

Ready to finally learn Spanish in 2025?

By Spanish Flow



Two alpacas gaze upon their prosperous Spanish-speaking future.

Have you been wanting to learn Spanish for a while? You don't have to wait any longer. Make this year the one you finally go for it.

What if I told you that this could be your year? You can start speaking Spanish while enjoying the process without spending a ton of time or money.

It might sound cliché, but learning a second language is all about the journey. For over twenty years, I've experimented with various language learning methods. I can recommend lots of resources and provide you with many options for advancing confidently in the direction of your dreams.

One of the best tools I've used to level up my skills is the Spanish Flow app. It keeps you focused on progressing toward your español goals. [Click here to download the app and begin your 7-day free trial today.](#)

Dispelling Myths About Learning a Second Language

There are a lot of myths out there about how hard it is to learn a second language. Let's set the record straight once and for all.

Myth #1: Some people just have a knack for languages. If I'm not one of them, I can't learn Spanish.

False. While some people *pick up* languages faster, anyone with enough exposure and practice can learn to understand and speak.

Myth #2: Only kids can learn a second (third, fourth, etc.) language. I'm too old for the language to take hold.

False. I have seen young and old alike learning foreign languages. While children are like sponges, adults can also soak up a language. Children are very pliable. They also hear 5,000 hours of their mother tongue each year! Young people, adults, and older people can also learn a language, but it is impossible without exposure. You can learn, but you've got to listen to Spanish more frequently, ideally every day.

Myth #3: One methodology called (fill in the blank with the method of your choice) is the end-all, be-all approach. If I don't use that method, then I won't learn.

False. While some approaches seem to increase learners' comprehension rates, different people may enjoy distinct ways of learning. You will learn best with the activities and methods you find most interesting.



This quiet ocean scene represents the beauty and language potential in all of us.

Types of language learners

Self-awareness goes a long way. Awareness of your learning preference can help you align with your most efficient and fun learning process.

Can you identify yourself in one or more of the following types of people?

1. The book worm: this learner likes to soak up the language by reading anything she can get her hands on: textbooks, Lonely Planet survival guides, children's books, subtitles, etc.
2. The sponge: this learner enjoys immersive environments and picks up on lots of stimuli. He has a good memory and likes to mimic sounds.
3. The social butterfly: this learner likes to be the life of the party and may let their inner Spanish loose after a couple of drinks. Cultural festivals and salsa classes are this learner's bread and butter.
4. The language exchange partner: this learner likes low-pressure coffee meetings or walks in the park so they can practice with a native speaker. She also likes helping her partner with their English.



The Panama City skyline beckons the curious and adventurous among us.

Different Approaches to Learning Spanish



Does the classroom environment motivate you?

Take a traditional class

Remember that Spanish class you took in high school? For some of us, those traditional classes were enough to turn us on to the beauty of another culture and language. For others of us, world language classes just aren't our cup of tea. Either way, now might be a good time to try a class.

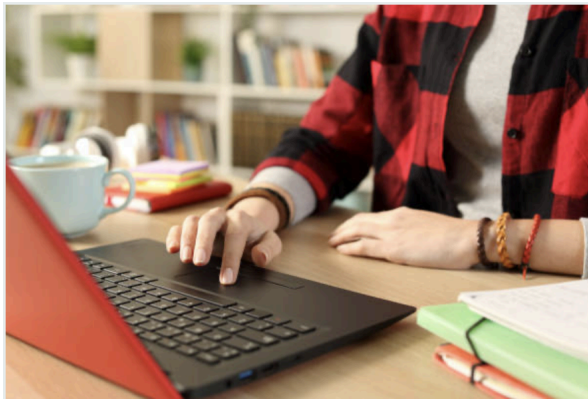
There are a ton of options locally, abroad, and online. I took classes in Guatemala a few summers ago and loved them. The benefits include:

- Five hours of personalized lessons every day
- One-on-one! Just you and your local Guatemalan teacher
- One, two, or four-week options
- Shared lunch amongst students and teachers
- Homestay with a local family where you'll get to eat meals together and interact with them only in Spanish
- Cultural experiences like cooking local cuisine, playing guitar, or visiting hot springs

Do a Google search to see your options for one-on-one classes in Guatemala.

Audio/Visual Exposure

- ★ Watch YouTube: Many YouTube channels aim to help you learn Spanish. Some are more focused on grammar explanations, while others are more conversational. Some even do POV (point of view) style, where they play the role of a waiter, for example, and you have to interact to order your food. Find a channel or two that work for you, subscribe, and watch one video daily



There are a ton of resources you can take advantage of to level up your language skills.

- ★ **Our Spanish Flow app trains your ears with easy-to-understand accents, high-quality photos, and engaging videos. Choose to listen to native speakers from eleven different countries. [Click here to download the app and begin your 7-day free trial today.](#)**

- ★ Watch movies and series: We are in the golden age of on-demand series. Netflix is replete with funny and dramatic series in Spanish. You can pick any region or accent, grab some snacks, and let the language seep into your ears. Try turning on Spanish (CC) subtitles and reading simultaneously.

