

REAL FAST

SPANISH

**The Definitive Guide to
Conversation Hacking in
Spanish**

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Why this guide?

In the last 10 years a new approach to language learning has developed.

There is now so much amazing information out in the world to help language students achieve their goals faster than ever before. With tools such as the internet, Skype and language learning software, conversation hackers are now learning languages in a fraction of the time.

The Definitive Guide to Conversation Hacking was written to share the ideas and concepts of the conversation hacking movement. This guide will provide insights on the principles and the strategies associated with conversation hacking and explain how they can be specifically applied to Spanish.

Who is this guide for?

This guide is for Spanish students that are looking for a better way to learn Spanish. A way that is more effective and useful for achieving a conversational level of Spanish as fast as possible.

If you have never held a conversation in Spanish before then this guide will help you find a path to that level in the most effective way.

There are lots of reasons why Spanish students need a conversational level quickly. Maybe you have an upcoming holiday to a Spanish speaking country, you may want to impress a friend, maybe you are an aspiring polyglot and looking to add Spanish to your bag of tricks or maybe you have always wanted to learn and have struggled with motivation.

One of the advantages of conversation hacking is that it cuts the learning time significantly which means you won't have to hold high levels of motivation for as long. If you have struggled with motivation in the past then this guide will help you improve faster so you can enjoy the language without having to maintain focused discipline for years.

This guide is not for Spanish students who are looking to be "fluent". I strongly believe that most language students would be better off without using the word and I advise you to stop using it when talking about your language learning goals. What this really means is that conversational hacking isn't about perfection.

If you are looking to be an interpreter or work professionally with Spanish, then sure, you could start here but you will eventually need to get formal training. This guide is ultimately for you if you want to experience and enjoy the language with a manageable approach.

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How to use this guide?

To get the most out of this guide you should read it all the way through at least once and get a understanding of the overall principles.

Once you have an idea of the principles you can return to each chapter and read it as a stand-alone reference topic. You can refer back to each topic when you need to focus specifically one particular area of conversation hacking.

Until you reach a comfortable conversational level I advise that you keep referring back to the guide to help maintain your focus and avoid distraction.

Introduction

I remember the agony of my first F in high school. I was fifteen and not looking forward to giving my parents the news.

My first experience with language learning was not a good one. It started in high school and at the time I was probably much more interested in the opposite sex than I was interested in spending any time committing French verb tables to memory.

Ironically, a second language is often a useful tool for attracting the opposite sex but as a fifteen year old I wasn't to know.

I studied French for 3 years and I could barely speak a word. My grammar sucked. My vocabulary was non-existent and despite sitting through 3 classes a week for 3 years I was still a long way from ever having a conversation in French. But, I wasn't alone. My classmates were in the same situation. Maybe I wasn't the victim of bad genes but a victim of a bad system.

Only one student from that class went on with her French studies. In fact, that student went on to achieve dux of the school in our final year.

A miserable 1 out of 150 students was able to walk away from my high school with any significant foreign language skills.

So with such poor results in language learning – I couldn't help but ask – did I graduate with a class full of dummies? Or were we simply not learning in an effective way.

The old way is dead. Learning languages these days is not about a long hard slog buried in boring textbooks. There is a new movement of language learners across the globe that are using the latest techniques designed to cut the time required to learn a language significantly.

Why spend 5 or 6 years learning a language when you could achieve your goals in 5 or 6 months. The old way is slow and has a low success rate, the new way is interesting, fun and far more effective.

The best news is the process can be learned. It is not restricted to those that have an abundance of time to practice or the money required to move to a Spanish speaking country.

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The new process for acquiring a foreign language quicker than ever before is called conversation hacking.

In this guide I'm going to share with you the principles of conversation hacking and how you can use them to achieve a conversational level Spanish faster than any other method.

Chapter 1 – Fluency Is Not The Goal

It is rare to find a language student that doesn't use the word "fluent" somewhere in their language learning goals. But, using the word or the idea of fluency in your goals is problematic because the word is poorly defined.

Does fluency mean you will have a perfect native accent? You probably never will.

