye. (informal)
Hasta luego. (AH-stah LWAY-goh)

I can't speak Spanish [well].

No hablo español [bien]. (noh AH-blow EHS-pahn-YOL [BYEHN])

Do you speak English?

¿Hablas inglés? (AH-blahss een-GLAYSS?) (informal); ¿Habla usted inglés? (AH-blah oos-TAID een-GLAYSS?)

Is there someone here who speaks English?

¿Hay alguien que hable inglés? (eye ahl-GYEN kay AH-blay een-GLAYSS?)

Help!

Ayuda! (ah-YOU-dah!); Socorro! (soh-COH-row!)

Good morning.

Buenos días. (BWAY-nohss DEE-ahss)

Good afternoon.

Buenas tardes. (BWAY-nahss TAR-dayss)

Good evening (when it's dark)

Buenas noches. (BWAY-nahss NOH-chayss)

Good night.

Buenas noches. (BWAY-nas NOH-chayss)

I don't understand.

No entiendo. (noh ehn-TYEHN-doh)

Where is the toilet?

¿Dónde está el baño? (DOHN-day ehss-TAH ehl BAHN-yoh?)

Problems

Leave me alone.

Déjame en paz. (DAY-hah-may en PASS)

Don't touch me!

¡No me toques! (noh may TOH-kayss!)

I'll call the police.

Llamaré a la policía. (yah-mah-RAY ah lah po-lee-SEE-ah)

Police!

Policía! (poh-lee-SEE-ah!)

Stop! Thief!

¡Alto, al ladrón! (AHL-toh ahl lah-DROAN!)

I need help.

Necesito ayuda. (ne-say-SEE-toh ah-YOU-dah)

It's an emergency.

Es una emergencia. (ayss oo-nah AY-mayr-HEN-syah)

I'm lost.

Estoy perdido/a (ay-STOY payr-DEE-doh/dah)

I lost my purse/handbag.

Perdí mi bolsa/bolso/cartera. (payr-DEE mee BOHL-sa / BOHL-so / cahr-TAY-rah)

I lost my wallet.

Perdí mi cartera/billetera. (payr-DEE mee BOHLcahr-TAY-rah / bee-yay-TAY-rah; the last may also be said as beel-yay-TAY-rah)

I'm sick.

Estoy enfermo/a. (ay-STOY ayn-FAYR-moh/mah)

I've been injured.

Estoy herido/a. (ay-STOY ay-REE-doh/dah)

I need a doctor.

Necesito un doctor. (nay-say-SEE-toh OON dohk-TOHR)

Can I use your phone?

¿Puedo usar su teléfono? (PWAY-doh oo-SAHR soo tay-LAY-foh-noh?)

Numbers

1
uno/a (OO-noh)

2
dos (doss)

3
tres (tress)

4
cuatro (KWA-tro)

5
cinco (SEEN-ko)

6
seis (SAISS)

7
siete (SYE-te)

8
ocho (O-cho)

9
nueve (NWAI-be)

10

diez (DYESS)

11

once (OHN-say)

12

doce (DOH-say)

13

trece (TRAY-say)

14

catorce (kah-TOHR-say)

15

quince (KEEN-say)

16

dieciseis (DYEESS-ee-SAYSS)

17

diecisiete (DYEESS-ee-SYAY-tay)

18

dieciocho (DYEESS-ee-OH-choh)

19

diecinueve (DYEESS-ee-NWAY-bay)

20

veinte (BAYN-tay)

21

veintiuno (BAYN-TYOO-noh)

22

veintidos (BAYN-tee-DOHSS)

23
veintitres (BAYN-tee-TRAYSS)

30
treinta (TRAYN-tah)

40
cuarenta (kwah-RAYN-tah)

50
cincuenta (seen-KWAYN-tah)

60
sesenta (say-SAYN-tah)

70
setenta (say-TAYN-tah)

80
ochenta (oh-CHAYN-tah)

90
noventa (noh-BAYN-tah)

100
cien (syehn)

200
doscientos (dos-SYEHN-tos)

300
trescientos (tres-SYEHN-tos)

