

THE ULTIMATE **SPANISH** STUDY GUIDE

Learn at **Your Own Pace** and Master Each
Level at **Your Own Time**

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How Do I Start Learning Spanish?

Hola and thank you for choosing **My Daily Spanish** as your resource for learning Spanish!

At **My Daily Spanish**, we know how precious your time is. That's why we're here to make learning Spanish simple, enjoyable, and perfectly suited to your busy schedule.

Our mission is to help you build a sustainable learning habit, making Spanish fun and approachable for learners of all ages.

Let's embrace the beauty of the Spanish language together! ¡Bienvenido a My Daily Spanish!

Before deciding on which book to buy, class to enroll in, or online course to take, pause for a moment and reflect on an essential starting point: YOU.

Understanding Your Level

To create a clear roadmap for your Spanish learning journey, it's important to understand the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**. This internationally recognized standard outlines six levels of language proficiency: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. Each level specifies the skills you should have at that stage.

Here's what each level means:

A1 (Beginner)

At this level, you can:

- Understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases.
- Introduce yourself and ask/answer questions about personal details.
- Engage in simple interactions when others speak slowly and clearly.

Example Goal: Confidently introduce yourself, sharing your name, nationality, and hobbies.

A2 (Elementary)

At this level, you can:

- Understand common expressions related to immediate needs (e.g., shopping, local geography).
- Communicate in routine tasks that require straightforward exchanges of information.
- Describe your background and immediate surroundings in simple terms.

Example Goal: Ask for directions or order food at a restaurant while traveling.

B1 (Intermediate)

At this level, you can:

- Create simple connected text on topics of personal interest.
- Describe experiences and events, and provide brief reasons for opinions.
- Handle most situations that might arise while traveling.

Example Goal: Share a story about your last vacation or describe your daily routine in detail.

B2 (Upper Intermediate)

At this level, you can:

- Understand the main ideas of complex texts on concrete and abstract topics.
- Interact with native speakers fluently and spontaneously.
- Write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects.

Example Goal: Discuss current events or cultural topics with structured arguments.

C1 (Advanced)

At this level, you can:

- Comprehend a wide range of demanding, longer texts.
- Express ideas fluently and without hesitation.
- Adapt language effectively for social, academic, or professional contexts.

Example Goal: Write an essay on a controversial issue or give a detailed presentation.

C2 (Proficient)

At this level, you can:

- Understand virtually everything you hear or read effortlessly.
- Summarize information from different sources cohesively.
- Express yourself precisely, even in complex situations.

Example Goal: Write a formal report or engage in nuanced debates on specialized topics.

Take the Level Test

Not sure where you stand? Discover your level with our quick and practical **Level Test**. It's the first step toward identifying your current abilities and finding the resources tailored to your needs.

[Take the test now!](#)

Common Myths About Learning Spanish

Learning Spanish is an exciting journey, but it's surrounded by misconceptions that can hold you back. Let's tackle these myths head-on and reframe them with practical solutions to help you succeed.

Challenging the Belief: "Duolingo Will Make Me Fluent"

The Belief:

"Duolingo is all I need to become fluent in Spanish."

Reality Check:

Duolingo is great for starting out, but it's designed to introduce basics, not develop fluency. Fluency requires active practice: speaking, listening, and using the language in real-life contexts.

But here's the catch: many students hit a plateau with Duolingo. Why? Because it's not designed to take you beyond foundational knowledge. Fluency demands much more: speaking practice, real-time feedback, personalized guidance, and the ability to use Spanish in real-world contexts.

The Plateau Problem with Duolingo:

Many students love Duolingo's streak system, but after months of "collecting vocabulary," they realize they can't hold an actual conversation. This happens because Duolingo focuses on passive learning (memorization) instead of active practice (speaking and writing).

"You don't learn to ride a bike by watching — you learn by riding. Fluency works the same way — you have to use the language."

Quick Tip:

Our study guide addresses this head-on. We focus on active learning strategies that push you out of your comfort zone, so you'll never feel stuck or unsure of your next steps.

"Duolingo builds streaks, not fluency."

Once you understand that fluency takes more than apps, let's look at another key ingredient: setting goals.

Challenging the Belief: "I Don't Need Goals or Objectives to Learn Spanish"

The Belief:

"I'll just learn Spanish as I go — setting goals isn't necessary."

Reality Check:

Learning Spanish without goals is like traveling without a map — you may make some progress, but you'll waste time and feel directionless. Goals create focus and give you milestones to celebrate.

Quick Tip:

Set small, actionable goals that you can achieve week by week.

For example:

- **Week 1:** Learn 10 essential verbs in the present tense and practice using them in simple sentences.
- **Week 2:** Build on your vocabulary by learning 10 nouns and adjectives, then practice creating descriptive sentences.
- **Week 3:** Focus on mastering the past tense — practice with 5 regular and irregular verbs in sentences or a short story.
- **Week 4:** Learn 5 common phrases for everyday situations (e.g., ordering at a café or greeting someone) and practice saying them out loud until they feel natural.

Break it down into daily tasks to stay consistent, like:

- Spend 10 minutes practicing pronunciation with an audio guide.
- Write 3 new sentences a day using a grammar point you're studying.
- Practice a 5-minute conversation and record yourself speaking.

These small, achievable steps will keep you moving forward and give you the confidence to tackle more complex challenges over time.