Does fluency mean that your second language is as good as your first? This is next to impossible because in order to achieve a level in a second language that is as good as your first you need to live in a Spanish speaking country. You need to work, live and breath your second language for years, which can, as a result, reduce your abilities in your first language. This means that your skills in your first and second languages will be equal when your skills in your first language are on the decline.

Does fluency simply mean holding a conversation with perfect precision, grammar and use of vocab? This could be achieved for short conversations (eg one or two sentences in length) with only one evening's worth of practice.

The point is that fluency is not a well-defined word, which means it is not a well-defined and hence useful goal.

But, before we completely demolish a can of haterade on an abstract word, this first chapter is not about a war of words. It's about mindset and goal setting.

It is not my goal to rally and have Merriam-Webster update their definition of fluency or is it to pontificate about the use of one word over another.

My goal is to help you improve your language learning mindset in order to reach your goals faster.

The secret to goal setting is to make the goal specific and measurable, this makes the goal easier and faster to achieve.

The reason that fluency is not useful is that it can't be measured and it's not specific.

Lets take a sports example – Michael Jordan was one of the greatest basketball players of all time. He was awesome right?

Now say you are an upcoming basketball player and you want to be as good as Jordan. You think to yourself "he was awesome, so my goal should be to be awesome."

Straight away, there is an obvious problem, how do you become awesome? What does awesome mean?

REAL FAST SPANISH

Does awesome mean defence or offence? Does it mean shooting percentage, or rebounds or blocks or wins?

If you want to be awesome do you have to work on everything all at once and how will you know if you have achieved it all?

A good test of a useful goal is – can somebody else understand the goal? And if you ask a third person will they have a similar interpretation?

Once you decide that awesome is too arbitrary and instead focus on one aspect of Jordan's game – say shooting percentage – then you can get to work. You can practice your shooting technique and when it comes to game time someone can measure your accuracy to determine if you have or haven't achieved your goal.

Awesome is the equivalent of fluency; if your goal is fluency then like the young basketball player you will always struggle to find a place to start, what to do next and how to measure whether or not you have achieved what you set out to achieve.

Instead look for a goal that will allow you to start to shape your mind around the problem.

For conversational Spanish and the conversation hacking process the goal I encourage all of my students at Real Fast Spanish to take is:

"I can hold a conversation with a native speaker for 30 minutes with at least 10 minutes out of the thirty minutes spoken by me"

This goal does not include a level of accuracy, it does not include reference to a total vocabulary size and it does not include a set level of grammar.

The power of this goal is that it is measurable and sets you up perfectly for the conversation hacking process. You will be able to position your mind to look for the vital pieces of information that will allow you to achieve it.

You will know very clearly whether you have arrived or not. And if you haven't got there yet you can look to the other six principles of conversation hacking to help get you there faster.

Chapter 2 – Not All Words Are Created Equally

The second most important principle is that not all vocabulary words require your attention. In English there are over 250,000 words yet only 20,000 are used in regular day-to-day communication.

In Spanish these numbers are even better – there are a total of 100,000 words in the Spanish language and the top 1000 most frequently used words will give you 87% of spoken communication.

The conversation hacker focuses his or her efforts on these top 1000 words first.

There are thousands of words in Spanish; the essence of conversation hacking is knowing that not all words are going to provide you the same reward for effort. There are diminishing returns for every additional word you commit to memory so make the first words count.

REAL FAST
SPANISH

Conversation hackers know that it is better to learn the verbs for “I want” or “I need” than words such as “rooster” or “elephant”. Why waste early valuable computing power on words you will seldom use?

In order to hack the vocabulary acquisition process and cut the time it takes to gain the vocabulary you need to have a conversation you should to focus on the words that are going to give you the best return on time invested.