500
quinientos (kee-NYEHN-tos)

1000
mil (MEEL)

2000
dos mil (dohss MEEL)

1,000,000
un millón (oon mee-YOHN)

half
medio (MAY-dyoh)

less
menos (MAY-nohss)

more
más (MAHSS)

Time

now
ahora (ah-OH-rah)

later
después (day-SPWAYSS)

before
antes (ahn-TAYSS)

morning
mañana (mah-NYAH-nah)

afternoon
tarde (TAHR-day)

night
noche (NOH-chay)

Clock

one o'clock AM
la una de la madrugada; la una de la mañana (lah OOH-nah day lah mah-drooh-GAH dah; lah OOH-nah day lah mahn-YAH-nah)

two o'clock AM
las dos de la madrugada; las dos de la mañana (lahss DOHSS day lah mah-drooh-GAH dah; lahss DOHSS day lah mahn-YAH-nah)

ten o'clock AM
las diez de la mañana (lahss dee-AYSS day lah mahn-YAH-nah)

noon
mediodía; las doce de la mañana (lahss DOH-say day lah mahn-YAH-nah)

one o'clock PM
la una de la tarde (lah OOH-nah day lah TAHR-day)

two o'clock PM
las dos de la tarde (lahss DOHSS day lah TAHR-day)

ten o'clock PM
las diez de la noche (lahss dee-AYSS day lah NOH-chay)

midnight
medianoche; las doce de la noche (may-dee-yah-NOH-chay; lahss DOH-say day lah NOH-chay)

Duration

_____ minute(s)
_____ minuto(s) (mee-NOOH-toh(ss))

_____ hour(s)
_____ hora(s) (OHR-ah(ss))

_____ day(s)
_____ día(s) (DEE-aah(ss))

_____ week(s)
_____ semana(s) (say-MAH-nah(ss))

_____ month(s)
_____ mes(es) (MAYSS-(ayss))

_____ year(s)
_____ año(s) (AH-nyoh(ss))

Days

today
hoy (OY)

yesterday
ayer(I-air)

tomorrow
mañana (mahn-YAH-nah)

this week
esta semana (EHS-tah say-MAH-nah)

last week
la semana pasada (lah say-MAH-nah pah-SAH-dah)

next week
la semana que viene (lah say-MAH-nah kay vee-AYN-ay)

Monday
lunes (LOOH-nayss)

Tuesday
martes (MAHR-tayss)

Wednesday
miércoles (mee-AIR-coh-layss)

Thursday
jueves (WHAY-vayss)

Friday
viernes (vee-AIR-nayss)

Saturday
sábado (SAH-bah-doh)

Sunday
domingo (doh-MEEN-goh)

Months

January
enero (eh-NEH-ro)

February
febrero (feh-BREH-ro)

March
marzo (MAR-zo)

April
abril (ah-BRIL)

May
mayo (MAY-o)

June
junio (HOO-nio)

July
julio (HOO-lio)

August
agosto (ah-GO-sto)

September
septiembre/setiembre (se-TEE-YEM-bray)

October
octubre (ok-TOO-brey)

November
noviembre (no-VEE-YEM-bray)

December
diciembre (dee-CEE-YEM-bray)

Writing Time & Date

When speaking, times can be given in AM/PM form, but with adding *de la mañana* (morning), *de la tarde* (afternoon), *de la noche* (evening/night) or *de la madrugada* (late night) to distinguish between AM and PM. In other cases, times are rendered in 24-hour format, with a colon separating hours and minutes:

9AM
9:00

12:30 PM
12:30

1 PM
13:00

10 PM
22:00

2 AM
2:00

Dates are given in day-month-year form. All spoken and written, long and short forms follow this pattern:

October 3rd, 2003
3 de octubre de 2003

May 21st, 1997
21 de mayo de 1997

Day-month constructions (4 de julio, for example) are not usually abbreviated. In the rare cases than an abbreviation is used, the number of the month is not used, but its initial letter is. Usual examples are:

23-F
23 de febrero, date of a failed coup d'état in Spain (1981)

