

An Exceedingly Brief Introduction to Spanish Vocabulary and Phrases.

Pronunciation and a few Grammatical Rules:

Spanish is a beautiful and complex language with one of the largest vocabularies and most wonderful literatures in the world – clearly you will not master Spanish in a few lessons! But Spanish is superior to English for at least one reason (and unquestionably more) in that it has relatively simple, and more or less universal, pronunciation rules that, once learned, greatly facilitate speaking. Spanish contains 25 simple (all those in English less ‘w’) and 4 compound letters (ch = che, ll = elle, ñ = eñe, and rr = erre). We will practice the various sounds that the letters make when we meet (some consonants assume a different sound depending on their placement in a word). Accent (or stress) varies according to set rules. In words ending in a vowel or ‘n’ or ‘s’, the stress is on the penultimate syllable. In words ending in a consonant, stress is on the last syllable, and if the word has an accent then this indicates the placement of the stress. With diphthongs and triphthongs (2 or 3 vowels together), all letters are pronounced although different combinations of strong (‘a’, ‘e’, and ‘o’) and weak (‘u’ and ‘i’) vowels may assume different pronunciations. Spanish has many idioms. Moreover, the accent and vocabulary can vary significantly among (and even within countries). I gained my modest capacity in Spanish in nw. Argentina where I have spent 3 years, and I don’t pretend to be expert in Mexican usage of the language. I also wrote this largely from memory so forgive errors in spelling, accents or grammar.

The Basics:

Pronouns

<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
I	yo	we	nosotros (nosotras)
you (singular, familiar)*	tú {or vos (Argentina)}	you (singular, familiar)	vosotros
you (polite, singular)	usted	you (polite, singular)	ustedes
he	él	they (m.)	ellos
she	ella	they (f.)	ellas

* In much, although not all, of Spanish-speaking Latin America the familiar form is not commonly used.

Conjugations (present tense):

-ar verbs

hablar (to speak)

yo hablo	nosotros hablamos
usted habla	ustedes hablan
él habla	ellos hablan
ella habla	ellas hablan

-ir verbs

vivir (to live)

yo vivo	nosotros vivimos
usted vive	ustedes viven
él vive	ellos viven
ella vive	ellas viven

-er verbs

comer (to eat)

yo como	nosotros comemos
usted come	ustedes comen
él come	ellos comen
ella come	ellas comen

An example of an irregular -er verb

tener (to have)

yo tengo	nosotros tenemos
usted tiene	ustedes tienen
él tiene	ellos tienen
ella tiene	ellas tienen

A few other useful verbs (note the reflexive version of *levantar*):

ir (to go):

ser (to be): soy

escribir (to write)

comprar (to buy)

tomar (to take)

bajar (to go down)

dormir (to sleep)

estar (to be)

aprender (to learn):

vender (to sell)

lavar (to wash)

abrir (to open)

levantarse (to get up)

comprender (to understand)

beber (to drink)

usar (to use)

subir (to go up)

cerrar (to close)

Meals (meal = la comida):**breakfast** → desayuno**lunch** → almuerzo**dinner** → comida**supper** → cena**snack** → merienda**desert** → postre**Some food items:**

English	Spanish
food	comida
bread	pan
meat	carne
fish	pescado
pork	cerdo
ham	jamón
bacon	tocino
chicken	pollo
cheese	queso
butter	mantequilla (or manteca - Arg)
vegetables	legumbres (verduras)
lettuce	lechuga
potato	patata, papa
carrot	zanahoria
onion	cebolla
beet	remolacha, betabel
tomato	tomate

English	Spanish
pepper	pimiento
garlic	ajo
beans	frijoles, habas, judías, porotos
fruit	fruta
apple	manzan
orange	naranja
banana	banana
lemon	limón
lime	lima
strawberry	fresas (or frutilla – Arg)
grape	uvas
pear	pera
watermelon	sandía
avocado	aguacate (or palta – Arg)
pineapple	piña
mango	mango
peanuts	cacahuete (or maní – Arg)

Some beverages:

English	Spanish
drink	bebida
water	agua
milk	leche
cream	crema
coffee	café

English	Spanish
tea	té
juice	jugo
wine	vino
beer	juice
soft drink	soda

Some important buildings:

English	Spanish
bank	banco
store	tienda
supermarket	supermercado
grocery store	almacén
post office	casa de correo

English	Spanish
home	casa
embassy	embajada
consulate	consulado
restaurant	restaurante
hospital	hospital

Some rooms:

English	Spanish
washroom	baño
bedroom	habitación, dormitorio
living room	living, cuarto de estar
kitchen	cocina

English	Spanish
classroom	aula
laboratory	laboratorio
office	oficina, despacho

Some people:

English	Spanish
mother/father	madre/padre
brother/sister	hermano/hermana
boyfriend/girlfriend	novio/novia
teacher	maestro/maestra

