

The background of the entire page is a dark, semi-transparent overlay on a photograph. The photograph shows a person's hands writing in a spiral-bound notebook on a desk. The person is using a black pen. The lighting is soft, and the focus is on the writing action. The text is overlaid on this background.

# 33 FLUENCY-BOOSTING SPANISH VERBS

---

Olly Richards

Fluent Spanish Academy

COPYRIGHT © 2016 OLLY RICHARDS ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

---

## 33 FLUENCY-BOOSTING SPANISH VERBS

### Introduction

I asked members of the [Fluent Spanish Academy](#) to tell me the most useful Spanish verbs they have learned in recent months. Not just any old verbs, but verbs that they found themselves using in conversation over and over, and that have contributed directly to their fluency.

From all the verbs contributed by members, I chose 33 of the best. By learning these verbs and introducing them into your Spanish, you will notice an immediate improvement in your fluency, and in your ability to hold a conversation in Spanish.

The verbs are suitable for intermediate learners, and for any variety of Spanish.

---

## Guidance for using these Verbs

When you are at an intermediate level in Spanish, you need to be able to respond to native speakers quickly, and keep a conversation going.

Learning to use new verbs is a great way to do this! The verbs you'll learn here will help you to connect your ideas, respond naturally and ask engaging questions.

Here is a quick 6-step guide for how to use these verbs in your Spanish practice:

1. Think about what kind of situations you find yourself in most commonly.
2. Look through this guide and select the verbs that are most useful for you.
3. Write them down on a piece of paper, in a notebook or on some flashcards that you will carry around with you.
4. Listen to the recordings and practice pronouncing the phrases out loud.
5. Try "shadowing" or copying the recording so that you get the intonation right for each verb
6. Try to use them in your Spanish conversations as much as possible. Remember, the more you use them, the easier it will be to remember them!

## 33 Fluency Boosting Spanish Verbs

### #1 Convertirse (en) - to become

**Why it's useful:** You'd be surprised how much you might use phrases with 'become' in them and this verb can be a little tricky to use because it's almost always combined with *en* and it's also a reflexive verb.

Here's how to use it:

- Conjugate the root of the verb - *convertir*
- Add the reflexive part (*me, te, le, la, nos, vos, les*) at the beginning
- Add *en* after the verb.

*Convertir* is commonly used with *haber* which is the next verb we'll look at.

**Example:**

Se ha **convertido** en un buen futbolista.

He/She has become a good football player.

### #2 Haber - to have (auxiliary verb)

**Why it's useful:**

*Haber* is an auxiliary verb and is used to form several different verb tenses. It works kind of like the word have in the English sentence 'I *have* studied Spanish for 6 months'.

**Example:**

Ya lo **he** hecho.

I've already done it.

### #3 Parecer - to seem

#### Why it's useful:

*Parecer* is used to express opinion and it's very common. It can be a little tricky at first because it's normally used as a reflexive verb in Spanish.

The best way to use this verb is to think about the English phrase 'it seems to me'. In this sentence, the subject of the verb is 'it'... and it's the same in Spanish!

- Put the verb *parecer* into the third person ('it'): *parece*
- And then add *me* to mean 'to me': *me parece*

#### Example:

Me **parece** una buena idea.

I think that's a good idea. / That seems like a good idea to me.

### #4 Valer - to be worth

#### Why it's useful:

This verb is used frequently to talk about whether something is worth the time, effort or money that's invested in it.

#### Example:

¿**Vale** la pena aprender el español?

Is it worth it?

### #5 Llevar - to take

#### Why it's useful:

*Llevar* is a common verb that you you'll use on a daily basis. The difference between *llevar* (to take) and *tomar* (to take) can be very confusing at first.

*Llevar* means to carry, bring or take something from point A to point B, whereas *tomar* just means to take something (or even to drink something).

#### Examples:

Mi primo me llevó al aeropuerto.

My cousin took me to the airport.

## #6 Tomar - to take

### Why it's useful:

*Tomar* is one of the most common verbs in Spanish but it can also be one of the most difficult because it's used in so many different contexts.

For example, it can be used to discuss public transport (*tomar el bus* - to take the bus), taking a drink (*tomar agua* - to drink water) or even to take into account (*tomar en cuenta*).

### Examples:

Debemos tomar(/coger) el tren porque está muy lejos para caminar.

We should take a train because it's a very long way to walk.

Voy a tomar una cerveza.

I'm going to have a beer.

## #7 Seguir - to continue/to follow

**Why it's useful:** *Seguir* is a common verb and is especially useful as it has 2 different meanings depending on the context it's used in – 'to continue' and 'to follow'.

### Examples:

Seguimos con esta conversación después de almorzar.

We'll continue this conversation after lunch.

¿Seguiste las instrucciones?