11-S
11 de septiembre, date of the attack to the Twin Towers (2001) (and of the Chilean coup in 1973)

Colors

black
negro (NAY-groh)

white
blanco (BLAHN-koh)

gray
gris (GREESS)

red
rojo (ROH-hoh)

blue
azul (ah-SOOL)

yellow
amarillo (AH-mah-REE-yoh)

green
verde (BAYR-day)

orange
naranja (nar-AHN-hah), anaranjado (ah--nah-ran-HA-do)

purple
púrpura (POOR-poor-ah) , morado (moor-AH-do), violeta (vee-oh-LEH-tah)

brown
marrón (mah-RON) , café (kah-FAY), castaño (kah-STAN-yo)

Transportation

Bus & Train

How much is a ticket to _____?

¿Cuánto cuesta un billete/pasaje a _____? (KwAHno kwEHSta oon beYEHta a ____)

One ticket to _____, please.

Un billete/pasaje a _____, por favor. (Oon beYEHta a _____, pour FAHvor.)

Where does this train/bus go?

¿A dónde va este tren/bus?

Where is the train/bus to _____?

¿Dónde está el tren/autobús hacia _____?

Does this train/bus stop in _____?

¿Para este tren/autobús en _____?

When does the train/bus for _____ leave?

¿Cuándo marcha/parte/sale el tren/autobús hacia _____ ?

When will this train/bus arrive in _____?

¿Cuándo llegará este tren/autobús a _____?

Directions

How do I get to _____ ?

¿Cómo puedo llegar a _____ ?

...the train station?

...la estación de tren?

...the bus station?

...la estación de autobuses?

...the airport?

...al aeropuerto?

...downtown?

...al centro?

...the youth hostel?

...al albergue juvenil?

...the _____ hotel?

...el hotel _____ ?

...the American/Canadian/Australian/British consulate?

...el consulado de Estados Unidos/ Canadiense/Australiano/Británico/?

Where are there a lot of...

¿Dónde hay muchos...

...hotels?

...hoteles?

...restaurants?

...restaurantes?

...bars?

...bares?

...sites to see?

...sitios para visitar?

Can you show me on the map?

¿Puede enseñarme/mostrarme en el plano?

street

calle (CAH Yeh)(Mexico) CAH sjeh (Spain)

Turn left.

Gire/doble/da vuelta a la izquierda.

Turn right.

Gire/doble/da vuelta a la derecha.

left

izquierda

right
derecha

straight ahead
recto adelante , sigue derecho

towards the _____
hacia el/la _____

past the _____
pasado el/la _____

before the _____
antes de _____

Watch for the _____.
busque el/la _____.

intersection
intersección , cruce

north
norte

south
sur

east
este

west
oeste

uphill
hacia arriba

downhill
hacia abajo

Taxi

Taxi!
¡Taxi!

Take me to _____, please.
Lléveme a _____, por favor.

How much does it cost to get to _____?
¿Cuánto cuesta ir hasta/a _____?

Take me there, please.
Déjeme ahí, por favor.

Lodging

Do you have any rooms available?
¿Hay habitaciones libres?

How much is a room for one person/two people?
¿Cuánto cuesta una habitación para una persona/para dos personas?

Does the room come with...
¿Tiene la habitación...

...bedsheets?
...sábanas?

...a bathroom?
...baño?

...a telephone?

...teléfono?

...a TV?

...televisión?

May I see the room first?

¿Puedo ver la habitación primero?

Do you have anything quieter?

¿Tiene algo un poco más tranquilo?

...bigger?

...más grande?

...cleaner?

...más limpio?

...cheaper?

...más barato?

OK, I'll take it.

Muy bien, la tomaré.

I will stay for _____ night(s).

Me quedaré _____ noches(s).

Can you suggest other hotels?

¿Puede proponerme otros hoteles?

Do you have a safe?

¿Hay caja fuerte?

...lockers?

...taquillas? or casilleros?

Is breakfast/supper included?

¿El desayuno/la cena va incluido/a?

What time is breakfast/supper?
¿A qué hora es el desayuno/la cena?