Sometimes the written words on the screen don't exactly match what the character is saying. I've found that the subs match at least 70% of the time. So the other 30% that don't match word for word gives you the chance to learn synonyms or new expressions. You might enjoy this approach and find it helps boost your comprehension.

- ★ Listen to music: Create a playlist on Spotify, YouTube, or Apple Music. With Shazam, you can catch songs you hear on the radio or in the store and add them

directly to Spotify. You can also google the lyrics for that song and artist. For an added brain boost, read along with the lyrics while you jam out to “Vivir Mi Vida” by Marc Anthony.

Writing

- ★ Carry a Vocabulary Notebook: Keep a trusty little notebook and add new vocab words or expressions you hear or read. Write down phrases you hear when watching Netflix or when you hear a slang term from your language partner.



Many people find writing therapeutic. It's a great way to get the Spanish from your head down onto paper.

- ★ Keep a daily journal: You can kill two birds with one stone. You can make your daily journal entries and practice writing in Spanish. It can be a fun challenge because you may hit a wall when you don't know a particular word.

To stay in the flow, leave a blank in that spot and write the English word in parenthesis. When your five-minute timer goes off, go to your favorite dictionary and write down the missing words in the blank spot you left.

- ★ Pen pal: Some websites help you connect to old-school pen pals. You can email your friend and keep a back-and-forth going each week. You can write each other letters by mail. Wait a week or two to receive your friend's envelope with an international stamp.
- ★ Notes in Spanish to the family: You can also write notes in Spanish to your kids who are learning alongside you. It's a fun way for you and your children to keep the language alive.



Finding a good book you can understand can rapidly increase your Spanish acquisition.

Reading

★ **Children's Books:** Go to your local Barnes and Noble or library and grab a couple of kids' books. You have the benefit of seeing colorful illustrations to help with context clues. Did you know? Children's books tend to use more uncommon vocabulary words than you would think. Have your dictionary handy for these unique terms!

★ **Language Learner Lit:** These are books written specifically for language students. While most ["graded reader"](#) authors write with middle and high school students in mind, many of these chapter books contain engaging stories for adults. Check out biographies, fantasy, historical fiction, and even poetry.

Whatever genre you're into, you'll find it. Many of these titles exist on Amazon and language teacher sites. You can find many books written for the novice to intermediate levels (levels 1 and 2). If you are already advanced, look for levels 3 or 4.

★ **Authentic novels, new articles, and blogs:** Many public libraries and independent bookstores have foreign language sections where you can explore literature from Spain and Latin America. Look for [poetry by Pablo Neruda](#) or the YA adventure trilogy ["La Ciudad de las Bestias" by Isabel Allende](#). You can find news, sports, and entertainment articles by searching online. Google, for example: "México fútbol," "Colombia festivales," and "Argentina noticias."



Conversations with others are among the great motivators for staying on the path toward more fruitful communication.

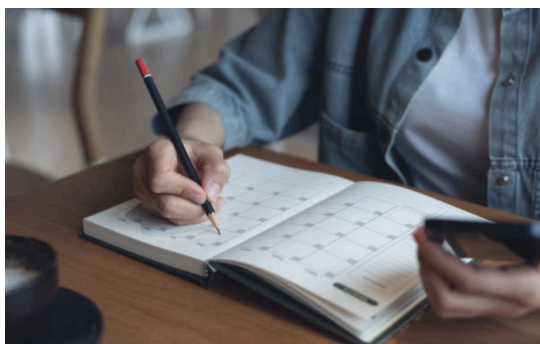
Speaking

Speak with real people. Do you know any native Spanish speakers? Practice your Spanish with them in real life. They should be excited about your attempts to practice with them. Patient, sympathetic listeners are your best partners. You should not feel nervous around them. And you should especially not feel judged by them.

You should feel comfortable making mistakes instead of being embarrassed. If you have a preference for receiving corrections, let them know. If you don't know any Spanish speakers personally, go out and make a new friend.

Language exchange meetups, cultural festivals, and concerts are great places to start. Of course, you can also find speaking partners through apps and sites that make it easy to connect.

Ways to Stay Motivated and Keep Improving



Making goals and marking down accomplishments on your calendar is a wonderful practice.

Use a Calendar or Agenda to set goals and celebrate achievements.

Pick a couple of specific, time-bound goals such as “I intend to watch one language YouTube video every day for 10 days”. Write your goal at the top of this month on your calendar.

Highlight your intended days on your calendar. Mark an X on each day that you watch your video. Maybe you write “I’ll go to one language exchange meetup every two weeks.” Make your goal interesting and doable. Mark your calendar and feel proud that you are progressing toward your goals.