"Small, specific goals lead to big wins — start small, aim big."

Having goals helps you stay focused, but what if fear of speaking is still holding you back? Let's address that next.

Challenging the Belief: "I'm an Introvert, and Stepping Out of My Comfort Zone Is Too Hard"

The Belief:

"I'm an introvert, and learning Spanish feels too uncomfortable — I'd rather stay within what I already know."

Reality Check:

Think about it — how is telling yourself, “I’m an introvert,” helping you move forward? It’s not. Labeling yourself only keeps you in your comfort zone — and comfort zones don’t lead to growth. Being introverted doesn’t mean you’re incapable; it means your approach might look different. But holding onto that self-limiting belief? That’s what’s holding you back.

Let’s face it: the fear of speaking Spanish is real, but it’s also temporary. That awkward, nervous feeling? It’s just 15 minutes of pressure. Once you push through, you’ll realize that fear isn’t as big as you made it out to be.

Take one of our students, for example. He was worried that practicing Spanish would feel high-pressure and overwhelming, but everything changed when he found a relaxed and supportive environment. Having someone who understands your needs — whether it’s a coach, a friend, or even a supportive community — can ease that initial fear and make speaking feel less intimidating. It’s not about being perfect; it’s about feeling comfortable enough to take those first steps.

If you feel nervous or unsure, ask yourself: have you created or found the right space to practice? An environment where mistakes aren’t judged, but seen as part of the process, can help you push through those insecurities and realize your potential.

Spanish isn’t just about learning a language — it’s about proving to yourself that you can face challenges, push through insecurities, and come out stronger on the other side.

Quick Tip:

Here’s how to stop hiding and start doing:

- **Write:** Write one sentence in Spanish today — no exceptions. It can be about anything: your day, your plans, or how you’re feeling. Focus on expressing yourself without worrying about perfection.
- **Listen:** Watch a short Spanish video and repeat one sentence. It doesn’t need to be perfect — it just needs to happen.
- **Speak:** Try saying one word or phrase to someone. A barista, a friend, even your pet. The act of speaking is what breaks the fear.

The truth is, staying in your comfort zone isn’t helping you get fluent. It’s just keeping you where you are. Growth happens when you face those 15 minutes of fear and come out on the other side feeling a little braver, a little stronger, and a lot more confident.

“Labels limit you, fear lies to you, and growth happens when you stop listening to both.”

Overcoming fear is one step, but what about the excuse we’ve all used — being too busy? Let’s tackle that next.

Challenging the Belief: "I'm Too Busy to Learn Spanish"

The Belief:

"My schedule is packed, and I don't have time to learn Spanish."

Reality Check:

Feeling too busy? It's understandable — life can be hectic. But here's the good news: you don't need hours a day to make progress. Even 15 minutes of focused practice can lead to significant results over time.

The truth is, "too busy" is just another excuse.

Let me tell you about Ryan, a guy I spoke to for a couple of years. His dream was to move to Spain in a few years. He had plenty of time to prepare, but his "learning" method? Watching YouTube tutorials while sipping wine and eating tapas. He convinced himself he was making progress because he studied "step by step every day." When I asked him to write something in Spanish, though? It was a complete disaster. After two or three years of this approach, he couldn't even string together basic sentences.

Why? Because he focused on the reward before doing the work. His learning method lacked focus, consistency, and active engagement with the language. Here's the thing: work comes first, then the reward — not the other way around. Watching videos is a great supplement, but it's not enough on its own. Real learning requires active practice — writing, speaking, listening, and challenging yourself to use the language in meaningful ways.

Are you doing the same thing? Saying, "I'm too busy" is often just another way of avoiding the discomfort of doing the work.

Ask yourself this: Are you going to keep telling yourself you're too busy, or are you going to prove to yourself that you can do this?

Quick Tip:

If you're serious, here's how to make those 15 minutes work for you:

- **Commute smarter:** Turn your commute into learning time. Practice vocabulary or repeat phrases in your head.
- **Multitask effectively:** Listen to Spanish podcasts or audiobooks while you cook, clean, or work out.
- **Daily reflection:** Write one Spanish sentence about your day before bed — it takes less than two minutes.

Stop waiting for the "perfect time" to learn Spanish. Start now. Even 15 minutes of focused practice a day can take you further than years of half-hearted effort. Ryan didn't prioritize, and it cost him progress. Don't let that be your story.

"Too busy is an excuse. 15 minutes is all it takes to start proving yourself wrong."

Once you've carved out time in your busy life, let's talk about balance. Is focusing only on speaking enough? Here's why it's not.

Challenging the Belief: "I Just Want to Practice Speaking, the Rest Doesn't Matter"

The Belief:

"I just want to practice speaking; I don't see the point in focusing on anything else."

Reality Check:

Let's be clear: if all you focus on is speaking, your progress will be shallow and short-lived. Speaking is important, but it's not the whole picture. Writing, reading, and listening are what strengthen your grammar, expand your vocabulary, and improve how you express yourself when you do speak. Imagine building a house with just walls and no foundation — sure, it might stand for a while, but it won't hold up when it really counts.

Here's the truth: writing forces you to slow down and think. It solidifies your grammar, helps you find the right words faster, and sharpens your overall fluency. The better you get at writing, the more natural speaking becomes.