Did you follow the instructions?

## #8 Pedir - to ask/to order

**Why it's useful:** Whether you're in a restaurant, a bar or just phoning for a pizza you're probably going to need to *pedir* something at some point!

### Examples:

¿Qué vas a pedir para comer?

What are you going to order to eat?

Hace mucho calor hoy. ¿Pedimos helado?

It's very hot today. Shall we order ice-cream?

## #9 Sacar - to take out/remove

**Why it's useful:**

**Example:**

Tengo que sacar la comida del horno en una hora

I must take the food out of the oven in an hour.

## #10 Mostrar - to show

**Why it's useful:**

**Example:**

Muéstrame en el mapa donde está tu hotel.

Show me on the map where your hotel is.

## #11 Compartir - to share

**Why it's useful:** The verb to share is very useful when talking about family or friends and your interactions with them.

**Example:**

Compartimos dos botellas de vino entre los cuatro.

We shared 2 bottles of wine between the four of us.

## #12 Tocar - to touch/to play a musical instrument

**Why it's useful:** *Tocar*, meaning 'to touch' can be used in a lot of different situations.

It's other meaning, 'to play a musical instrument' is essential for talking about music and hobbies.

**Examples:**

¡No toques el cable, podría ser peligroso!

Don't touch the cable. It could be dangerous.

Toco la guitarra y el piano.

I play the guitar and the piano.

### #13 Alcanzar - to reach/to be enough

**Why it's useful:** There are adjectives you can use to talk about something 'being enough' but being able to use the *alcanzar* instead will give your Spanish a much more native-like tone.

**Examples:**

La temperatura alcanzó más de 40º en Sevilla el fin de semana

The temperature reached more than 40º in Seville over the weekend.

¿El dinero nos alcanza para pagar todas las cuentas?

Is the money enough for us to pay all the bills?

### #14 Juntar - to get together/to join

**Why it's useful:** This is the verb we use to talk about getting together with a group of friends or other people. It's used commonly to talk about plans you have.

**Example:**

Nos juntamos el viernes para charlar y tomar un café.

We're getting together on Friday to chat and have a coffee.

### #15 Unir - to join/to unite

**Why it's useful:** It's all too easy to confuse *unir* with *juntar*. Basically, *juntar* means to get together as a group of people, whereas *unir* means to join or connect two or more *things* together.

For example, to talk about joining a class or an organisation you would use *unir*, but to talk about getting together with a group of friends you should use *juntar*.

Getting familiar with the correct usage of these two verbs will make your Spanish sound much more natural.

**Examples:**

El metro une el pueblo con la ciudad.

The metro joins the village to the city.

Me he unido a una clase de español.

I've joined a Spanish class.



## #16 Quejarse- to complain

**Why it's useful:** Like it or not, complaints are a part of life! Like *paracer*, *quejar* is normally used in the reflexive form.

Remember, when conjugating a reflexive verb:

- Put the verb *quejar* into the form you need (I/You/He/She/etc.)
- Then add *me* or another reflexive to the beginning. For example: *me quejé* – I complained

### Example:

Él siempre se queja contra el gobierno.

He's always complaining about the government.

## #17 Surgir - to come up

**Why it's useful:** A very handy verb to have when talking about plans or making plans.

### Example:

Perdon, no puedo venir hoy porque surgió algo muy urgente.

I'm sorry, I can't come today because something very urgent came up.

## #18 Apurarse - to hurry

**Why it's useful:** It's great for talking about plans and actions. *Apurar* is a verb that will add extra authenticity to your speech as an intermediate learner.

### Example:

Se apuró para llegar al cine a tiempo.

He/She hurried to make it to the cinema on time.

## #19 Funcionar - to work/to function

**Why it's useful:** Sometimes things don't work as you expect them to, especially where technology is concerned! Being able to explain that something isn't working or ask how it does work will surely come in handy.

**Example:**

Mi computadora no funciona bien hoy.

My computer is not working well today.

## #20 Tirar - to throw/to throw out/to shoot

**Why it's useful:** *Tirar* is a flexible verb which literally means 'to throw' but can take on many subtly different meanings depending on the context.

If you're into sports, it's also a very useful verb for talking about football or basketball. In this context, a *tiro* is a shot at goal and *tirar* is the verb used for this action.

**Examples:**

Si no funciona más, tiralo en la basura.

If it doesn't work anymore, throw it in the bin.

Barcelona no van a marcar si siguen tirando desde tan lejos.

Barcelona are not going to score if they keep shooting from so far away.

## #21 Anotar

**Why it's useful:** This is an action you probably take all the time when you're learning Spanish!

**Example:**

Siempre anoto nuevas palabras para memorizarlas más tarde.

I always take note of new words to learn them later on.