Please clean my room.
Por favor, limpie mi habitación.

Can you wake me at _____?
¿Puede despertarme a las _____?

I want to check out.
Quiero dejar el hotel.

Money

Do you accept American/Australian/Canadian dollars?
¿Aceptan dólares estadounidenses/australianos/canadienses?

Do you accept British pounds?
¿Aceptan libras británicas?

Do you accept euros?
¿Aceptan euros?

Do you accept credit cards?
¿Aceptan tarjeta de crédito?

Can you change money for me?
¿Me puede cambiar dinero?

Where can I get money changed?
¿Dónde puedo cambiar dinero?

Can you change a traveler's check for me?
¿Me puede cambiar cheques de viaje?

Where can I get a traveler's check changed?
¿Dónde me pueden cambiar cheques de viaje?

What is the exchange rate?
¿A cuánto está el cambio?

Where is an automatic teller machine (ATM)?
¿Dónde hay un cajero automático?

Eating

A table for one person/two people, please.
Una mesa para una persona/dos personas, por favor. (OO-nah MAY-sah pah-rah OO-nah pehr-SOH-nah / dohss pehr-SOH-nahs pohr fah- BOHR)

Can I look at the menu, please?
¿Puedo ver el menú, por favor? (PWAY-doh behr ehl meh-NOO pohr fah-BOHR?)

Can I look in the kitchen?
¿Puedo entrar a la cocina?

Is there a house specialty?
¿Hay alguna especialidad de la casa?

Is there a local specialty?
¿Hay alguna especialidad regional/de la zona?

I'm a vegetarian.
Soy vegetariano/a.

I don't eat pork.
No como cerdo.

I only eat kosher food.

Sólo como comida kosher. (In a restaurant they will stare at you, since "kosher" is as Spanish as "empanada" is English.)

Can you make it "lite", please? (less oil/butter/lard)

¿Puede poner poca aceite/poca mantequilla/poca grasa?

fixed-price meal

menú del día

a la carte

a la carta

breakfast

desayuno

lunch

comida (Spain, Mexico), almuerzo (South America)

supper

cena (everywhere), comida (South America)

I want _____.

Quiero _____.

I want a dish containing _____.

Quisiera un plato que lleve _____.

chicken

pollo. (POH-yoh)

beef

ternera (tehr-NEH-rah), vacuno (bah-KOO-noh), res (rehss)

fish

pescado (pehs-KAH-doh)

ham

jamón (hah-MOHN)

sausage

salchicha (sahl-CHEE-chah), vienesa (byeh-NAY-sah)

cheese

queso

eggs

huevos

salad

ensalada

(fresh) vegetables

verdura (fresca)

(fresh) fruit

fruta (fresca)

bread

pan

toast

tostada

noodles

fideos

rice

arroz

beans

alubias , porotos, frijoles, judías, habichuelas

May I have a glass of _____?

¿Me puede poner/traer un vaso de _____?

May I have a cup of _____?

¿Me puede poner/traer una taza de _____?

May I have a bottle of _____?

¿Me puede poner/traer una botella de _____?

coffee

café

tea (drink)

té

juice

zumos , jugos

water

agua

(bubbly) water

agua con gas (if you say agua, it is without gas); Agua mineral is bottled water with gas, unless you ask for agua mineral sin gas.

beer

cerveza

red/white wine

vino tinto/blanco

May I have some _____?

¿Me puede dar un poco de _____?

salt

sal

black pepper

pimiento

butter

mantequilla , manteca (in Argentina)

Excuse me, waiter? (getting attention of server)

¡camarero!, ¡mesero! (preferred)

I'm finished.

He acabado, terminé (The first phrase can refer to the finishing of a completely unrelated physiological activity)

It was delicious.

Estaba delicioso.

Please clear the plates.

Puede llevarse los platos.

The check, please.

La cuenta, por favor.

Bars

Do you serve alcohol?

¿Hay alcohol?

Is there table service?

¿Hay servicio a la mesa?

A beer/two beers, please.

Una cerveza/dos cervezas, por favor.