Quick Tip:

Want to improve your speaking? Then start with these simple writing habits:

- **One sentence a day:** Write one thing you'd like to say in Spanish. Keep it practical, like introducing yourself or describing your plans for the day.
- **Mini dialogues:** Write out short conversations you might have in real life, like ordering at a café or asking for directions. Then practice speaking them aloud.
- **Reflection:** At the end of the day, write two sentences about what you did. This reinforces vocabulary and structures you'll actually use.

The bottom line? Writing isn't just about putting words on paper — it's your secret weapon to becoming a better speaker. If you ignore it, you're holding yourself back.

"Writing sharpens your Spanish — it's what gives your speaking real finesse."

Finally, let's talk about the value of combining self-study with other tools for even greater progress.

Challenging the Belief: "I Can Just Study on My Own"

The Belief:

"I don't need anyone else to learn Spanish — I can figure it out on my own."

Reality Check:

Yes, you can study on your own, and this guide is here to help you do just that. But let's be honest: relying solely on yourself has its limits. Without structure, accountability, or feedback, it's easy to plateau, get stuck, or waste time on things that don't truly move the needle. Think of it like training for a marathon — you can do a lot on your own, but having the right support can make the journey smoother and more effective.

Self-study is powerful, but it works best when combined with strategies that help you practice smarter, not harder.

Quick Tip:

Use this guide to structure your learning and incorporate strategies that maximize your results:

- Set weekly goals to stay focused (e.g., “Learn 20 new words” or “Master the past tense”).
- Actively practice: write sentences, record yourself speaking, and review your progress weekly.
- Get feedback wherever possible — compare your writing to examples, record yourself reading aloud, or connect with a language partner for practice.

Each myth is an opportunity to shift your perspective and discover what works for you. Start small, be consistent, and let this guide support you every step of the way. And if you ever feel like you'd benefit from additional structure or personalized feedback, options like the Spanish Language Accelerator Program can be a great next step to deepen your learning journey.

"Self-study lays the foundation; structure and feedback build the house."

The Ultimate Guide for Beginner Level Spanish Learners

So... Beginner Spanish. Now, where and how should you start?

What Is Expected of You When You Begin Learning Spanish?

When you're at the beginner level (**A1** or **A2** on the Common European Framework of Reference), you're laying the foundation for your Spanish learning journey. Here's what you can expect to achieve as a beginner:

- You'll be able to introduce yourself, share basic information, and ask simple questions.
- You'll learn to understand and use everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet immediate needs.
- You'll begin to recognize familiar words and phrases in slow, clear speech.

[See Understanding Your Level on pages 3–4.](#)

At the beginner level, building a habit of active engagement is essential. For example:

- **When learning new vocabulary:** Create sentences to use the words in context.
- **Instead of just listening to Spanish dialogues:** Repeat them aloud to practice pronunciation.
- **Start writing short paragraphs:** Write about simple topics like your favorite food or daily routine to strengthen your grammar and vocabulary.

By focusing on active practice, you'll develop a strong foundation that will set you up for success as you progress to higher levels of Spanish proficiency.

Work on Your Mindset

Start with a self-assessment to understand your learning style and motivations.

Discover Your Learning Style

- Determine if you're more visual or auditory, if you prefer group learning, or if you excel on your own.

[Take a short quiz to identify your learning style.](#)

Find Your Motivation

- Understand why you want to learn Spanish and make it your driving force.
- *Tu fuente de motivación es el ingrediente que puede marcar la diferencia.* (Your source of motivation is the ingredient that can make all the difference.)
- Recommended reads:
 - [10 Fun Ways to Learn Spanish Throughout the Day](#)

Set Clear Goals

Set clear, actionable goals to guide your progress. For example:

- **Week 1:** Learn to introduce yourself in Spanish by mastering basic greetings and phrases.
- **Week 2:** Practice essential pronunciation, such as the rolled "r" and challenging vowel sounds, using audio tools.
- **Month 1:** Read a basic Spanish article and summarize its main points.

The more specific your goals, the better you can tailor your learning efforts toward areas that matter most to you. Personalized objectives will keep you motivated and ensure steady progress in your Spanish language learning.

Determine Your Time Frame

Decide how much time you can dedicate daily or weekly to learning Spanish.

- **Start small** and gradually increase your commitment. Even **15 minutes a day** adds up over time.
- Incorporate **active learning** into your routine. For example:
 - Instead of just watching a Spanish movie, pause and repeat lines or write down key phrases to make your practice interactive and boost retention.

Manage Expectations

Acknowledge that learning a language requires consistent effort—there are no shortcuts.

Set realistic expectations:

- *After one month:* Introduce yourself and hold basic conversations.
- *After three months:* Read and summarize simple Spanish articles or watch movies with subtitles.

This section is just an example to help you set expectations. Tailor it to your specific needs, interests, and pace of learning. Language learning is a unique experience, so make it enjoyable and fulfilling for yourself.

Embrace Mistakes with Confidence

- **Remember:** Making mistakes is a powerful way to learn.
- Try the "1,000 Beads" mindset — each mistake is a step closer to success. The goal is to empty the bag of 1,000 beads as quickly as possible, with each bead representing a mistake. Watch the [video here](#) for inspiration.

Form a Sustainable Learning Habit

Build consistency with small, daily tasks:

- Spend **10 minutes reviewing vocabulary**.
- Record yourself **practicing sentences** and listen for improvement.
- Write **short daily journal entries** in Spanish.
- Recommended Resource: [How to Make a Spanish Learning Habit: A Guide for Language Learners](#)

7-Step Study Plan

The following percentages serve as a flexible guide to allocate study time effectively across various aspects of learning Spanish.

