

Capítulo dos

The Spanish Language



Objectives:

Communication

- To learn the Spanish alphabet and related facts
- To learn basic Spanish grammar: subject, verb, conjugation, gender, number, articles, and adjectives
- To talk about school related objects
- To express possession using possessive adjectives
- To identify the location of people and things
- To utilize the word “hay” (there is/there are)
- To tell about bedroom related objects
- To talk about possession using the verb “tener”
- To express simple negation
- To express obligation
- To talk about the days of the week
- To learn idiomatic expressions with “tener”
- To learn the numbers from 0-100
- To talk about age, telephone number, and clock time
- To identify parts of the human body
- To tell or ask about reflexive actions
- To identify Spanish-speaking countries and their capitals: South America

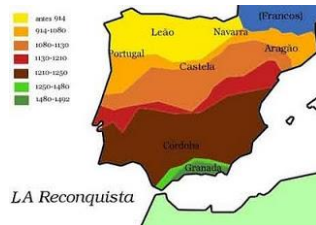
Culture

- Diversity of Spanish-speaking people in Latin America
- The concept of time in Spanish-speaking cultures
- The Day of the Dead
- El mal de ojo
- Spanish Idioms and tongue twisters
- UNESCO: World Heritage Sites in Latin America
- Women in politics
- En la cocina: flan
- Vamos a cantar: “El manisero”

The Origins of the Spanish Language

During the fourth century AD, Hispania (Latin term often used during Antiquity and the High Middle Ages as a geographical name for the Iberian Peninsula) was invaded by the Visigoths and Germanic tribes from Eastern

Europe. These events influenced the language, but none so much as when the Arabic-speaking Moors conquered the region around 711 AD. During their occupation, many of the country's residents learned Arabic and eventually spoke it exclusively.



LA Reconquista

The degree to which the Arabic language permeated the Iberian Peninsula varied enormously from one area to another and is the subject of much debate. However, it is generally agreed that Arabic was used among the local elite, Muslims and Christians, and that the prevalent vernacular (the language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region) in many areas was Mozarabic, a set of dialects spoken in Moslem-dominated areas.



Vulgar Latin (speech of the middle classes in Rome and the Roman provinces) survived in some northern kingdoms. Around 790 AD, the Christian kingdoms of the north began a crusade called *La Reconquista* (Christian Reconquest). As they moved south, reconquering the country and forcing the Moors out was their goal. The Christians sought to reestablish themselves politically, religiously, and linguistically.

As *La Reconquista* moved forward, the Castilian dialect advanced with them. As the people in the southern regions began adopting Castilian, they maintained the usage of some Arabic words. This created a hybrid language that eventually became the Andalusian dialect of the Spanish language, which was and is still spoken in the southern region of Spain, Andalusia. Today, modern Spanish has approximately 4,000 words with Arabic roots.



In 1469, the Catholic King Ferdinand of Aragon and Queen Isabella of Castile married, and united the two main kingdoms of the peninsula under one monarchy. This event set in motion the creation of the Kingdom of Spain, and the beginning of the modern era in the region. In 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella completed *La Reconquista*, pushing the remaining Moors out of Granada.

The same year, they also made **Castilian** the official language in their kingdom, yet another important step toward standardizing the Spanish language. One of the most important events in the history of Spanish also took place in 1492. A man named Antonio de Nebrija wrote a book called **Arte de la Lengua Castellana** (The Art of the Castilian Language). It was the first book ever to define grammar for a European language. Ultimately, Castilian became the standard for writing and education in Spain.



