

100+ Easy Spanish Words for True Beginners

Some Spanish Pronunciation Basics

Before we get into easy Spanish words, these pronunciation basics will get you started.

Vowels: Only 5 Vowel Sounds in Spanish!

In English, we have a habit of using a sharp vowel or a clear vowel with no clear rule why at times, just because we know how the word sounds.

For example, **a** in “game” is sharp, while **a** in “cat” is flat.

Similarly, **e** in “we” is sharp, while **e** in “bed” is flat. They are totally different sounds, with no clear rule as to why one we say one sharp and the other flat in these cases.

In Spanish, five vowel sounds exist that are always the exact same sound, every single time you see them by themselves. They sound like this.

Spanish Vowel	Pronunciation
<i>a</i>	ah
<i>e</i>	ay
<i>i</i>	ee
<i>o</i>	oh
<i>u</i>	oo

To make it even clearer with a comparison to English:

- *a* sounds like a relaxed exhale or sigh in English
- *e* sounds like how you say the English letter “a”
- *i* sounds like how you say the English letter “e”
- *o* has the sound of “owl” or “down” in English, not “pot” or “dot”
- *u* has the sound of “moo” or “coo” in English, not “cue” or “you”

Beyond these vowel sounds, you will see multiple vowels together in Spanish (*ai*, *ue*, *ia*), as in English. (Study how to pronounce these diphthongs and hiatuses.)

Tricky Spanish Consonants to Note!

In Spanish, these consonants stand out as being pronounced differently from how we say them in English, also depending on where they appear in a word and with what vowels.

Spanish Consonant Sounds	
<i>b & v</i>	b like “beach” - at beginning of word v like “live” - in middle of word
<i>c</i>	k like “key” - if before a, o, u s like “sit” - if before e or i
<i>ch</i>	ch like “church”
<i>d</i>	d like “diet” - at beginning of word softer “th” - middle of word
<i>g</i>	g like “go” - if before a, o, u h like “him” - if before i, e
<i>h</i>	silent, not pronounced
<i>j</i>	h like “him”
<i>ll</i>	y
<i>ñ</i>	ny like “canyon”
<i>rr</i>	rrr like “grrrrr”
<i>z</i>	s like “simple”

You’ll notice that *b* and *v* sound the same in the middle of a word in Spanish.

Also, note that *ñ* is specific to the Spanish alphabet, and the *ch*, *ll*, and *rr* are double consonants in Spanish that have a different pronunciation than when they appear as singular.

The rolling sound of *rr* will take a little practice. Place the tip of your tongue at the top of your mouth behind your front two teeth and vibrate it, like a boat motor, creating a tickle feeling. It sounds crazy and may look strange in the line for groceries, but it’s exactly the effect you’re going for.

Knowing these basics, let it come in stride as you learn these easy Spanish words. With time, you can go deeper into pronouncing tricky consonants and the Spanish alphabet.

Let's Get Into 100 Easy Spanish Words!

13 Very Common Spanish Words

You will use these basic Spanish words on a daily basis.

Note that, unlike English, nouns always have a gender in Spanish.

The Spanish versions of “a” and “the” vary based on the gender of a noun and whether you are referring to singular or plural object(s) or subject(s).

- *Hola* - hello
- *Adiós* - goodbye
- *Por favor* - please
- *Gracias* - thank you
- *Lo siento* - sorry
- *Salud* - bless you (after someone sneezes)
- *Sí* - yes
- *No* - no
- *Quizás* - maybe
- *El, los* - the (masculine version - singular, plural)
- *La, las* - the (feminine version - singular, plural)
- *Un, una* - an (masculine version, feminine version)
- *Unos, unas* - some (masculine plural, feminine plural)

8 One-Word Questions to Ask in Spanish

You will want to clarify with questions. As in English, you can often ask a question with just one of these easy Spanish words.

- ¿Quién? - Who?
- ¿Qué? - What?
- ¿Por qué? - Why?
- ¿Cuándo? - When?
- ¿Dónde? - Where?
- ¿Cómo? - How?
- ¿Cuánto(s), Cuánta(s)? - How much (how many, plural)?
- ¿Cuál? - Which?

15 Personal Spanish Pronouns

You'll want to specify who is personally doing the action (who is speaking?), who is the action being directed towards (who to?), and what things belongs to who (whose words?).

When you refer to "your foot," you would use a singular *tu pie*. When you refer to "your feet," you would use the plural, *tus pies*. Where appropriate, masculine and feminine pronouns apply.

- Yo - I
- Él /ella - he/she
- Ellos, ellas - they
- Nosotros - we
- Tú - you (informal)
- Usted - you (formal)
- Me - (to) me
- Te - (to) you
- Le - (to) him, her, you
- Les - (to) them
- Nos - (to) us, ourselves
- Mi(s) - my
- Tu(s) - your
- Su(s) - her, his, yours (formal)
- Nuestro(s), nuestra(s) - our(s)

7 Basic Spanish Pronouns

When a specific person is not the focus of a sentence, you will still want to be specific about what or who is with these easy Spanish words.