Step 1: Alphabet and Pronunciation (10%)

Step 2: Basic Vocabulary (15%)

Step 3: Simple Sentences (20%)

Step 4: Grammar Basics (20%)

Step 5: Listening Practice (15%)

Step 6: Speaking or Writing Practice (15%)

Step 7: Cultural Immersion (5%)

Remember that these percentages are guidelines and can be adjusted based on your specific needs, strengths, weaknesses, and preferred learning style. As you progress in your language learning process, you may find it beneficial to adapt these percentages.

For instance, as your vocabulary and grammar improve, you might want to allocate more time to listening and speaking practice to further enhance your conversational skills.

Step 1: Alphabet and Pronunciation (10%)

- Master foundational sounds of the Spanish alphabet. Practice daily with slow-paced recordings.

- Familiarize yourself with vowel sounds and consonants like "ñ" and "rr."
- Mimic native speakers to practice rhythm and intonation.
- Record yourself to identify areas for improvement.
- Recommended resources: [The Ultimate Guide to Spanish Pronunciation](#), [How to Roll Your RRs in Spanish](#)

Step 2: Basic Vocabulary (15%)

- Focus on the most common Spanish words and phrases, such as greetings, numbers, and everyday objects.
- Example phrases:
 - *Hola* (Hello) – A general greeting used throughout the day.
 - *Buenos días* (Good morning) – Used in the morning until around noon.
 - *Buenas tardes* (Good afternoon) – Used in the afternoon until evening.
 - *Buenas noches* (Good night) – Used when saying goodbye in the evening or at night.
 - *¿Cómo estás?* (How are you?) – A common way to ask someone how they're feeling.
 - *Estoy bien, gracias* (I'm well, thank you) – A polite response to "¿Cómo estás?"

Interactive Task:

- Create flashcards with Spanish words and their meanings. Practice recalling them daily.
- Recommended Resource: [64 Spanish Greetings and Well-Wishes for Important Occasions \(+PDF\)](#), [A Quick Guide to Numbers in Spanish](#), [50 Common Spanish Phrases](#)

Step 3: Simple Sentences (20%)

- Start constructing simple sentences using the vocabulary you've learned.
 - **Example:**
 - *Me llamo Ana. Vivo en Barcelona.* (My name is Ana. I live in Barcelona.)
 - *Tengo un perro grande.* (I have a big dog.)
- Engage in everyday conversations with a language partner or app.
- Recommended resources: [Basic Sentence Structure](#), [Spanish Sentence Structure](#)

Step 4: Grammar Basics (20%)

- Learn basic Spanish grammar rules, including gender (masculine/feminine), number (singular/plural), and present tense conjugations.
 - Examples:
 - *El libro es azul.* (The book is blue.) – Masculine
 - *La casa es roja.* (The house is red.) – Feminine

- *Yo como pan.* (I eat bread.) – Present tense
- Recommended resources:
 - [A Quick & Simple Guide to Spanish Adjectives](#)
 - [100 Most Common Spanish Adjectives](#)
 - [A Quick Shortcut to Spanish Tenses](#)
 - [A Quick Guide to Spanish Articles](#)

Step 5: Listening Practice (15%)

- Start listening to Spanish at a slow pace.
 - Use beginner podcasts, children's audiobooks, or language learning apps.
 - Jot down 2-3 new words daily and use them in sentences.
- Progress to shadowing techniques (repeating after audio).
- Recommended resource:
 - [Tips for Improving Your Listening Skills in Spanish](#)

Step 6: Speaking or Writing Practice (15%)

- Begin speaking Spanish out loud, even if it's just to yourself. Practice the phrases and sentences you have learned. Alternatively, start writing simple sentences or diary entries.

Interactive Task:

- Record yourself practicing sentences or reading a dialogue. Compare with native pronunciation and revise.
- Recommended resources: [Small Talk in Spanish: Tips and Phrases to Navigate Spanish Conversations](#), [Spanish Essay Phrases: 40 Useful Phrases for an Impressive Writeup](#)

Step 7: Cultural Immersion (5%)

- Explore Spanish culture through music, movies, and books.

Interactive Task:

- Listen to Spanish songs and learn the lyrics (e.g., "Despacito").
- Watch Spanish movies or cartoons with subtitles (e.g., *Coco* or *El Laberinto del Fauno*).
- Read a short children's book, like *El Principito* (*The Little Prince*).
- Recommended resources: [20 Best Spanish Movies for Learning Spanish](#), [Best Spanish Movies to Enjoy with the Whole Family](#), [A Playlist of Best Spanish Songs: Listen for Free](#)

Practice-Based Tips for Beginners

- Spend **10 minutes daily** repeating vocabulary aloud.
- Mimic native speakers using short audio clips. Repeat immediately after the speaker (shadowing technique).
- Write a weekly paragraph about your favorite activity, incorporating new grammar and vocabulary.

Congratulations on completing the Beginner Spanish Study Guide! Remember, language learning is a step-by-step process, and with consistent effort, you'll make significant progress in no time!

Next Steps:

- Transition to the Intermediate Guide to refine rhythm, intonation, and grammar.
- For personalized guidance, enroll in our [Complete Beginner Spanish Course](#) for expert coaching and step-by-step lessons.