## #22 Disfrutar - to enjoy

**Why it's useful:** This verb is important for talking about hobbies or describing your experience of events.

**Example:**

Disfruté de la cena anoche.

I enjoyed the meal last night.

## #23 Pasar - to pass/to happen

**Why it's useful:** *Pasar* has multiple meanings and is used constantly in Spanish. If you can get your head around it's different usages it will instantly give your Spanish a lift.

**Examples:**

¿Cómo pasaste las vacaciones?

How were your holidays? (lit. How did you pass the holidays?)

¿Me puedes pasar la sal, por favor?

Can you pass me the salt, please?

## #24 Quedarse - to stay/to suit (one)

**Why it's useful:** Talking about location or travel is a common topic for many Spanish learners. You'll need the verb *quedarse* to tell people about where you stayed or plan to stay on a trip.

It's second meaning can also be very useful for giving compliments! When directed at person, *quedar* can mean 'to suit' like the phrase 'it suits you' in English.

Remember, *quedarse* is a reflexive verb so you need to add *me, te, le, la, nos, vos* or *les* before it.

**Example:**

Me quedé en Córdoba dos noches y después fui a Granada.

I stayed in Cordoba for two nights and then I went to Granada.

¡Esa chaqueta te queda muy bien!

That jacket really suits you!

## #25 Dejar - to leave

**Why it's useful:** One of the most common Spanish verbs but also one of the most confusing. Understanding the difference between *dejar* and *salir* can be challenging for Spanish learners.

**Example:**

Dejé las llaves en la mesa.

I left the keys on the table.

## #26 Salir - to leave

**Why it's useful:** In English, we have just one verb for 'to leave' but in Spanish there are two. *Salir* is used all the time, especially for making and discussing plans and events.

**Example:**

Nos gusta salir en los fines de semana.

We like to go out on the weekends.

## #27 Elegir - to choose

**Why it's useful:** There are two main verbs for 'to choose' or 'to select' - *elegir* and *seleccionar*. For beginners, *seleccionar* is probably easy to remember since it sounds like the English word 'select'. But for more advanced learners, using *elegir* will make you sound much more natural.

**Example:**

Me encantó la película que elegiste.

I loved the movie you chose.

## #28 Utilizar - to use/to utilise

**Why it's useful:** Just like 'to use' in English, *utilizar* is a very flexible verb that can be used in many different situations.

**Example:**

Ella siempre utiliza google para buscar las mejores ofertas antes de comprar cosas.

She always uses google to search for the best offers before buying things.

## #29 Gastar - to spend

**Why it's useful:** Like it or not, spending money is something we all do every day!

**Example:**

No gasto mucho en transporte público. Prefiero caminar.

I don't spend much on public transport. I prefer to walk.

## #30 Enchufar - to plug in

**Why it's useful:** We all use so much portable technology nowadays, you never know when you'll need to find a place to plug in a phone charger or laptop.

**Example:**

¿Puedo enchufar mi laptop aquí? No tiene mucha batería.

Can I plug in my laptop here? It doesn't have much battery left.

## #31 Prender - to turn on/to light

**Why it's useful:** This handy verb is used to talk about turning on machines or lights - something most of us do every day.

**Example:**

Cuando llego a mi trabajo, prendo la computadora y empiezo a trabajar.

When I arrive at work, I turn on the computer and I start to work.

Prendí la luz para poder leer mejor.

I turned on the light so I could read better.

## #32 Apagar - to turn off

**Why it's useful:** The opposite of *prender*. *Apagar* is the verb you'll need to talk about turning off a camera, a television, a light or almost anything else.

**Example:**

En vez de mirar a la televisión, la voy a apagar y leer un rato.

Instead of watching TV, I'm going to turn it off and read for a while.

---

### #33 Acostar - to go to bed

**Why it's useful:** It can be used to end a conversation or talk about your daily routine.

**Example:**

Me voy a acostar ahora porque tengo mucho sueño.

I'm going to go to bed now because I'm very sleepy.

## ABOUT ME



Hi, I'm Olly Richards from the UK. I speak 8 languages, and I give practical guidance for learning foreign languages on my website: [I Will Teach You A Language](https://www.iwtyal.com).

I also run [Fluent Spanish Academy](https://www.fluent-spanish-academy.com), a membership club for intermediate Spanish learners who want to become fluent in the language.

I have produced a series of short stories in many languages, including Spanish, which are international bestsellers. These books provide simplified, accessible, and fun reading material in Spanish for students who enjoy reading. Accompanying audiobooks are also available on Audible.

- [Spanish Short Stories Volume 1](#)
- [Spanish Short Stories Volume 2](#)

If you have any questions about learning Spanish, feel free to reach out to me on Twitter: [@Olly\\_IWTYAL](https://twitter.com/Olly_IWTYAL)

Best of luck with your language learning!

Olly