

A1-A2

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

# SPEAK SPANISH



MP3  
AUDIO COURSE



FOR BEGINNERS

A PRACTICAL SELF-STUDY GUIDE

Preston Publishing

# Speak Spanish

A Practical Self-study Guide

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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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# 3

# ADJETIVOS Y DEMOSTRATIVOS



1. This book is very interesting. ....

2. My father is not very tall. ....

3. This flat is very expensive. ....

4. This shirt is not very expensive. ....

5. This girl is very nice, but that one is not. ....

6. María is Spanish, and Pierre is French. ....

7. Laura is French, and Mario is Italian. ....

8. Kate is English, and Pedro is Portuguese. ....

9. Diana is Polish, and Lukas is German. ....

10. This cat is black, and that one is white. ....

11. My flat is not very big, but it's comfortable. ....

12. This shirt is not new, but it's very pretty. ....

13. This girl is very young and very intelligent. ....

14. You (pl.) are very intelligent and young. ....

15. María i Pierre are French. ....

16. We are Polish. And you? Are you Spanish? ....

17. No, we are English. ....

18. These trousers are old, but those are not. ....



# Pistas y consejos

1. Este libro es muy interesante.

---

2. Mi padre no es muy alto.

---

3. Este piso es muy caro.

---

4. Esta camisa no es muy cara.

---

5. Esta chica es muy amable, pero aquella no.

---

6. María es española y Pierre es francés.

---

7. Laura es francesa y Mario es italiano.

---

8. Kate es inglesa y Pedro es portugués.

---

9. Diana es polaca y Lucas es alemán.

---

10. Este gato es negro y aquel es blanco.

---

11. Mi piso no es muy grande, pero es cómodo.

---

12. Esta camisa no es nueva, pero es muy bonita.

---

13. Esta chica es muy joven y muy inteligente.

---

14. Sois muy inteligentes y jóvenes.

---

15. María y Pierre son franceses.

---

16. Somos polacos. ¿Y vosotros? ¿Sois españoles?

---

17. No, somos ingleses.

---

18. Estos pantalones son viejos, pero aquellos no.

Adjective endings change according to the gender of the noun that they describe.

Adjectives describing masculine nouns usually end in *-o*, and those describing feminine nouns usually end in *-a*, e.g.:

masculine	feminine
frío (cold)	fría
italiano (Italian)	italiana
negro (black)	negra
bueno (good)	buena

Feminine adjectives can also be formed by adding the *-a* ending, e.g.:

*español – española, alemán – alemana, inglés – inglesa.*

Adjectives that end in *-e* have the same form regardless of the gender: *amable – nice/kind, caliente – hot, grande – big.*

The same happens with adjectives which end in *-l*, e.g. *natural* (natural), in *-z*, e.g. *eficaz* (efficient), and e.g. *joven* (young).

Here are some other adjectives related to nationalities:

chino(-a)	Chinese
mejicano(-a)	Mexican
argentino(-a)	Argentinian
colombiano(-a)	Colombian
peruano(-a)	Peruvian
estadounidense	American
ruso(-a)	Russian
japonés(-a)	Japanese

Adjectives describing plural nouns have the *-s* ending.

We've already talked about the demonstrative adjectives in the singular. Go back to unit 2, example 25.

Here are the demonstrative pronouns in the plural:

estos	these – masculine
estas	these – feminine
esos, aquellos (e.g. chicos, amigos)	those – masculine
esas, aquellas (e.g. fotos, chicas, amigas)	those – feminine

Again, nouns described by *esos/esas* are located closer than the ones described by *aquellos/aquellas*. The use of one or the other depends on the context.

# ADJECTIVES AND DEMONSTRATIVES



19. These photos are old, but those ones are not.

20. Those cars are very fast, but they are very expensive.

21. Excuse me (sir), are they new?

22. These shoes are beautiful, but very expensive.

23. You (pl. formal) are very kind, thank you.

24. Are you Argentinian, sir?

25. She is a very beautiful woman.

26. Is your flat big or small?

27. Is your sister blonde or brunette?

28. Is he tall or short?

29. Is your father tall?

30. Is that flat big?

31. Is this film good?

32. Yes, it is very good, but also very long.

33. Are these books good?

34. This phone is not expensive. It's very cheap.

35. This shirt is red and that one blue.

36. Is it comfortable?



# Hints & clues



19. Estas fotos son viejas, pero aquellas no.

20. Esos coches son muy rápidos, pero son muy caros.

21. Perdone, ¿son nuevos?

22. Estos zapatos son bonitos, pero muy caros.

23. Son ustedes muy amables, gracias. / Ustedes son muy amables, gracias.

24. ¿Es usted argentino? / ¿Usted es argentino?

25. Ella es una mujer muy guapa.

26. ¿Tu piso es grande o pequeño?

27. ¿Tu hermana es rubia o morena?

28. ¿Él es alto o bajo?

29. ¿Es alto tu padre? / ¿Tu padre es alto?