The Ultimate Guide for Intermediate Level Spanish Learners

Have you just made the jump to intermediate Spanish? Or have you been stuck at the intermediate level for quite some time?

This guide is specially designed to help you break through common challenges and continue your progress toward fluency.

I. What Is Expected of You When You Reach the Intermediate Level?

When you reach intermediate-level Spanish (**B1 or B2** on the Common European Framework of Reference), it means that you already have the ability to use Spanish in communicating your ideas, and you can understand the language fairly easily.

- You can discuss familiar topics, describe events, and explain ideas with some ease.
- You're beginning to grasp Spanish jokes, but deeper nuances may still elude you.

[See Understanding Your Level on pages 3-4.](#)

At the intermediate level, transitioning from passive to active learning is key to progress. For example:

- Instead of just reading articles, summarize them in Spanish.
- Instead of passively listening to podcasts, use shadowing techniques to actively mimic native speakers.

Now let's move on to the common problems faced by intermediate-level learners like you. Then we will try to address each common intermediate Spanish issue as we go along.

II. Common Problems of Intermediate Spanish Learners

1. Lack of Materials

Sure there are a lot of materials available for learning Spanish but as a lot of intermediate level Spanish learners could attest, many of those resources are far too easy while some are too difficult.

You need to find resource materials with a strong focus on listening; one that is especially created with your language troubles in mind.

2. Lagging Motivation

Motivation for learning Spanish isn't always easy to come by. That's why here at My Daily Spanish, I've always espoused the idea of creating a learning habit. With as little as 30 minutes spent learning Spanish each day, it will snowball into a lasting habit that will make learning Spanish so much easier—something you do without having to force yourself.

A good learning habit will make the difference in getting your motivation on track as you progress in your level.

Here are some articles on My Daily Spanish. You can use these to help you get started in building that habit.

- [How to Make a Spanish Learning Habit: A Guide for Language Learners](#)
- [Common Spanish Mistakes English Speakers Make](#)
- [10 Awesome Tips to Speak Spanish like a Native](#)

3. Reaching a Plateau / Comfort Zone

Whether you're learning a language or any skill, there will always come a time when you will reach a comfortable level and no longer seem to be improving (sometimes, you might even lose the desire to put in additional effort).

When you hit this plateau and feel stuck with no visible progress, **reframe your approach** and set new challenges tailored to your current level.

For example:

1. **Identify areas of stagnation:** Are you struggling with fluency, accuracy, or confidence in certain areas like grammar, listening, or speaking? Zero in on these specific pain points.
2. **Set incremental, skill-specific goals:**

- **Fluency:** Practice expressing opinions on current events or abstract topics to deepen conversational depth.
 - **Listening:** Work on understanding fast-paced native dialogues or accents from different regions of the Spanish-speaking world.
 - **Writing:** Craft more complex sentences, such as formal emails, detailed essays, or even short stories.
3. **Embrace active, focused learning:** Instead of repeating comfortable exercises, try activities that stretch your skills:
- Create detailed summaries of Spanish articles or podcasts and ask for feedback.
 - Use deliberate practice to perfect advanced grammar structures or idiomatic expressions.

By focusing on specific, measurable improvements and challenging yourself with purposeful practice, you'll push past the plateau and keep progressing toward fluency.

To break free from a plateau, integrate deliberate practice into your routine:

- **When practicing grammar:** Write five sentences using new structures you've learned.
- **Instead of just watching a Spanish movie:** Discuss its themes with a language partner or record a short summary in Spanish.
- **Develop fluency-focused goals:** Aim to discuss abstract ideas or debate current events in Spanish.

Remember, when it comes to learning a language, or any skill in general, the quality of the practice you do beats the quantity of time you spend on it.

4. Confusing Word Pairs

Some learners hit a particular difficulty in learning and then they will get disinterested and abandon learning Spanish altogether. In some cases, it could be confusing word pairs that cause the trouble.

Don't worry, with enough exposure to spoken or written Spanish, this issue will disappear soon.

For the meantime, you can master the differences with the following article.

- [Tricky Word Pairs in Spanish: Confusing Verbs & Words](#)

5. Listening and Reading Comprehension

This is another major concern for intermediate level learners, but it's nothing that practice can't fix. To help you with that, we have the perfect course for it, the [Spanish Reading and Listening Comprehension course](#).

Boost your comprehension with active methods:

- Combine **listening and reading** by using subtitles or transcripts while engaging with Spanish content. Highlight new vocabulary for review and practice using these words in your sentences.
- For reading, highlight new vocabulary and create flashcards for review.
- Combine **listening and reading** by following along with subtitles or transcripts, then practice shadowing the dialogue.

III. How to Practice Intermediate Spanish and Move Forward to the Next Level

Becoming fluent in Spanish is now within your reach. A little more effort, and you'll get there! Advanced-level Spanish requires increased exposure to the language, especially through conversations with native speakers.

7-Step Study Plan

Here's a suggested distribution of study time for different areas of Spanish learning. These percentages are flexible and should be tailored to fit your learning pace and preferences.

Recommended percentage spent on each activity:

Step 1: Vocabulary (10%)

Step 2: Listening (20%)

Step 3: Reading (15%)

Step 4: Grammar Refinement (10%)

Step 5: Writing (20%)

Step 6: Speaking (20%)

Step 7: Immersion (5%)

Remember that these percentages are guidelines and can be adjusted based on your specific needs, your strengths and weaknesses, and how you feel you learn best. As you advance in your language-learning process, you might find that you need to adjust these

percentages. For example, once your vocabulary and grammar reach a certain level, you might want to focus more on listening and speaking.

