



Learning Spanish (Latin American)

Spanish is spoken by over 400 million people. It is the official language of most South and Central American countries, as well as of Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. The Spanish that is spoken in these countries differs in pronunciation from the Spanish that is spoken in Spain. Spanish is also an official language of Spain and of the United Nations.

Language Family
Romance

Accent
Neutral pronunciation

Writing System
Roman alphabet

Language Tips

- Spanish pronunciation and spelling are regular and predictable.
- There are two categories of Spanish nouns: masculine and feminine.
- Don't be surprised if you see sentences without subjects. Our program teaches you to identify who is speaking or being spoken about by focusing on the form of the verb.
- Spanish has two verbs that mean 'to be.' One is used for characteristics that are more permanent, and one for those that are more temporary.
- You'll notice that many Spanish words use accent marks, which help with proper pronunciation. Sometimes an accent mark is the only feature that distinguishes between two otherwise identical words. For example, *esta* and *está*.
- The letter ñ is distinct from n in its pronunciation. The letter *ll* is also pronounced differently than a single *l*.
- Spanish has both formal and informal ways to address others, depending on the age of the speaker and her relationship to the person being addressed.
- Note that questions can be formed in different ways, with varying word order. Don't worry—we'll help you learn how to construct questions through guided exposure and practice.