- *Lo, ello* - it
- *Este, esto, esta* - this, this one
- *Ese, eso, esa* - that, that one
- *Algo* - something
- *Nada* - nothing
- *Alguien* - somebody
- *Nadie* - nobody

6 Spanish Words of Basic Orientation

You can convey the basic orientation of time and space with these easy Spanish words.

- *Antes* - before
- *Después* - after
- *Lejos* - far
- *Cerca* - near
- *Aquí* - here
- *Allí* - there

14 Spanish Nouns Related to Time

You can say when something happened, is happening or will happen with these easy Spanish words that reflect time.

- *Tiempo* - time
- *Vez, veces* - one time, times
- *Hoy* - today
- *Mañana* - tomorrow, also morning
- *Ayer* - yesterday
- *Tarde(s)* - afternoon
- *Noche(s)* - evening

- *Anoche* - last night
- *Hora* - hour
- *Año* - year
- *Semana* - week
- *Mes* - month
- *Día* - day
- *Ahora* - now

13 Spanish Conjunctions

You will connect corresponding words and thoughts with these common conjunctions—the shortest of all easy Spanish words in some cases (just a single letter!)

- *Que* - that, who, which, than
- *Y* - and
- *O* - or
- *Como* - as, like
- *Pero* - but, except
- *Si* - if, whether
- *Porque* - because
- *Cuando* - when
- *Ni* - nor, neither
- *Donde* - where
- *Aunque* - although, even though
- *Sino* - but, except
- *Mientras* - while

10 Spanish Nouns For People

You can get more specific about who you are talking about in relation to yourself and others with these easy Spanish words for people.

- *Hombre* - man
- *Mujer* - woman
- *Chico, chica* - boy, girl
- *Madre* - mother

- *Padre* - father
- *Hijo, hija* - son, daughter
- *Amigo/a* - friend
- *Pareja* - partner, couple
- *Persona* - person
- *Familia* - family

14 Basic Spanish Prepositions

You can indicate a relationship between words or phrases with these common Spanish prepositions—most often indicating relationships of direction, time, or location.

- *En* - in, on, or at
- *Por* - through, for (as a mean), along, or by
- *Para* - in order to, for (as an end)
- *Con* - with
- *Sin* - without
- *Sobre* - about, above, on top of, over
- *Entre* - between, among
- *Hasta* - until
- *Desde* - from, since
- *Durante* - during, for (time)
- *Contra* - against
- *Hacia* - toward
- *De* - or or from
- *A* - to or at

Wait?! What about Easy Spanish Verbs, Adjectives and Adverbs?

You're right! 100 easy Spanish words is not enough!

We've just begun, but to get you started with even more tools in your easy Spanish words toolbox, here's another 50 words!

16 Basic Spanish Adverbs

Like in English, you can use these common Spanish adverbs to modify or describe adjectives, verbs, or other adverbs.

- *Más* - more
- *Ya* - already, now, soon
- *Muy* - very
- *También* - also
- *Así* - so, like this, like that
- *Bien* - well
- *Solo (solamente)* - only
- *Ahora* - now
- *Siempre* - always
- *Tan* - so
- *Entonces* - then
- *Menos* - less
- *Luego* - then, later
- *Además* - besides, in addition
- *Casi* - almost
- *Nunca* - never

16 Basic Spanish Adjectives

As in English, you can use these simple easy Spanish words to describe nouns, the people, places and things around you.

- *Otro/a, otros/as* - other, another
- *Todo/a, todos/as* - whole, all or every
- *Cada* - each or every
- *Mismo* - same
- *Gran* - large or great, put before a noun
- *Más* - more
- *Poco* - little, few or not a lot of

- *Menos* - less, least, few or fewer
- *Mucho/a, muchos/as* - a lot
- *Pequeño* - small
- *Grande* - large
- *Tanto/a* - so many, so much
- *Mejor* - better
- *Alguno/a, algunos/as* - some
- *Difícil* – difficult
- *Fácil* – easy

18 Common Spanish Verbs

You'll use and hear these common Spanish verbs frequently. They are in infinitive form here (their base form).

When speaking, you usually conjugate them to reflect subject and tense—such as who is performing the action and at what moment in time the action is happening.

- *Ser* - to be (permanent)
- *Estar* - to be (non-permanent)
- *Ir* - to go
- *Hacer* - to do, to make
- *Haber* - to have (as an auxiliary verb)
- *Tener* - to have, to possess
- *Poder* - to be able to, can
- *Decir* - to tell, to say
- *Venir* - to come
- *Ver* - to see
- *Dar* - to give
- *Saber* - to know (a fact), to find out
- *Querer* - to want, to love
- *Llegar* - to arrive
- *Pasar* - to pass, to spend time
- *Creer* - to believe
- *Poner* - to put

- *Llamar* - to name

Further Resources:

Check out our [ultimate beginner resources](#), as well as [short stories for beginners](#) and Spanish [podcasts for beginners](#).

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