A glass of red/white wine.

Un vaso de vino tinto/blanco.

A pint (of beer)

Una jarra de cerveza (normally it will be half a liter, not really a pint, but the size is similar);

A glass of draft beer

Un schop (oon SHOHP) (Only in Chile)

_____ (hard liquor) and _____ (mixer).

_____ con _____. In Spain, Cubata is Coke with whiskey

A bottle.

Una botella.

whiskey

whisky (WEESS-key)

vodka

vodka

rum

ron

water

agua

tonic water

(agua) tónica

orange juice

zumojugo de naranja

Coke (soda)

Coca-Cola

Do you have any bar snacks?

¿Tiene algo para picar? (In Spain they will usually give you tapas, depends a lot on the bar.)

One more, please.
Otro/a _____, por favor.

Another round, please.
Otra ronda, por favor.

When is closing time?
¿Cuándo cierran?

Shopping

Do you have this in my size?
¿Tiene esto de mi talla?

How much is this?
¿Cuánto cuesta?

That's too expensive.
Es demasiado caro.

Would you take Visa/American dollars?
¿Aceptan Visa/dólares?

expensive
caro

cheap
barato

I can't afford it.
Es muy caro para mí.

I don't want it.
No lo quiero.

You're cheating me.

Me está engañando.

I'm not interested.

No me interesa.

OK, I'll take it.

De acuerdo, me lo llevaré.

Can I have a bag?

¿Tiene una bolsa?

Can you ship it to my country?

¿Puede enviarlo a mi país?

I need...

Necesito...

...batteries.

...pilas.

...cold medicine.

...medicamento para el resfriado.

...condoms.

...preservativos/condones.

...English-language books.

...libros en inglés.

...English-language magazines.

...revistas en inglés.

...an English-language newspaper.

...un periódico/diario en inglés.

...an English-Spanish dictionary.

...un diccionario inglés-español.

...pain reliever. (e.g., aspirin or ibuprofen)
...medicamento para el dolor (Aspirina, Ibuprofeno).

...a pen.
...un bolígrafo.

...postage stamps.
...sellos/estampillas.

...a postcard.
...una postal.

...a razor.
...una hoja de afeitar.

...shampoo.
...champú.

...stomach medicine.
...medicamento para el dolor de estómago.

...soap.
...jabón.

...sunblock lotion.
...crema solar.

...tampons.
...tampones.

...a toothbrush.
...un cepillo de dientes.

...toothpaste.
...pasta de dientes.

...an umbrella.
...un paraguas.

...writing paper.
...papel para escribir.

Driving

I want to rent a car.
Quiero alquilar un coche.

Can I get insurance?
¿Puedo contratar un seguro?

STOP (on a street sign)
STOP (Spain), ALTO (México), PARE (Chile, Argentina, Perú)

one way
dirección única

no parking
no aparcar , no estacionar

speed limit
límite de velocidad , velocidad máxima

gas/petrol station
gasolinera , estación de bencina (Chile)

gas/petrol
gasolina , bencina (Chile), nafta (Argentina)

diesel
gasóleo , diesel DEE-sel (Latin America), diésel (DYEH-sel) (Spain)

Authority

I haven't done anything wrong.

No he hecho nada malo. (NOH ay AY-choh NAH-dah MAH-loh)

It was a misunderstanding.

Es un malentendido. (AYSS oon MAHL-ayn-tayn-DEE-doh)

Where are you taking me?

¿Dónde me lleva? (DOHN-day may YAY-bah?)

Am I under arrest?

¿Estoy arrestado/a? (ay-STOY AHRR-ay-STAH-doh/dah?)

I am an American/Australian/British/Canadian citizen.

Soy ciudadano estadounidense/australiano/inglés/canadiense.

I want to talk to the American/Australian/British/Canadian embassy/consulate.

Quiero hablar con la embajada/el consulado estadounidense/australiano/inglés/canadiense.

I want to talk to a lawyer.

Quiero hablar con un abogado. (KYAY-roh ah-BLAHR cohn oon AH-boh-GAH-doh)

Can I just pay a fine now?