Step 1: Vocabulary Boost (10%)

- Start by focusing on word pairs that often cause confusion among Spanish learners. For instance:
 - **Por vs. Para:** Both translate to "for," but they are used differently. "Por" is often used for reasons, time, and means, while "para" is used for goals, destinations, and recipients. Understanding their proper usage is crucial for creating accurate sentences.
 - **Ser vs. Estar:** Both mean "to be," but "ser" is used for permanent states and characteristics, while "estar" is used for temporary conditions or locations.
- To reinforce your understanding, write five sentences for each word pair, ensuring you use them in the appropriate contexts. This practice will help solidify their meanings and correct usage.
- For a comprehensive list of such word pairs and detailed explanations, refer to the article [Tricky Word Pairs in Spanish: Confusing Verbs & Words](#).
- Additionally, test your knowledge by practicing examples or creating your own quiz.
- **Practice Commonly Used Spanish Slang Terms:**
 - Explore expressions and phrases used in informal settings, such as "*¡Qué chido!*" (How cool!) or "*No manches*" (No way!).
 - Familiarize yourself with region-specific slang terms to enhance your cultural understanding and fluency.
- Check out [Common Spanish Slang Terms](#).

By actively engaging with these resources and practicing regularly, you'll improve your vocabulary and reduce confusion between similar Spanish words, setting a strong foundation for fluent communication.

Step 2: Listening (20%)

- Enhance your listening skills with active listening and shadowing techniques:
 - Start with short, slower-paced audio clips. Repeat after the speaker, focusing on pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation.
 - Record yourself and compare it to the original audio to identify areas for improvement.
 - Gradually move to more complex materials like news broadcasts or natural conversations, increasing the difficulty as you grow confident.

- Incorporate variety to keep your practice engaging:
 - Explore podcasts, YouTube videos, audiobooks, or movies on topics you enjoy.
 - Use podcasts with transcripts to follow along and reinforce comprehension.
 - We also recommend [RTVE noticias](#) fáciles or other slow-paced news broadcasts as excellent tools to practice listening and comprehension.

By actively engaging with a wide variety of content and using targeted techniques like shadowing, you'll sharpen your listening skills and improve your ability to understand spoken Spanish in real-world contexts.

- Recommended podcasts: [SpanishPodcast](#), [CoffeeBreakSpanish](#), [LinguaTalk Spanish Podcast](#), [News in Slow Spanish](#)
- Other recommended resources: [10 Spanish TV Shows to Learn Spanish](#), [20 Best Spanish Horror Movies to Help You Learn Spanish](#)

Step 3: Reading Comprehension (15%)

- Read one short article or story per week. Write a 5-sentence summary focusing on new vocabulary and grammar structures. Share your summary with a language partner or tutor for feedback.
- Focus on applying new vocabulary in your own sentences. Try reading out loud to practice pronunciation and fluency. These could be short stories, news articles, or blog posts on topics you're interested in. As you read, try to understand the main ideas first, then go back to look up new words and phrases.
- Don't get discouraged if you don't understand everything — focus on getting the main ideas. Over time, your reading skills will improve, and you'll understand more and more. Reading should be a bit challenging. If the document is too easy, it means you are not progressing enough.
- Recommended resources: [11 Best Spanish Comics for All Levels](#), [10 Best Spanish Novels to Improve your Spanish — for All Levels](#), and [news articles](#)
- **Important:** You can combine reading and listening comprehension skills by listening to audio and reading simultaneously. We offer the ideal course for this: the [Spanish Reading and Listening Comprehension course](#).

Step 4: Learn and Practice More Complex Grammar (10%)

- Choose one complex grammar point (e.g., the **subjunctive mood**) per week.
- Write **five sentences** using the new grammar structure in a real-life context, such as expressing wishes, doubts, or emotions (e.g., "*Espero que vengas a la fiesta*" - I hope you come to the party).
- Practice incorporating these sentences into **conversations** or **journaling** to reinforce your understanding and usage.

- As an intermediate learner, focus on mastering:
 - **Nuanced verb differences**, such as **saber** vs. **conocer** or **ser** vs. **estar**.
 - **Advanced tenses**, including conditional and imperfect subjunctive forms.
- Recommended resources: [My Daily Spanish Intermediate Grammar](#)

Step 5: Start Writing Or Journaling (20%)

- Begin by writing **simple journal entries** in Spanish, such as describing your day or narrating recent events. Gradually progress to **structured tasks** like summarizing articles, crafting opinion pieces, or responding to prompts. Use this as an opportunity to incorporate new vocabulary and grammar structures into your writing. Writing helps reinforce the vocabulary and grammar you have learned and helps you express your thoughts in Spanish more clearly.
- Recommended resources: [Spanish Essay Phrases: 40 Useful Phrases for an Impressive Writeup](#), [How to Express Opinions in Spanish](#), [How to Express Purpose and Reasons in Spanish](#)

Step 6: Speaking Practice (20%)

- Start each session with a recap of your week in Spanish. Practice storytelling by describing a recent event, focusing on using past tense forms such as pretérito and imperfecto. Record yourself speaking and compare it to native speakers for immediate feedback.

