

A1-A2

CLEAR EXPLANATORY NOTES • EASY-TO-FOLLOW LAYOUT • HUNDREDS OF EXAMPLE SENTENCES

SPEAK SPANISH



AUDIO COURSE



FOR BEGINNERS

A PRACTICAL SELF-STUDY GUIDE

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Published by: Preston School & Publishing
Kolejowa 15/17, 01-217 Warsaw, Poland
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First published 2019 in Warsaw

To download the audio course, go to dopobrania.prestonpublishing.pl.

Printed and bound in Poland

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Introduction

This book is the first part of a series for learning Spanish as a foreign language. It is a useful tool for anybody starting their adventure with the language. The book aims to teach Spanish grammar and vocabulary in easy steps at CEFR levels A1/A2.

The book is divided thematically into 35 units, consisting of clear explanations of grammar rules, as well as lists of everyday sentences which need to be translated from English to Spanish. All the most important grammar topics are included, starting from the most basic and moving on to the more advanced.

How to work with the book

The best way to use the book is to start every unit by carefully reading the explanations which are placed on the right-hand side of the page. Next, you will need to translate the English sentences (on the left-hand side) into Spanish. You can write down your versions or try to say the sentences in Spanish aloud. It's best if you first cover the Spanish answers, so you can't see them. Finally, you should check by uncovering the answers and comparing them with your ideas.

In the book, you will find simple sentences and expressions used in everyday life in natural, contemporary spoken Spanish. Remember that the aim of translating the sentences is not to learn them by heart, but to understand how the Spanish language is structured, and build your knowledge, which will allow you to start speaking the language correctly.

Each unit prepares you for the next grammar topic and also you can review what you have learned before. All the instructions are given in English in order to make it easy for you to understand every topic.

The book comes with recordings of the Spanish sentences, which you should listen to, in order to familiarize yourself with the pronunciation of the words, to practise speaking and improve your listening skills.

We firmly believe that this book will help you master basic Spanish grammar and learn the vocabulary which is most commonly used in everyday situations. We encourage you to devote a certain period of time every day to practise with this book, as the successful learning of a foreign language depends on being systematic. We are certain you will make quick progress and gain language confidence in almost every situation.

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1. I have a problem.
2. Do you have time?
3. I don't have much time today.
4. We don't have time today.
5. Do you have a pen?
6. Sonia doesn't have a car.
7. David has two cars, but he doesn't have a job.
8. My apartment is very big and has three bedrooms.
9. My sister has black hair and blue eyes.
10. I am thirty years old.
11. My son is five years old.
12. We have a problem.
13. Do you have any money?
14. Spain has forty-seven million inhabitants.
15. Do you have anything to drink?
16. We have an exam tomorrow.
17. I have a question.
18. Do you (pl.) have a car?



Pistas y consejos



1. Tengo un problema.
2. ¿Tienes tiempo?
3. Hoy no tengo mucho tiempo.
4. No tenemos tiempo hoy.
5. ¿Tenéis un bolígrafo?
6. Sonia no tiene coche.
7. David tiene dos coches, pero no tiene trabajo.
8. Mi piso es muy grande y tiene tres dormitorios.
9. Mi hermana tiene el pelo negro y los ojos azules.
10. Tengo treinta años.
11. Mi hijo tiene cinco años.
12. Tenemos un problema.
13. ¿Tienes dinero?
14. España tiene cuarenta y siete millones de habitantes.
15. ¿Tienes algo para beber?
16. Mañana tenemos un examen.
17. Tengo una pregunta.
18. ¿Tenéis coche?

There are a lot of irregular verbs in Spanish. One of them is the verb *tener* (to have). In the conjugation of this verb, the 1st person singular is irregular. What's more, there is a vowel change in the middle of the verb (e changes into ie) in the 2nd person singular (*tú*), the 3rd person singular and plural (*él, ella, usted, ellos, ellas, ustedes*):

yo tengo	I have
tú tienes	you have
él/ella/usted tiene	he/she has
nosotros/nosotras tenemos	we have
vosotros/vosotras tenéis	you (pl.) have
ellos/ellas/ustedes tienen	they have

As you can see, in the 2nd person singular as well as the 3rd person singular and plural, we change the first e into ie. The endings of each form are the same as those of any other regular verbs ending in -er, which we talked about in unit 5.

Notice that in Spanish we have to use definite articles (*el, la*) with *el pelo negro, los ojos azules*. Check unit 22 for details.

When talking about one's age in Spanish, we use the verb *tener* (to have), e.g.:

Tengo veinte años (lit. I have twenty years). – I'm twenty years old.