El alfabeto The Spanish Alphabet

a	A	a (ah)	father
b	B	be (beh)	bed
c	C	ce (seh)	cent
d	D	de (deh)	day
e	E	e (eh)	every
f	F	efe (EH-feh)	for
g	G	ge (heh)	ga like in gas/go/ gu like in gucci
h	H	hache (AH-cheh)	the letter H is always silent
i	I	i (ee)	machine
j	J	jota (HOH-tah)	hot (the letter J has a H sound)
k	K	ka (kah)	key
l	L	le (EH-leh)	late
m	M	me (EH-meh)	mix
n	N	ne (EH-neh)	name
ñ	Ñ	eñe (E-NYE)	canyon
o	O	o (oh)	no
p	P	pe (peh)	Pepe
q	Q	cu (koo)	quit
r	R	ere (EH-reh)	terrific
s	S	se (EH-seh)	see
t	T	te (teh)	ten
u	U	u (oo)	look
v	V	ve (beh)	bat

w	W	doble ve (DOH-bleh-BEH)	will
x	X	equis (eh-KEYS)	excuse
y	Y	ye (yeh)	yellow
z	Z	zeta (seh-TAH)	safe (S sound)

Facts about Spanish alphabet's letters and pronunciation

- The letter **h** is always silent.
- The Spanish letters **b** and **v** have the same pronunciation.
- The combination of **rr** is pronounced with a longer trill than a single **r**.
- In Spain, there are some differences in pronunciation from those given here in America. The major difference in pronunciation is the combination of the consonant **c** followed by **e** or **i** (*ce/ci*) that are pronounced like the **th** in the English word *seventh*. A similar pronunciation occurs with the letter **z**.
- The letter **ñ** follows **n**. Therefore, *maña* follows *maná* in dictionaries.
- Dictionaries maintain a separate section for words beginning with **ñ**. The pronunciation of the consonant **ñ** is similar to the **nyon** in *canyon*.
- Spanish letters are feminine in gender. For example: la z or la y. Las letras son la a, la b, la c, la d, etc.
- The **k** and **w** are usually used with words of foreign origin. For example: *el klennex*, *el windsurf*.
- The combination **ge** is pronounced “**heh**” like in **hello** and the **gi** is pronounced “**he**”. For example: **gente** (HEN-teh), **gigante** (he-GAN-teh)
- The combination **ce** is pronounced like “c” in **cent** and **ci** is pronounced like “c” in **cinema**.
Example: **celoso** (seh-LO-so), **cine** (SEE-neh)
- **ca**, **co**, **cu** are pronounced like **c** in **cat**. Example: **casa** (KA-sa), **Colorado** (koh-lo-RAH-doh)
- Some native speakers will accent “**y**” sounds associated with the letters **ll** and **y**.
- The Spanish alphabet has one more letter than the English alphabet: **ñ**.
- Another name for alphabet is **abecedario**.

Spanish Idiom

A lo hecho, pecho.

What's done is done.

The alphabet divided in 4 groups to simplify the study of it.

<i>vowels</i>	<i>letter + e</i>	<i>e + letter + e</i>	<i>no pattern</i>
a	be (b)	efe (f)	hache (h)
e	ce (c)	ele (l)	jota (j)
i	de (d)	eme (m)	ka (k)
o	ge (g)	ene (n)	doble ele (ll)
u	pe (p)	eñe (ñ)	cu (q)
	te (t)	ere (r)	ve corta (v)
	ye (y)	erre (rr)	doble ve (w)
	che (ch)	ese (s)	equis (x)
			zeta (z)

Práctica del sonido de las vocales

a-[ah]

e-[eh]

i-[ee]

o-[oh]

u-[oo]

Note:

The phonetic presented in this book does not follow any standard International Phonetic Alphabet.

Práctica del alfabeto

Ejercicio A: ¿Cómo lo pronuncias?

How do you pronounce it?

Repeat the following sounds.

afa efe ifi ofo ufu
 aba ebe ibi obo ubu
 ala ele ili olo ulu
 ama eme imi omo umu
 ata ete iti oto utu

Ejercicio B: ¿Cómo lo escribes?

How do you write it?

Using the Spanish alphabet, write out the following nouns. Use spelling from page 61.

1. estudiante- e-ese-te-u-de-i-a-ene-te-e
2. mochila- _____
3. universidad- _____
4. profesora- _____
5. zoológico- _____
6. escritorio- _____
7. librería- _____
8. biblioteca- _____
9. cafetería- _____
10. examen- _____
11. Tegucigalpa _____
12. oficina _____
13. gimnasio _____
14. baño _____
15. librería _____
16. concierto _____
17. trabajador _____

Ejercicio C: ¿Cómo la pronuncias?