You can have reading goals like “Read five pages of my Spanish-language book in bed every night.”

You can have writing goals: Every evening, set a timer for 5 minutes, and in Spanish, write what happened that day.

You can mark your calendar with any upcoming social or cultural events like “Concierto de Pitbull @ the Capitol Theater. ¡Dale! (Let’s do it!)”



Connecting with a language partner keeps things interesting.

Exchanges

- ★ **One-on-one:** Find a language exchange partner and meet for breakfast, coffee, or lunch. Speak Spanish for the first half (30 min.) and English for the second half (30 min.).

★ **Write to a friend in Spanish:** Write to a friend and await their response. Get creative. Communicate through Instagram, email, sticky notes, postcards, etc.

Use Spanish while doing Community Service

Do you like helping others? There are tons of opportunities to do service work with Spanish speakers in your neighborhood. Do a quick search for “community service Spanish in___“name of your town”___.” Call up the agency and see if they are accepting bilingual volunteers.

Plenty of organizations need people with at least a basic level of Spanish. Clinics need volunteers to assist patients with filling out intake forms. Churches need a helping hand with food drives. International Festivals need energetic people to help set up and run the event.



Volunteering can be a positive way to practice your Spanish.

Motivation & Next Steps

Remember: you can learn Spanish regardless of your age.

Sometimes, we avoid following through on a goal or dream like learning Spanish because it seems too daunting. Who has the time, energy, or bandwidth anyway? We're all busy, and adding one more new thing seems like a lot.

To become fluent is too vague of a goal. We do not just magically become fluent one day. It would be more helpful to make your goal specific. Here is a better, more measurable goal: After 4 months of daily practice, I want to go from an A1 level to a B2 speaking level.

With daily exposure and practice you will feel your skills increasing. If you want to test your skills try the [Berlitz online test](#). Following the previous example goal, you would test on Day 1, then halfway through your timeline (2 months).

Finally, you would test at the end of four months to be able to compare and see if you were successful. At the halfway point you can readjust your goal or the types and amount of practice you are doing.



Imagine how you will feel when you start understanding Spanish on day one.

Try not to get overwhelmed. This should be fun!

You obviously do not have to do *everything* I mentioned above. That's just a recipe for burnout. Start with one or two of the activities that you feel are sustainable. Write down what you intend to do. Make it fun. Remember that you will not be tested like you were in high school.

Which of the following motivations applies to you?

I'm going after my dream of finally learning Spanish because I...

- ☐ ...feel happy when I hear people speaking in Spanish.
- ☐ ...feel amazing knowing that people are talking about the weather (*not about me!*).
- ☐ ...feel proud when a native speaker understands my question.
- ☐ ...feel inspired when I [listen to music in español](#).
- ☐ ...like meeting new people and learning about their history and culture.
- ☐ ...[love Pedro Pascal](#) and want to understand every word of Spanish he's spoken.
- ☐ ...can't stop dancing when [Rosalía pops up](#) on my playlist.

Keep in mind your specific reasons and bigger vision

Write down a few of your own reasons *why* you are really going to make it happen this time. Then, write down your bigger vision. Knowing your *why* will be the wind beneath your bilingual wings. Go for it.

Write down your reasons on your calendar or a piece of paper. Then post your motivations on the wall or mirror. Put them somewhere you'll be reminded every day. Do it right now before reading on.

Don't feel bad if today you miss an episode of *Casa de Papel*. You can pick it back up tomorrow. Now you know your reasons. You've got your big vision. You know that this weekend, you are meeting your conversation partner for a walk in the park. You know that tomorrow morning, you'll be blasting [Reyna Tropical](#) in the car on your way to work.

You know that you will talk to your coworker in Spanish. Ask them how their weekend was. And maybe they'll show you photos of their *hijos*. You know that this new year, 2025, you're going to live your best Spanish-speaking life. And no one can stop you. ¡Sí, señores!

While this article is nearing the end, your journey is just beginning.

Learning Spanish is a journey. It's a lifestyle. It's a socially acceptable obsession. Learning Spanish is not a test. Listening to Spanish enriches your life. Speaking Spanish makes you feel alive and optimistic. Reading and writing in Spanish expands your mind and lights up your brain.

Did you know that [being bilingual could stave off dementia](#)?

Did you know that [being bilingual can improve your cognitive and sensory processing](#), including better auditory attention?

Did you know that speaking another language [increases your job prospects by 35% and helps you earn 5-20% more money](#) than those who know only one language?

If you implement a couple of different approaches, you can enjoy the process from day one. If you get clear on your reasons and give yourself achievable daily and weekly practice activities, you will see fantastic results.

Want to advance confidently toward your Spanish language goals in record time? Our Spanish Flow app helps you reach your goals quickly. For just 5 minutes a day, you can start living that Spanish-speaking life you've always dreamed of. [Click here to download the Spanish Flow app and begin your 7-day free trial today.](#)