For Spanish the top 1000 most useful words for conversation hackers are:

ORDER	ENGLISH	ESPAÑOL
1	I	yo
2	to want	querer
3	this	este
4	yes	sí
5	no	no
6	to be able to	poder
7	to speak	hablar
8	to find	encontrar
9	to have	tener
10	to need	necesar
11	where	dónde
12	that	que
13	the	el / la
14	place	lugar
15	home	casa
16	something	algo
17	that	ese
18	and	y
19	to see	ver
20	but	pero
21	to go (go away/leave)	ir(se)
22	to, at	a
23	to say	decir

REAL FAST
SPANISH

24	or	o
25	a	un
26	more	más
27	as, like	como
28	is, oneself	se
29	to come	venir
30	my	mi
31	to be	ser
32	to be	estar
33	to live	vivir
34	to pass	pasar
35	day	día
36	year	año
37	week	semana
38	month	mes
39	each	cada
40	time	tiempo
41	to know	saber
42	to know (be familiar with)	conocer
43	to do	hacer
44	to practice	practicar
45	to arrive	llegar
46	too, also	también
47	when	cuando
48	until	hasta
49	morning	mañana
50	he / she	él / ella
51	is pleasing to (to like)	gustar
52	me	me

REAL FAST
SPANISH

53	you	te
54	you, him, her	le
55	us	nos
56	them	les
57	friend	amigo
58	food	comida
59	other	otro
60	work	trabajo
61	for, through	por
62	for, in order to	para
63	example	ejemplo
64	of	de
65	in, on	en
66	with	con
67	to give	dar
68	country	país
69	man	hombre
70	woman	mujer
71	to have	haber
72	very	muy
73	much	mucho
74	large	grande
75	less	menos
76	little	poco
77	thing	cosa
78	if	si
79	our	nuestro
80	always	siempre
81	life	vida

REAL FAST
SPANISH

82	after	después
83	then	entonces
84	to put	poner
85	duty	deber
86	well	bien
87	between	entre
88	word	palabra
89	now	ahora
90	to learn	aprender
91	your	tu
92	to believe	creer
93	is seeming to (to seem)	parecer
94	nothing	nada
95	all	todo
96	because	porque
97	to help	ayudar
98	to ask	pedir
99	to question	preguntar
100	what	qué
101	it, the, him	lo
102	his, her, their	su
103	here	aquí
104	already	ya
105	without	sin
106	time	vez
107	there is, there are	hay
108	about	sobre
109	you (informal)	tú
110	any, some	alguno

REAL FAST
SPANISH

111	same	mismo
112	like that, so	así
113	how	cómo
114	two	dos
115	only	sólo
116	first	primero
117	from	desde
118	or	ni
119	thanks	gracias
120	good	bueno
121	one	uno
122	you (formal)	usted
123	so many, so much	tanto
124	Mr.	señor
125	such, as, so	tan
126	who	quién
127	part	parte
128	is remaining to (to stay)	quedar
129	favor	favor
130	where	dónde
131	never	nunca
132	to lead	llevar
133	to leave	dejar
134	truth	verdad
135	to follow	seguir
136	new	nuevo
137	well	pues
138	to call (be called/name)	llamar(se)
139	best	mejor

140	to think	pensar
141	that	aquel
142	moment	momento
143	god	dios
144	but, rather	sino
145	to leave	salir
146	to return	volver
147	form	forma
148	before	antes
149	although	aunque
150	world	mundo
151	three	tres
152	such	tal
153	there	ahí
154	to take	tomar
155	certain	cierto
156	to, towards	hacia
157	case	caso
158	night	noche
159	to feel	sentir
160	then, later	luego
161	someone	alguien
162	to try	tratar
163	person	persona
164	higher	mayor
165	last	último
166	single	solo
167	own	propio
168	no one	nadie

REAL FAST
SPANISH

169	whoever	quien
170	us	nosotros
171	to look	mirar
172	father	padre
173	time, hour	hora
174	people	gente
175	none	ninguno
176	money	dinero
177	almost	casi
178	point	punto
179	done	hecho
180	during	durante
181	any	cualquier
182	hand	mano
183	way	manera
184	which	cual
185	while	mientras
186	to count	contar
187	end	fin
188	type	tipo
189	clear	claro
190	also, besides	además
191	to start	empezar
192	to wait	esperar
193	today	hoy
194	side	lado
195	son	hijo
196	there	allí
197	this	éste