English	Spanish
professor	profesor/profesora
student	estudiante
doctor/nurse	medico/enfermera
policeman	policía

Months of the Year

<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
January	enero
February	febrero
March	marzo
April	abril
May	mayo
June	junio
July	julio
August	agosto
September	septiembre
October	octubre
November	noviembre
December	diciembre

Days of the week:

<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
Monday	lunes
Tuesday	martes
Wednesday	miércoles
Thursday	jueves
Friday	viernes
Saturday	sábado
Sunday	domingo

Seasons:

Spring	primavera
Summer	verano
Fall	otoño
Winter	invierno

Times of day**noon** → mediodía**afternoon** → la tarde**midnight** → medianoche**night** → la noche**morning** → la mañana**Cardinal numbers:**

one → uno

two → dos

three → tres

four → cuarto

five → cinco

six → seis

seven → siete

eight → ocho

nine → nueve

ten → diez

eleven → once

twelve → doce

thirteen → trece

fourteen → catorce

fifteen → quince

sixteen → dieciséis

seventeen → diecisiete

eighteen → dieciocho

nineteen → diecinueve

twenty → veinte

twenty-one → veintiuno (veinte y uno)

twenty-two → veintidós (veinte y dos)

twenty-three → veintitrés (veinte y tres)

etc. ...

thirty → treinta

forty → cuarenta

fifty → cincuenta

sixty → sesenta

seventy → setenta

eighty → ochenta

ninety → noventa

one hundred → ciento (cien)

one thousand → mil

Ordinal numbers:

first → primero

second → segundo

third → tercero

Some Greetings

<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
Hello	Hola
How are you? [singular]	¿Cómo está usted?
	Qué tal?
How are you? [plural]	¿Como estan ustedes?
Good morning.	Buenos días.
Good day.	
Good afternoon.	Buenas tardes.
Good evening.	Buenas noches.

Possible responses

<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
-	-
Very well, thank you.	Muy bien, gracias.
And you?	¿Y usted?
We are well. Thank you!	Estamos bien, ¡Gracias!
Good morning. Lovely day isn't it?	Buenos días. ¿Lindo día no?

Good-byes**Courtesies**

<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
Good-bye	Adiós	Please.	Por favor.
Until (see you) later.	Hasta luego.	Thank you!	Gracias!
Until tomorrow.	Hasta mañana.	Your welcome.	De nada.
Until I see you.	Hasta la vista.	Welcome!	Bienvenido!
		Pardon me.	Perdóneme.
		I'm sorry.	Lo siento.

Some body (cuerpo) parts:

<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
head	cabeza	chest	pecho
eye	ojo	back	espalda
ear	oreja	arm	brazo
mouth	boca	leg	pierna
nose	nariz	foot	pie
throat	garganta	lungs	pulmones
neck	cuello	stomach	estómago

A (very) few other useful expressions:

<u>English</u>	<u>Spanish</u>
How much does it cost?	¿Cuanto cuesta?
Where is a hotel?	¿Donde esta ... un hotel?
Where is a service station?	... una estación de servicio?
Where is the biology station?	... la estación biológica?
Is there a hotel nearby?	¿Hay un hotel cerca?
I don't speak Spanish.	No hablo español.
I don't understand.	No entiendo. No comprendo.
I am sick.	Estoy enfermo.
I feel bad.	Siento mal.
I am sleepy.	Tengo sueño.
I am tired.	Estoy cansado.
I am thirsty.	Tengo sed. (literally - I have thirst)
I am hungry.	Tengo hambre. (literally - I have hunger)
My head hurts.	Me duele la cabeza.

Biology (biología):

Animals (animales): **bird** → ave, pájaro, **owl** → lechuza, búho, **raptor** → rapaz, **parrot** → loro, **amphibian** → anfibio, **frog** → rana, **toad** → sapo, **salamander** → salamandra, **reptile** → reptil, **lizard** → lagarto, lagartija (*small*), **snake** → culebra, serpiente, **mammal** → mamífero, **deer** → venado, ciervo, **cat** → gato, **rodent** → roedor, **bat** → murciélago, **insects** → insecto, **butterfly** → mariposa, **ant** → hormiga, **beetle** → escarabajo, **mosquito** → mosquito, **wasp** → avispa, **bee** → abeja, **fly** → mosca, **horse fly** → tábano

Other: tick → garrapata, spider → araña, **parasite** → parasito, **worm** → gusano, **scorpion** → escorpión

Plants (plantas): **vegetation** → vegetación, flower → flor, **tree** → árbol, **bush** → arbusto

Habitats (ambientes): **woods/forest** = bosque, **jungle** = selva, **lake** = lago, **grassland** → pasto, pastizal, **swamp** → pantano, **river** → río, **coast** → costa, **bank/shore** → orilla.

Scientific disciplines: **genetics** → genética, **evolutionary biology** → la biología evolutiva, **ecology** → ecología, **philosophy** → filosofía, **statistics** → estadística