¿Puedo pagar la multa ahora? (PWAY-doh pah-GAR lah MOOL-tah ah-OH-rah?)

Slang

Spanish slang varies greatly by country. Oftentimes, slang will be specific to one country, and using those words may mean something completely

different in another country. For this reason, it's best to learn slang from native speakers in whichever country you are going to. Here are some examples, from Spain:

Apuntarse -- To accompany others or do the same as others do. (Ex: ¿Vas al cine? ¡Me apunto!)

Boli (m) -- Pen. This word is used more frequently than pluma. It is short for bolígrafo.

Caer gordo -- To oppose something or someone. (Ex: Me cae gordo ese político.)

Colado/colao -- A person who goes places he/she is not invited entering without paying. Verb form: colarse. Estar colado por alguien can also mean to be very much in love. A person who gets into a place without paying may also be called a gorrón or gorróna.

Cotillear -- To gossip or be curious about other people's business. Also used to describe such actions as eavesdropping on others' conversations, reading other people's mail, etc. In Spain, this is never a positive action or attribute, but in some circles is perfectly acceptable behavior. In actuality, gossip is common in most madrileño conversation. Noun form: cotilla

Dar la lata -- To bug, annoy, bother. (literal translation: to give the can).

De cajón -- Evident, totally certain, obvious. (Ex: Es de cajón que Diana recibirá una "A" en su examen: estudia cada día.)

Duro (m) -- One duro is equal to 5 pesetas and 5 duros is equal to 25 pesetas.

Echarme una siesta -- Be careful not to use "tomar" una siesta as it is better to use the verb echar in its reflexive form, meaning to lie down.

Gazpacho (m) -- A mess, predicament or jam, (literal translation: a type of Spanish tomato soup).

Gente maja (f) -- When you want to say that someone is really pleasant, nice and/or generous, you can refer to them as gente maja. In other words, you are saying, "They are good people."

Granadino -- Someone or something that comes from Granada. This can be used as an adjective or noun.

Hincha (m) -- Fan of a specific soccer team. Una hinchada is a group of soccer fans.

Leche manchada (f) -- This is only used in southern Spain and is very popular. If you would like to order something similar to a café au lait (laite) in southern Spain, you ask for leche manchada. So, this is milk that has just a little bit of coffee. In this sense, you will be getting more milk than coffee.

Madrileño -- Someone or something that comes from Madrid. This can be used as an adjective or noun.

Mala pata (f) -- Bad luck. (Ex: Fue mala pata que perdiera 1.000 pesetas en la calle.)

La marcha (f) -- Nightlife. However, it also means so much more than this since it also refers to the energy that Spaniards have when night time rolls around. It refers to dancing, eating, drinking and socializing. Spanish cities come to life after dark and la marcha refers to the entire scene... people crowding streets at all hours, dance clubs with long lines to get in, corner bars where friends meet one another, eating churros con chocolate in the morning before crawling into bed, etc. Anonymous to movida.

Matar -- To annoy or bug, (literal translation: to kill)

Movida (f) -- A party.

Móvil (m) -- Cell phone. You will get strange looks if you call it "un celular" so be sure to use móvil. Practically everyone in Spain has one so make sure you know what it is called!

Ni fu ni fa -- An expression that communicates indifference. (Ex: ¿Qué te parece esta falda?----Ni fu ni fa.)

¡Ojo! -- Look out! Watch out! (Ex: ¡Ojo! Caminar sólo por la noche es peligroso.)

¡Olé! -- Yippee! Alright!

Pasta (f) -- Means money. (Ex: ¿Tienes pasta?)

Pelas (f) -- Another word for pesetas or money. (Ex: ¿Cuántas pelas tienes?)

Pijo (m/f) -- An insult given to yuppies from Spain with no fixed age implied. Most often a pijo or pija is within his or her late teens to early thirties. He or she has expensive and most often poor taste and "Daddy" pays for everything. Similar words: Seorito

¡Qué guay! -- Cool, neat

¿Qué tal? -- How's it going? (Ex: ¿Qué tal? --Bien. ¿y tú?)