REAL FAST
SPANISH

198	problem	problema
199	agreement	acuerdo
200	account	cuenta
201	medium	medio
202	against	contra
203	out	fuera
204	search	buscar
205	within	dentro
206	long	largo
207	safe, secure	seguro
208	to exist	existir
209	child	niño
210	to enter	entrar
211	mother	madre
212	embargo	embargo
213	only	único
214	to work	trabajar
215	small	pequeño
216	high	alto
217	change	cambio
218	to write	escribir
219	four	cuatro
220	to lose	perder
221	history	historia
222	wait	espera
223	idea	idea
224	water	agua
225	to produce	producir
226	city	ciudad

REAL FAST
SPANISH

227	state	estado
228	mode	modo
229	name	nombre
230	to occur	ocurrir
231	family	familia
232	reality	realidad
233	to understand	entender
234	to receive	recibir
235	work	obra
236	important	importante
237	with me	conmigo
238	wrong	mal
239	yet	todavía
240	reason	razón
241	that	cuanto
242	low	bajo
243	to remember	recordar
244	group	grupo
245	love	amor
246	thousand	mil
247	mine	mío
248	human	humano
249	to finish	terminar
250	to allow	permitir
251	to appear	aparecer
252	to get	conseguir
253	afternoon	tarde
254	to start	comenzar
255	several	varios

256	possible	possible
257	yet	aún
258	to serve	servir
259	general	general
260	to take	sacar
261	relationship	relación
262	five	cinco
263	body	cuerpo
264	with you	contigo
265	to maintain	mantener
266	before	ante
267	principle	principio
268	to result	resultar
269	equal	igual
270	too	demasiado
271	town	pueblo
272	second	segundo
273	to read	leer
274	to fall	caer
275	to change	cambiar
276	eye	ojo
277	goodbye	adiós
278	street	calle
279	to present	presentar
280	white	blanco
281	to create	crear
282	to open	abrir
283	book	libro
284	different	distinto

285	force	fuerza
286	light	luz
287	according to	según
288	saint	santo
289	front	frente
290	to consider	considerar
291	really	realmente
292	police	policía
293	to hear	oír
294	whose	cuyo
295	sense	sentido
296	to end	acabar
297	step	paso
298	situation	situación
299	serious	serio
300	head	cabeza
301	quite	bastante
302	brother	hermano
303	to convert	convertir
304	grace	gracia
305	century	siglo
306	last, past	pasado
307	bad	malo
308	land	tierra
309	paper	papel
310	affection	cariño
311	valid, voucher	vale
312	neither	tampoco
313	social	social

REAL FAST
SPANISH

314	old	viejo
315	Mrs.	señora
316	topic	tema
317	political	político
318	Spanish	Español
319	dead	muerto
320	to win	ganar
321	to form	formar
322	class	clase
323	fast	rápido
324	to bring	traer
325	to start from, to divide	partir
326	to die	morir
327	even	incluso
328	luck	suerte
329	field, country	campo
330	care	cuidado
331	to accept	aceptar
332	perhaps	quizás
333	to perform	realizar
334	hundred	ciento
335	fear	miedo
336	order	orden
337	door	puerta
338	soon	pronto
339	to suppose	suponer
340	to understand	comprender
341	final	final
342	interest	interés

343	following	siguiente
344	view	vista
345	to achieve	lograr
346	other, the rest	demás
347	you	os
348	boy	chico
349	difficult	difícil
350	how much	cuánto
351	number	número
352	to explain	explicar
353	come	venga
354	black	negro
355	road	camino
356	background	fondo
357	voice	voz
358	study	estudio
359	necessary	necesario
360	there	allá
361	to touch	tocar
362	value	valor
363	to recognize	reconocer
364	to study	estudiar
365	to achieve	alcanzar
366	to be born	nacer
367	to direct	dirigir
368	to run	correr
369	happy	feliz
370	measure	medida
371	less	menor

372	war	guerra
373	only	solamente
374	wife	esposa
375	to use	utilizar
376	forward	adelante
377	center	centro
378	what	cuál
379	need	necesidad
380	condition	condición
381	to pay	pagar
382	it	ello
383	lack	falta
384	death	muerte
385	ten	diez
386	through	través
387	old	antiguo
388	supposed	supuesto
389	age	edad
390	to play	jugar
391	heart	corazón
392	face	cara
393	boss, chief	jefe
394	era, time	época
395	color	color
396	to listen	escuchar
397	help	ayuda
398	experience	experiencia
399	movement	movimiento
400	to fulfill	cumplir

