



Get Unstuck: The Key Strategies for Reaching Spanish Fluency

THE FLUENT SPANISH HOUSE



1. Introduction

2. What are your main priorities?

- a) Understanding,**
- b) How to grow your confidence,**
- c) Why do we focus on mastering basic grammar?**
- d) What does basic grammar consist of?**

3. You have a plan.

4. What benefits can a good teacher provide for you?

1. INTRODUCTION

Have you ever known some grammar and vocabulary in a foreign language but struggled to form a single sentence? I remember being in your shoes, studying hard, and completing exercises, yet feeling stuck and frustrated. I even gave up a few times, only to start again with renewed energy, repeating the same cycle without real progress. Do you think you're not good at languages? Have you concluded that learning requires intense intellectual effort? That's not entirely true.



Let me show you the real deal!

2. WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN PRIORITIES?

I want to show you that your approach to the learning process matters. Effective prioritization is essential to mastering Spanish. What are your priorities by importance?



UNDERSTANDING YOUR N^a1 PRIORITY



- Deaf individuals often cannot speak because they cannot hear, but deafness usually does not affect the vocal cords.



- Babies typically say their first simple words in their parents' native language after about a year and a half, spending over 3,000 hours listening to their family speak.
- Many people can understand native speakers of a foreign language but struggle to speak it themselves. However, the reverse is rarely seen.
- So, understanding everything the first time is critical to effective communication. No doubt about it.



HOW TO GROW YOUR CONFIDENCE

- First, be aware that if you improve your understanding, your confidence boost automatically.
- Mistakes are a natural part of language learning, even for natives! Embrace them. They're stepping stones to your growth!
- Stay close to the Spanish language. Engage in activities you enjoy in Spanish to associate the language with fun. Let me give you an example: I practice Pilates daily by watching videos from English-speaking instructors.
- Embrace every chance to practice your language skills! Even without a partner, you can boost your confidence by repeating sentences and reading aloud. It's a fun way to improve!

C HOW DO YOU GET AN AGILE COMMAND OF THE BASIC GRAMMAR?



- If you want to become fluent, you must concentrate on mastering basic grammar. The basic grammar is used in 95% of our daily conversations.
- Mastering basic grammar involves developing precision and agility with the essential language structures.
- If you consistently reproduce the main structures out loud, you will eventually become fluent and be capable of using them automatically. Remember that repetition is the mother of skill.



WHAT DOES BASIC GRAMMAR CONSIST OF?

1. Here are some of the most important verbs of the language:

- ayudar,
- comprar,
- conocer,
- creer,
- dar,
- deber,
- decir,
- dejar,
- echar,
- entender,
- escuchar,
- estar,
- haber,
- hacer,
- hablar,
- ir,
- llevar,
- mirar,

- olvidar,
- pedir,
- pensar,
- poner,
- poder,
- preguntar,
- querer,
- recordar,
- saber,
- ser,
- tener,
- traer,
- venir,
- ver.

2. The main grammar structures:

- **verbs with object and/or indirect objects** (decir, pedir, ver, hacer, querer, entender, escuchar, comprar, etc)
- **verbs with prepositions** (ir en/de/a, ayudar a, pensar en, estar a/de, hablar de, ayudar a, asistir a, etc.)

- **verbs with reflexive pronouns** (levantarse, enfadarse, darse cuenta de, casarse con, etc.), verbs with **reflexive pronouns and prepositions** (darse cuenta de, arrepentirse de, preocuparse de, acostumbrarse a, etc.)
- **combinations of two verbs:** (Estar + gerundio (hablando, comiendo, viviendo), ir a + infinitivo (hablar, comer, vivir), tener que + infinitivo, hay que + infinitivo, deber + infinitivo, acabar de + infinitivo, soler + infinitivo, estar a punto de + infinitivo, empezar a + infinitivo, seguir + gerundio),
- **verbs usually used in the 3rd person with an indirect object pronoun** (gustar, doler, apetecer, etc.),
- **and the combination of both of them** (Se me quemó la cena, Se me olvidaron las llaves, etc.)

3. The most essential tenses:

- **el presente** (yo hablo, como y vivo),
- **el pretérito perfecto** (yo he hablado, comido y vivido),
- **el pasado simple** (yo hablé, comí y viví),
- **el imperfecto** (yo hablaba, comía y vivía).
- **el futuro** (yo hablaré, comeré y viviré),
- **el condicional** (yo hablaría, comería y viviría),
- **el imperativo** (habla, come, vive),
- **el presente de subjuntivo** (yo hable, coma y viva),
- **el imperfecto de subjuntivo** (yo hablará, comiera y viviera).

4. And other words like **subject and complement pronouns** and **adverbs**.

3. YOU HAVE A PLAN



HOW CAN YOU ORGANIZE YOUR LEARNING TIME?