Sevillano -- Someone or something that comes from Seville. This can be used as an adjective or noun.

Tapa (f) -- Tapas are small rations of meat, potatoes, fish and vegetables that are eaten at bars typically while having a cocktail. Tapas are sometimes served free while others cost a small fee. Many Spaniards eat tapas in the evening rather than sitting down to eat a full dinner. As compared to the way we refer to appetizers in the US, tapas do not come before a meal, but either accompany the act of drinking or are often eaten instead of a meal.

Tappear, or ir de tapas -- To eat tapas; to go from bar to bar eating these small appetizers.

Tapeo (m) -- The noun form of this activity. Refers to the entire event of going to bars and eating tapas.

Tertulia (f) -- Occurs when people meet together to chit--chat about everyday happenings whether it be the weather, politics, trends or even what María Josefina did last night. The Spaniards love having tertulias especially at outdoor cafés.

Tía (f) -- A girl, "chick," (literal translation: aunt).

Tía buena (f) -- A beautiful woman, "knockout," (literal translation: good aunt).

Tío (m) -- A guy, "dude," (literal translation: uncle).

Vale -- This is used in the same way as we use "OK" or any of its equivalents: sure, I understand, I agree, etc. (Ex: Denota que se está de acuerdo con que otro dice o hace). When the Spanish say it, it kind of sounds like "ballet."

¡Venga, hombre! -- It is usually said at the end of a sentence to mean the following: "Yeah right," "Really, I don't believe you at all," "You have to be kidding," or "Stop it." You can also use: ¡Qué va! ¡Qué bobada! ¡Qué disparate! or ¡Qué tontería!

Viejo verde (m) -- An older man who preys on young women. In English, we say "dirty old man."

Regional Variations

There are important variations among the various regions of Spain and Spanish-speaking America. In Spain the North Castilian dialect pronunciation is commonly taken as the national standard (although the characteristic weak pronouns usage or *laísmo* of this dialect is deprecated).

Spanish has three second-person singular pronouns: *tú*, *usted*, and in some parts of Latin America, *vos* (the use of this form is called *voseo*). Generally

speaking, tú and vos are informal and used with friends (though in Spain "vos" is considered a highly exalted archaism that is now confined to liturgy). Usted is universally regarded as the formal form, and is used as a mark of respect, as when addressing one's elders or strangers. The pronoun "vosotros" is the plural form of "tú" in most of Spain, although in the Americas (and some particular southern-Spain cities such as Cádiz) it is replaced with "ustedes." It is remarkable that the informal use of "ustedes" in southern Spain does not keep the proper pronoun-verb relationship: while the formal form of "you go" would be "ustedes van", in Cádiz the informal form would be constructed as "ustedes váis", making use of the second person of the plural instead of the third (which constitutes the formal construction).

Vos is used extensively as the primary spoken form of the second-person singular pronoun in various countries around Latin America, including Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Uruguay. In Argentina, Uruguay, and increasingly in Paraguay, it is also the standard form used in the media, whereas media in other voseante countries continue to use usted or tú. Vos may also be present in other countries as a limited regionalism. Its use, depending on country and region, can be considered the accepted standard or reproached as sub-standard and considered as speech of the ignorant and uneducated. The interpersonal situations in which the employment of vos is acceptable may also differ considerably between regions.

Spanish forms also differ regarding second-person plural pronouns. The Spanish dialects of Latin America have only one form of the second-person plural; ustedes (formal/familiar). Meanwhile, in Spain there are two; ustedes (formal) and vosotros (familiar/informal).

The RAE (Real Academia Española), in association with twenty-one other national language academies, exercises a controlling influence through its publication of dictionaries and widely respected grammar guides and style guides. In part due to this influence, and also because of other socio-historical reasons, a neutral standardized form of the language (Standard Spanish) is widely acknowledged for use in literature, academic contexts and the media.

We hope you have found this guide useful. If you have, we would love if you can leave us a review on Amazon, as it helps us be able to produce more of these guides!

Thank you again, y Buena Suerte!