How do you pronounce it?

Reference:

A	E	I	O	U	a-(ah)
E	I	O	U	A	e-(eh)
I	O	U	A	E	i-(ee)
O	U	A	E	I	o-(oh)
U	A	E	I	O	u-(oo)

Las sílabas

Syllabication

- 1) In Spanish, a single consonant must contain either a single vowel or a diphthong (a sound that consists of two vowels within one syllable), in contrast to the English language.

Common Spanish Diphthongs	
	Examples:
ai (ay)	aire, hay, Jaime
ia	estudia, importancia
ie	diez, viejo, bien
io	julio, precio,
ei (ey)	reina, rey
iu	ciudadano, viudo
oi (oy)	oigo, hoy, voy
ua	guagua, lengua, Eduardo
ue	buenos, pueblo
ui	cuidado, suicida

When an accent is over the weak syllable (i or u), it indicates that it is not a diphthong and that the vowel that follows belongs to the next syllable.

Example:

ia- importancia (im-por-tan-**cia**) The vowels “i” and “a” together in one syllable.

ia- economía (e-co-no-mí-**a**) The vowels “i” and “a” separated into two syllables.

Other examples:

país, día, río, policía, psicología, Raúl

- 2) A single consonant (ch, ll, rr) between vowels forms a syllable with the second vowel.

Example: **ca-rre**-ta **mu-cha** ca-ba-**llo**

- 3) Two consonants between two vowels are divided into separate syllables. The first consonant goes with the preceding vowel.

Example: dic-cio-na-rio lec-ción Car-los

However, if the second consonant is “l” or “r”, the two consonants remain together with the vowel that follows.

Example: glo-sa-rio in-glés a-grí-co-la as-tro-lo-gía

Práctica de la división de sílabas

Divide the following words into syllables.

Meaning

1. alto	<u>al-to</u>	tall
2. rosado	_____	pink
3. piña	_____	pineapple
4. delgado	_____	slim
5. corto	_____	short (length)
6. profesor	_____	professor
7. padre	_____	father
8. frutas	_____	fruits
9. carro	_____	car
10. limones	_____	lemons
11. lluvia	_____	rain
12. comida	_____	food
13. problema	_____	problem
14. cien	_____	one hundred
15. grande	_____	big (size)
16. hermana	_____	sister
17. enfermero	_____	nurse (male)
18. primo	_____	cousin
19. escuela	_____	school
20. tomate	_____	tomato
21. bonita	_____	beautiful
22. justo	_____	fair
23. estresado	_____	stressed
24. policía	_____	police

Los acentos

Accent Marks

In general terms, an accent mark is a diacritical mark placed above a vowel to indicate stress on a specific syllable.

Practice the pronunciation of the following nouns with your instructor. Can you tell the difference?

A	B
pa -pa (PAH-pah)	pa- pá (pah-PAH)
ma -ma (MAH-mah)	ma- má (mah-MAH)
be -be (BEH-beh)	be- bé (beh-BEH)

Accent marks in the Spanish language have two different purposes: to indicate where the stress or emphasis falls on a word when it is pronounced, and to help differentiate between identically spelled words.

- The following rules regarding written accents assume you know on which syllable the stress occurs. An accent mark is required if:
 - The word ends in a vowel (**a, e, i, o, u**) or **n** or **s** and the stress falls on the last syllable. Examples:

ca-fe	ca-FE , <i>coffee</i> , ends in a vowel (e), and the stress falls on the last syllable. An accent is required over the vowel “e”, therefore the word <i>coffee</i> in Spanish is written as follow: café .
Pe-ru	Pe-RU , ends in a vowel (u) and the stress falls on the last syllable, an accent is required over the “u”, therefore the word <i>Peru</i> in Spanish is written as follow: Perú .
te-le-vi-sor	te-le-vi-SOR , <i>television set</i> , ends in a “r” and the stress falls on the last syllable, therefore the word <i>televisor</i> does not need an accent mark. Remember, a word whose last syllable is stressed, has to end in a vowel, n or s in order to have an accent mark.

Spanish Idiom

¡Ponte las pilas!

Get going!