Step 7: Immerse Yourself (5%)

- Combine daily habits with situational practice:
 - Immerse yourself by narrating your actions in Spanish or translating social media posts. Choose real-life scenarios like ordering at a café, describing your surroundings, or discussing current events, then practice these with a language partner.
 - Translate short news articles or social media posts into Spanish, then translate your Spanish version back into the original language. Compare the two versions to identify differences, inaccuracies, or awkward phrasing.
 - Change the language on your phone or computer to Spanish. Watch movies and TV shows in Spanish. Listen to Spanish music or podcasts to expose yourself to natural speech patterns and expressions.
- Some activities can be combined. Listening and reading can be combined, and can even be combined with vocabulary (see our [Spanish Reading and Listening Comprehension course](#)). Grammar refinement can be combined with writing, for example.

- Immersion is a good thing to try at this point, but if you cannot stop your life to move to a Spanish-speaking area for a while, don't worry. It's not the only way, and there are plenty of alternatives for you.
- Assess your progress and identify areas that need more attention.
- Recommended read: [8 Ways to Boost Your Reading Skills in Spanish](#)

Remember to stay consistent with your daily study routine and try to incorporate Spanish into your daily life whenever possible. With dedication and regular practice, you'll be well on your way to advancing your Spanish language skills.

If you're serious about improving your Spanish conversation skills, the **Spanish Language Accelerator Program** could be the perfect next step. This program offers **1-to-1 coaching, a personalized study plan** and **exclusive materials tailored to your needs**.

This program is designed for learners who have already mastered the basics — we do not accept complete beginners. If you're motivated and eager to push yourself, reach out to us to see if this program is the right fit for you.

Additional Resources:

- [Let's Get to Know Spanish Subject Pronouns](#)
- [Spanish Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns \(Not to Be Confused with Reflexive Pronouns!\)](#)
- [Possessives in Spanish: The Simple Guide](#)

The Ultimate Guide For Advanced level Spanish Learners

This study plan is ideal for learners who have already developed an advanced level of proficiency in Spanish (**C1 or C2** on the Common European Framework of Reference).

At this stage, **active practice** is essential to reach fluency. For example, instead of passively reading or listening, engage actively by summarizing articles, writing opinion pieces, or using **shadowing techniques** to mimic native speakers' pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation.

[See Understanding Your Level on pages 3-4](#)

You can be considered an advanced learner if you:

- Can hold conversations for an extended period of time and write complex, lengthy texts.
- Can distinguish between **formal** and **informal** speech and adapt accordingly.
- Still make occasional mistakes in grammar but have little difficulty communicating about both everyday topics and specialized subjects.
- Have a strong grasp of Spanish pronunciation but do not yet sound like a native speaker.

If you have already reached this level, great job!

Enhance your Spanish in 7 simple steps! These steps conveniently align with a weekly learning plan, but remember, flexibility is key. Learning should be a pleasure, not a chore. Embrace the process and take your Spanish skills to new heights at your own pace!

Focus Areas

At this stage, the most common trouble areas for learners are:

- [Prepositions](#)
- [Subjunctive](#)
- [Conditional](#)
- [Slang and Colloquial Language](#)
- [Reflexive Verbs](#)
- [Pronunciation](#)
- [Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns](#)
- [Impersonal](#)

- [Passive Voice](#)
- [Por vs. Para](#)
- [Adjective Agreement](#)

To tackle these areas, focus on applying what you learn through active tasks, like:

- Writing sentences using nuanced grammar structures.
- Practicing specific colloquial phrases or slang in conversations.
- Using real-life scenarios to refine your use of complex tenses and constructions.

As an advanced Spanish learner, your focus should remain on mastering these challenging areas. Additionally, expanding your vocabulary to include specialized and idiomatic expressions will help you move forward in your learning journey.

How to Keep a Steady Pace and Keep Your Motivation Intact

7-Step Study Plan

The following percentages are proposed as a guide for allocating your study time across different aspects of learning Spanish. These values aim to strike a balance between all necessary skills.

Recommended percentage spent on each activity:

Step 1: Vocabulary (10%)

Step 2: Shadowing or speaking practice (25%)

Step 3: Translate (15%)

Step 4: Writing Practice (25%)

Step 5: Advanced Colloquial and Slang (10%)

Step 6: Grammar and Syntax (10%)

Step 7: Immersion (5%)

Keep in mind that these percentages are just suggestions. They can change depending on your needs and how you learn best. As your Spanish skills improve, especially in vocabulary and grammar, you might need to spend more time on listening and speaking.

Step 1: Specialize in an Area: Vocabulary Expansion and Reading Practice (10%)

- If you have a particular interest or field of work, focus on mastering Spanish vocabulary and communication norms related to that area.

Actionable Tips:

- Create sentences or paragraphs using new words you learn.
- Read articles or books on your topics of interest and summarize their main points.
- Build domain-specific vocabulary:
 - **Business:** Terms like *la inteligencia artificial* (artificial intelligence) or *las ventas* (sales).
 - **Culinary:** Words like *las recetas españolas* (Spanish recipes) or *la gastronomía* (gastronomy).
- Recommended resources: [My Daily Spanish Vocabulary](#)

Step 2: Shadowing: Speaking Practice (25%)

- Shadowing is a powerful technique for refining pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation.