Imagine you only have 30 minutes each day. How can you distribute that time effectively? Do it as follows:

75%

LISTENING TO SPANISH

20 %

GRAMMAR

5%

VOCAB

Consistency is the key to unlocking your Spanish language goals. Embrace each day without skipping a beat!

LET'S DIVE IN THREE CONCEPTS!

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

I recommend listening to **podcasts, interviews, documentaries, radio stations, and YouTube videos**. You can expose your ear to Spanish as much as possible, and it helps you reach a native level of understanding. You can listen actively, paying attention to what is said, or passively, playing Spanish as background noise. Both ways are equally beneficial and effective. If you're in contact with Spanish daily through listening, you'll also increase your confidence and your vocabulary.

GRAMMAR

You don't need to learn endless lists of grammar rules and know everything about grammar. **Learning a language is more about mechanics than intellectual work.**

I will provide two key supporting points:

- First, the muscles in your mouth need to get used to moving differently. So, they need some training.



- Secondly, your brain will learn by associating each sentence in English with its equivalent in Spanish. At the same time, it will incorporate essential structures for generating new sentences.

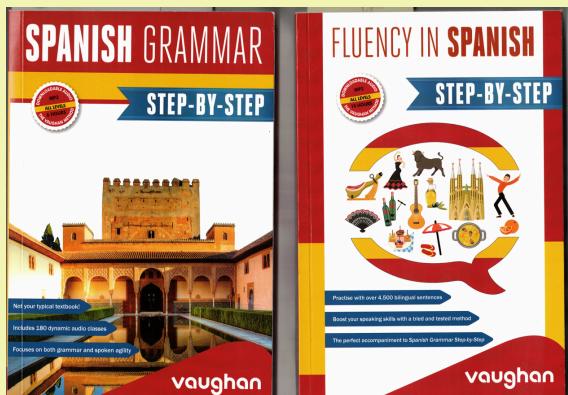


How can you enhance the agility of the muscles in your mouth and brain?

I recommend a simple yet effective exercise. Here is a table with valuable sentences. First, cover the right column, read the English sentence, and say it aloud in Spanish. Then, check your answers to see if you were correct.

Are you ready?	¿Estás listo?
Be careful!	¡Ten cuidado!
Can I go too?	¿Puedo ir también?
Have a good time!	¡Diviértete!
I'm looking forward to seeing you.	Tengo ilusión por verlo.
I know what I'm doing.	Sé lo que hago.
It didn't work.	No funcionó.
I have trouble understanding him.	Me cuesta entenderlo.
I'm glad you like it.	Me alegra de que te guste.

Where can you get books with exercises like this? I highly recommend the ones below.



VOCABULARY

A Spanish native speaker knows around 20.000 vocables in their language. However, set your goal to learn between 500 and 1.000 words in the short-medium run. Here is some advice to improve your Spanish vocabulary. There are two types of vocabulary: passive and active. Passive vocabulary includes words we understand but don't use, while active vocabulary consists of words we regularly use. It's essential to incorporate passive vocabulary into our active usage. But how can we do this?

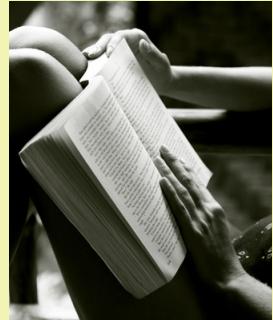


To embrace new vocabulary, use each term in a meaningful sentence and repeat it a few times. For example, if you're learning the word 'quisquilloso' (picky), you could say: Soy muy quisquilloso con la comida. No como cualquier cosa. This makes retention much more enjoyable and helps you understand the context in which the word is used. **Making words personal can transform your learning experience.**



Equally important is immersing yourself in the language through listening. That helped me incorporate a lot of English terms before I even saw them written down. Listening to the words in context helps you start assimilating their different uses and meanings.

Bestsellers, children's books, comics, or simple Spanish texts are fantastic resources for introducing you to exciting new words. Happy learning!



HUMILITY IS KEY TO IMPROVEMENT.

What does humility have to do with learning languages? You'll never be advanced enough to go without reviewing basic stuff. Consistently reviewing and practicing grammar structures and vocabulary are valuable steps toward achieving and maintaining fluency. Practice the 3-R rule:

REPETITION + REVIEW= REMEMBERING



4. WHAT BENEFITS CAN A GOOD TEACHER PROVIDE FOR YOU?

Learning a language on your own requires a lot of effort. Most of us are busy people who sometimes lack the will to do so.

- A good teacher will make your way more straightforward and effortless. They will prevent you from learning unnecessary stuff that slows down your progress.
- A great teacher inspires and encourages you to stay consistent.
- A skilled teacher offers engaging tools to enhance your learning.

Thank
you!

Marta
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