Ella tiene cinco años. – She is five years old.
¿Cuántos años tienes? – How old are you?

To HAVE AND TO WANT



19. I want a coffee with milk.
20. Do you want tea?
21. I don't want tea. I want sparkling water.
22. He wants to be a doctor, and she wants to be a teacher.
23. I don't want to go.
24. Why don't you want to go?
25. They want to talk to the boss.
26. Do you (pl.) want to watch TV?
27. No. We want to listen to the radio.
28. What do you (pl.) want to do?
29. Do you want to drink something, sir/madam?
30. I want to have this car.
31. They want to buy a flat.
32. Do you (pl.) want to pay by (lit. with) card?
33. I don't want to work there.
34. What do you want?
35. Do you (pl. formal) want to eat something?
36. We don't want to sell this flat. We want to live here.



Hints & clues



19. Quiero un café con leche.

20. ¿Quieres té?

21. No quiero té. Quiero agua con gas.

22. Él quiere ser médico y ella quiere ser profesora.

23. No quiero ir.

24. ¿Por qué no quieres ir?

25. (Ellos/Ellas) quieren hablar con el jefe.

26. ¿Queréis ver la tele?

27. No. Queremos escuchar la radio.

28. ¿Qué queréis hacer?

29. ¿Quiere (usted) beber algo?

30. Quiero tener este coche.

31. (Ellos/Ellas) quieren comprar un piso.

32. ¿Queréis pagar con tarjeta?

33. No quiero trabajar allí.

34. ¿Qué quieres?

35. ¿Quieren (ustedes) comer algo?

36. No queremos vender este piso. Queremos vivir aquí.

The verb *querer* (to want) is irregular and the vowel e changes into ie in the 1st and 2nd person singular as well as the 3rd person singular and plural. The endings are the same as those for regular verbs ending in -er.

yo quiero	I want
tú quieres	you want
él/ella/usted quiere	he/she wants
nosotros/nosotras queremos	we want
vosotros/vosotras queréis	you (pl.) want
ellos/ellas/ustedes quieren	they want

With the verb *querer*, we can either use a noun (e.g. *Quiero agua*. – I want water.) or a verb in the infinitive (e.g. *Quiero ir*. – I want to go.).

Questions in Spanish can have the same word order as positive sentences.

La tele is a short form of *la televisión*.

We can add the subject after the verb in questions, which is especially common when the subject is *usted*.

However, we can also say:

¿Y usted quiere beber algo? –

And you sir, do you want to drink something?

¿Quiere beber algo? – Do you want to drink something, sir?

Remember that *usted* is used both for men (sir) and for women (madam).

New vocabulary



1. I'm here.
2. Andrea is at work.
3. The bank is on the right.
4. Where are you?
5. The book is on the table.
6. We are at home. And you (pl.)? Are you at home?
7. The supermarket is closed.
8. Is the shop open?
9. The keys are in the kitchen.
10. They aren't here.
11. Where is my phone?
12. I'm ready (masc.) / I'm ready (fem.).
13. The soup is cold.
14. How are you?
15. I'm fine, and you?
16. I'm not very good. I'm sick (masc.). / I'm sick (fem.).
17. The toilet is (lit. The services are) on the left.
18. Watch out! The coffee is hot.



Pistas y consejos



1. Estoy aquí.
2. Andrea está en el trabajo.
3. El banco está a la derecha.
4. ¿Dónde estás?
5. El libro está en la mesa.
6. Estamos en casa. ¿Y vosotros? ¿Estáis en casa?
7. El supermercado está cerrado.
8. ¿Está abierta la tienda? / ¿La tienda está abierta?
9. Las llaves están en la cocina.
10. No están aquí.
11. ¿Dónde está mi teléfono?
12. Estoy listo. / Estoy lista.
13. La sopa está fría.
14. ¿Cómo estás?
15. Estoy bien, ¿y tú?
16. No estoy muy bien. Estoy enfermo. / Estoy enferma.
17. Los servicios están a la izquierda.
18. ¡Cuidado! El café está caliente.