Actionable Tips:

- Select challenging audio clips and repeat them verbatim, mimicking the speaker's rhythm and tone.
- Record yourself and compare with the original audio to identify areas for improvement.
- Alternate shadowing with active conversations to practice new intonations.

Extra Challenge: Use fast-paced audio or conversations to stretch your skills.

- You can check out this video of how the shadowing technique works: [Spanish Shadowing](#)

Step 3: Translate Texts: Vocabulary and Grammar Focus (15%)

- Translation helps you delve deeper into the language's nuances.

Actionable Tips:

- Translate Spanish texts into your native language, then back into Spanish.
- Focus on maintaining natural flow and accuracy while refining grammar.
- Use idiomatic expressions to elevate translations, such as *poner manos a la obra* (to get involved).
- Recommended resources: [Spanish Translation Exercises](#)

Step 4: Start a Spanish Journal: Writing Practice (25%)

- Writing in Spanish consistently will sharpen your communication and grammar skills.

Actionable Tips:

- Start a journal or blog. Write detailed entries about your day, opinions on current events, or creative stories.
- Set weekly themes like “My dream vacation” or “A Spanish movie review.”
- Revise entries with a focus on clarity, coherence, and advanced grammar.

Step 5: Learn Local Slang and Colloquialisms: For Vocabulary Expansion (10%)

- Understanding slang can be particularly challenging for non-native speakers, but it can significantly improve your fluency and comprehension.

Actionable Tips:

- Watch Spanish TV shows or movies with everyday dialogue and make a note of unfamiliar terms to look up later.
- Practice using phrases like *echar un cable* (to lend a hand) or *estar en las nubes* (to be daydreaming).
- Record yourself using slang and compare it to native speakers.
- Create flashcards with idioms and colloquial phrases to study regularly.
- Recommended resources: [20 Best Spanish Movies for Learning Spanish](#), [10 Spanish TV Shows to Learn Spanish](#), [10 Awesome Tips to Speak Spanish like a Native](#)

Step 6: Master Grammar and Syntax (10%)

- Fine-tune your grasp of advanced grammar structures and sentence patterns.

Actionable Tips:

- Focus on challenging areas like the subjunctive mood, past historic tense, or complex conjunctions.
- Write sentences incorporating these grammar points and use them in speaking practice.
- Revisit intermediate grammar guides for reinforcement, ensuring mastery of complex concepts.
- Recommended resources: [My Daily Spanish Grammar](#)

Step 7: Assess Your Progress and Immerse Yourself (5% or more)

- This part is all about reflecting on your previous study efforts.

Actionable Tips:

- Reflect on your progress by recording yourself speaking or writing a detailed summary of what you've learned weekly.
- For a more immersive cultural experience, narrate your daily activities in Spanish or engage with immersive content like news broadcasts and novels.
- If you don't feel you've made enough progress, go more extreme: consume all your news, movies, and literature in Spanish.
- Blend learning with fun activities. Watching a Spanish movie might feel like relaxation, but it's also a way to learn. Integrate listening and reading exercises to enrich your vocabulary. Similarly, grammar refinement can go hand-in-hand with writing practice. Immersion doesn't have to demand intense conscious effort but can still be highly effective.
- Certain activities can be intertwined. You can integrate listening and reading exercises which can also serve to enrich your vocabulary.
- Similarly, enhancing your grasp of grammar can go hand-in-hand with writing practice. Immersion, while beneficial, doesn't necessarily demand intense conscious effort and is an optional yet effective approach to language learning.

Practice-Based Tips for Advanced Learners

- Record yourself discussing a complex topic; review for fluency and coherence.
- Write an opinion piece on a current event, focusing on nuanced grammar and vocabulary.
- Debate controversial topics with a partner to build confidence in spontaneous conversation.
- Create a vocabulary list from Spanish news articles and use the words in context.

Remember, this study plan is just a guide. Feel free to adjust the percentage of time spent and focus areas based on your preferences and progress. Language learning at the advanced level is about consistency and pushing boundaries. By following this guide, you'll not only maintain motivation but also tackle the nuances that define fluency.

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This program is designed for learners who have already mastered the basics — we do not accept complete beginners. If you're motivated and eager to push yourself, reach out to us to see if this program is the right fit for you.

Finding the time to study Spanish can be a challenge, but it's essential to start small and gradually increase your dedication. Even just a few minutes a day is already a great start! If you can manage more time, that's even better, and aiming for a few hours is ideal. Remember, it's about progressing from small to big, and every step counts in your language learning.

Congratulations on your progress with My Daily Spanish!

By following this study guide, you've taken significant strides toward becoming a confident Spanish speaker.

Language learning requires dedication and persistence, and you've shown admirable commitment. Embrace the process and celebrate your progress.

To further enhance your language skills, consider joining the [Spanish Language Accelerator Program](#). This program is designed to complement your efforts by offering **personalized coaching, a tailored study plan, and unlimited feedback** to help you achieve fluency faster. With **weekly one-on-one sessions** and exclusive materials tailored to your level, you'll have the support and structure needed to refine your speaking, writing, and comprehension skills.

Combine this study guide with the [Spanish Language Accelerator Program](#) for a well-rounded approach to mastering Spanish. Your determination, paired with expert guidance, will lead to lasting success in your language learning journey.

¡Buena suerte! (*Good luck!*) Keep pushing forward and immerse yourself in the beauty of the Spanish language. We wish you an enjoyable and fulfilling language learning experience!

My Daily Spanish