

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:**

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 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 |

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 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:

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------|----------------|
| drink | bebida |
| water | agua |
| milk | leche |
| cream | crema |
| coffee | café |

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------|----------------|
| tea | té |
| juice | jugo |
| wine | vino |
| beer | juice |
| soft drink | soda |

Some important buildings:

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------|----------------|
| bank | banco |
| store | tienda |
| supermarket | supermercado |
| grocery store | almacén |
| post office | casa de correo |

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------|----------------|
| home | casa |
| embassy | embajada |
| consulate | consulado |
| restaurant | restaurante |
| hospital | hospital |

Some rooms:

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| washroom | baño |
| bedroom | habitación, dormitorio |
| living room | living, cuarto de estar |
| kitchen | cocina |

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|
| classroom | aula |
| laboratory | laboratorio |
| office | oficina, despacho |

Some people:

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| mother/father | madre/padre |
| brother/sister | hermano/hermana |
| boyfriend/girlfriend | novio/novia |
| teacher | maestro/maestra |

| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
|----------------|--------------------|
| professor | profesor/profesora |
| student | estudiante |
| doctor/nurse | medico/enfermera |
| policeman | policía |

Months of the Year

| English | Spanish |
|----------------|----------------|
| 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:

| English | Spanish |
|----------------|----------------|
| 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

| English | Spanish |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 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

| English | Spanish |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - | - |
| 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 dia no? |

Good-byes**Courtesies*****English******Spanish******English******Spanish***

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:***English******Spanish******English******Spanish***

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:***English******Spanish*****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 biologica?

Is there a hotel nearby?

¿Hay un hotel cerca?

I don't speak Spanish.

No hablo español.

I don't understand.

No entiedo. 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** → largarto, 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** → arbol, **bush** → arbusto

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

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