There are two verbs in Spanish which can be translated as *to be*. One of them is the verb *ser*, which we talked about in unit 2. The other one is *estar* which conjugates as follows:

yo estoy	I am
tú estás	you are
él/ella/usted está	he/she is
nosotros/nosotras estamos	we are
vosotros/vosotras estáis	you (pl.) are
ellos/ellas/ustedes están	they are

We use this verb when we say or ask where someone or something is located (examples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). It's also used when we refer to states which are temporary and can be changed. e.g. when we are tired or when we are at work, as they are just temporary situations which will soon change. Here are some more examples:

estar contento	to be happy
estar nervioso	to be nervous
estar bien	to be fine/OK
estar frío	to be cold (e.g. a coffee)
estar caliente	to be hot (e.g. a coffee)
estar enfermo	to be sick/ill
estar cansado	to be tired
estar loco	to be crazy
estar de acuerdo	to agree (in Spanish we literally say: to be in agreement)
estar abierto	to be open (e.g. a shop)
estar cerrado	to be closed (e.g. a shop)
estar enamorado	to be in love
estar preocupado	to be worried
estar listo	to be ready

When we talk about things which are hot or cold, we use the verb *estar*. However, if we want to say e.g. I'm cold, in Spanish we use the verb *tener*: *Tengo frío* (lit. I have cold).

The opposite is: *estoy mal* or *no estoy bien*.

THE VERB TO BE – ESTAR



19. Is Carlos there?
20. I'm not sure (masc.). / I'm not sure (fem.).
21. My sister is sick.
22. The metro is not far.
23. Juan is not here.
24. We are very tired (masc.). / We are very tired (fem.).
25. Are you (pl.) ready (masc.)?
26. Carmen and María are at school.
27. I am not happy (masc.). / I'm not happy (fem.).
28. I agree. This pizza is very tasty/good.
29. Is your house near the station?
30. No, it's far from the station.
31. London is in England.
32. They are married. They are very much in love.
33. How is your sister?
34. My sister and my brother are fine.
35. Is your brother married?
36. Are your parents at home?



Hints & clues



19. ¿Está Carlos?

20. No estoy seguro. / No estoy segura.

21. Mi hermana está enferma.

22. El metro no está lejos.

23. Juan no está.

24. Estamos muy cansados. / Estamos muy cansadas.

25. ¿Estáis listos?

26. Carmen y María están en el colegio.

27. No estoy contento. / No estoy contenta.

28. Estoy de acuerdo. Esta pizza está muy rica/buena.

29. ¿Tu casa está cerca de la estación?

30. No, está lejos de la estación.

31. Londres está en Inglaterra.

32. (Ellos) están casados. Están muy enamorados.

33. ¿Cómo está tu hermana?

34. Mi hermana y mi hermano están bien.

35. ¿Está casado tu hermano?

36. ¿Están tus padres en casa?

In this question, we are asking if someone is present in a particular place, that's why we use the verb *estar*.

With the use of the verb *ser*, the question *¿Es Carlos?* means *Is that Carlos?* (when we ask about sb's name, identity or when someone is calling or knocking at the door, and we are wondering who it is).

When we use the adjective *seguro* (sure of sth) in this context, we use the verb *estar*.

With the adjectives *cerca* (close) and *lejos* (far) we always use the verb *estar*, because we are talking about location.

When we talk about women, we use the adjective in the feminine (*cansadas*). However, when we refer to men or a group of men and women, we use the adjective in the masculine (*cansados*).

Informally, people often say *el cole* – school. In this sentence, we can also use the expression *en la escuela*. *Colegio* refers to primary school and *instituto* to secondary school.

There are some cases where an adjective changes its meaning depending on whether we use it with *ser* or *estar*, e.g.:
ser rico – be rich, *estar rico* – be good/tasty (about food),
ser bueno – be good, *estar bueno* – be tasty/good (about food).

You will learn more about this in the following parts of the series *Speak Spanish*.

When you talk about location, remember to use the verb *estar*.

When we talk about marital status, we usually use the verb *estar*:

estar casado | to be married

estar divorciado | to be divorced

We can also say: *¿Tu hermano está casado?*

We can also ask the question in the following way:
¿Tus padres están en casa?

SPEAK SPANISH

A PRACTICAL SELF-STUDY GUIDE

Do you want to speak Spanish and understand what Spanish people say? With this new way of practising the language you will have the chance to learn and communicate in Spanish effectively.

The course starts with the most basic concepts and takes the student on a journey towards more advanced grammar. It contains lists of sentences sorted according to grammar points. The explanatory notes provided next to the sentences clearly present the theory and point out common mistakes made by learners.



In this book you will:

- find helpful language guidelines provided in English,
- learn the basics of Spanish grammar,
- correct your mistakes on your own,
- practise useful Spanish phrases that will facilitate everyday communication,
- improve your listening comprehension and your pronunciation along with the course recorded on CD (MP3).

This is an excellent book both for those who are just beginning their adventure with Spanish, as well as for teachers of Spanish as a foreign language who are looking for additional material.