30. ¿Es grande ese piso? / ¿Ese piso es grande?

31. ¿Es buena esta película? / ¿Esta película es buena?

32. Sí, es muy buena, pero también muy larga.

33. ¿Son buenos estos libros?

34. Este teléfono no es caro. Es muy barato.

35. Esta camisa es roja y aquella azul.

36. ¿Es cómoda?

To form the plural, we usually add the -s ending to the noun or adjective in the singular. We will talk more about the plural in unit 6.

If you talk to someone familiar, like your friend, brother, etc., you say *perdona*. If you talk to someone older than you, to whom you would refer to as sir or madam, use *perdone* in the singular, and *perdonen* in the plural. The endings change according to the conjugation rules for the imperative of the verb *perdonar* (to forgive).

We can also use a more general expression *perdón*.

**Un** (masculine) and **una** (feminine) are the Spanish indefinite articles in the singular.

They often appear when we use a countable noun preceded by an adjective, e.g. *una mesa grande* – a big table.

In the plural, the following forms are used: **unos** – some (masculine), **unas** – some (feminine).

For more information on articles, go to unit 22.

When you describe a noun using an adjective, the adjective usually goes after the noun, e.g.:

*Es un coche verde.* – This is a green car.

There are some exceptions though, e.g. the adjective *buen/buena*, which usually appears before the noun, e.g.:

*Es un buen restaurante.* – This is a good restaurant.

*Él es un buen actor.* – He is a good actor.

*Ella es una buena actriz.* – She is a good actress.

Remember to add the -s ending to the adjective which describes a plural noun (example 33) – *buenos*.

We can also say: *¿Estos libros son buenos?*

Here are the names of some basic colours in Spanish. The ones which only have one form are the same for both masculine and feminine nouns.

blanco/blanca	white
negro/negra	black
azul	blue
verde	green
amarillo/amarilla	yellow
rojo/roja	red
rosa	pink
marrón	brown
gris	grey



1. Are you going to finish it today?  
.....
2. I don't know. I hope so.  
.....
3. Are you ready? I'm waiting downstairs.  
.....
4. How much money is there in the account? I need two hundred euros.  
.....
5. Wait. I have to check (it).  
.....
6. I'm studying. I have an exam tomorrow.  
.....
7. Good luck!  
.....
8. This building is taller than the church.  
.....
9. Are you hungry? If you want, let's go to eat something.  
.....
10. Can you speak louder? There is a problem with the connection.  
.....
11. At what time do they open the pharmacy?  
.....
12. Maybe it's already open.  
.....
13. You know what? We are going to Greece on holiday.  
.....
14. When do you want to go?  
.....
15. Listen! There is a problem in the office.  
.....
16. Don't worry. I'm going to see what's going on.  
.....
17. Look at me. I want to ask you something.  
.....
18. Where is my bag? I can't see it.  
.....



# Apuntes



1. ¿Vas a terminarlo hoy?

.....

2. No (lo) sé. Espero que sí.

.....

3. ¿Estás listo? Estoy esperando abajo.

.....

4. ¿Cuánto dinero hay en la cuenta? Necesito doscientos euros.

.....

5. Espera. Tengo que comprobarlo.

.....

6. Estoy estudiando. Mañana tengo un examen.

.....

7. ¡Suerte!

.....

8. Este edificio es más alto que la iglesia.

.....

9. ¿Tienes hambre? Si quieres, vamos a comer algo.

.....

10. ¿Puedes hablar más alto? Hay un problema con la conexión.

.....

11. ¿A qué hora abren la farmacia?

.....

12. A lo mejor está abierta ya.

.....

13. ¿Sabes qué? Vamos a Grecia de vacaciones.

.....

14. ¿Cuándo quieres ir?

.....

15. ¡Oye! Hay un problema en la oficina.

.....

16. No te preocupes. Voy a ver qué pasa.

.....

17. Mírame. Quiero preguntarte algo.

.....

18. ¿Dónde está mi bolso? No lo veo.

.....

# REVIEW



19. My parents are coming over at the weekend.  
What are we going to do? .....

20. We can go to the theatre. What do you think?  
(lit. Do you like the plan?) .....

21. I don't understand you (pl.). .....

22. What time do you get up? I get up at a quarter  
past seven. ....

23. I feel terrible. ....

24. I have a huge headache. ....

25. I think I will stay at home today. ....

26. What are you looking for? Shall I help you? .....

27. Can you bring me a bottle of water? I'm thirsty. ....

28. It's hot today. Do you (pl.) want to go to the  
park? .....

29. I don't feel like it. I'm a little sick (fem.). .....

30. Are you using your computer? .....

31. Can I send a message? .....

32. If there are no questions, we'll see each other on  
Wednesday, the 10th of August. ....

33. Our next meeting is on Thursday, the 15th of  
October. You have to come. ....

34. What's this? .....

35. It's a telephone. ....

36. What is your phone number? .....



# 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 downloadable audio course.

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.

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