REAL FAST
SPANISH

401	special	especial
402	different	diferente
403	to weigh	pesar
404	possibility	posibilidad
405	to offer	ofrecer
406	up	arriba
407	to discover	descubrir
408	daughter	hija
409	previous	anterior
410	game	juego
411	to lift (to get up)	levantar(se)
412	poor	pobre
413	air	aire
414	six	seis
415	to try	intentar
416	together	junto
417	result	resultado
418	use	usar
419	to decide	decidir
420	to repeat	repetir
421	to forget	olvidar
422	law	ley
423	appearance	aspecto
424	foot	pie
425	worth	valer
426	species	especie
427	to eat	comer
428	service	servicio
429	close	cerca

430	to show	mostrar
431	activity	actividad
432	third	tercero
433	uncle	tío
434	to occupy	ocupar
435	question	cuestión
436	doubt	duda
437	at least	siquiera
438	difference	diferencia
439	to move	mover
440	to continue	continuar
441	amount	cantidad
442	action	acción
443	to happen	suceder
444	to set	fijar
445	society	sociedad
446	to refer	referir
447	to close	acercar
448	able	capaz
449	free	libre
450	natural	natural
451	to devote	dedicar
452	weight	peso
453	effect	efecto
454	object	objeto
455	doctor	doctor
456	true	verdadero
457	enough	suficiente
458	young	joven

459	party	partido
460	economic	económico
461	below	abajo
462	right	derecho
463	first	primer
464	importance	importancia
465	brilliant	genial
466	system	sistema
467	just	justo
468	trip	viaje
469	soil	suelo
470	respect, in regards to	respecto
471	knowledge	conocimiento
472	freedom	libertad
473	above	encima
474	to buy	comprar
475	common	común
476	open	abierto
477	next	próximo
478	strong	fuerte
479	attention	atención
480	to rise	subir
481	effort	esfuerzo
482	to avoid	evitar
483	rest	resto
484	is interesting to (to interest)	interesar
485	back	atrás
486	area	zona
487	process	proceso

REAL FAST
SPANISH

488	alive	vivo
489	to close	cerrar
490	wine	vino
491	to throw, cast	echar
492	to reply	responder
493	to suffer	sufrir
494	complete	completo
495	minute	minuto
496	school	escuela
497	contrary	contrario
498	table	mesa
499	real	real
500	occasion	ocasión
501	blood	sangre
502	is important to (to matter)	importar
503	public	público
504	car	coche
505	to obtain	obtener
506	program	programa
507	away	lejos
508	seven	siete
509	huge	enorme
510	response	respuesta
511	line	línea
512	space	espacio
513	level	nivel
514	peace	paz
515	government	gobierno
516	end, cape	cabo

517	return	vuelta
518	to observe	observar
519	to indicate	indicar
520	question	pregunta
521	image	imagen
522	career	carrera
523	fault	culpa
524	to imagine	imaginar
525	to be in the habit of	soler
526	both	ambos
527	to accompany	acompañar
528	deep	profundo
529	to stop	detener
530	to develop	desarrollar
531	eight	ocho
532	easy	fácil
533	to signal	señalar
534	to choose	elegir
535	figure	figura
536	main	principal
537	to sleep	dormir
538	animal	animal
539	base	base
540	to prepare	preparar
541	to propose	proponer
542	to show	demostrar
543	party	fiesta
544	to mean	significar
545	position	posición

546	bed	cama
547	motive	motivo
548	test	prueba
549	policy	politica
550	national	nacional
551	full	lleno
552	phone	teléfono
553	to gather	reunir
554	Is missing to (to lack)	faltar
555	team	equipo
556	datum	dato
557	to wish	desear
558	company	empresa
559	issue	asunto
560	presence	presencia
561	yours	suyo
562	culture	cultura
563	series	serie
564	million	millón
565	to teach	enseñar
566	to build	construir
567	opportunity	oportunidad
568	to sell	vender
569	to kill	matar
570	to represent	representar
571	to disappear	desaparecer
572	to send	mandar
573	character	carácter
574	where	adónde

REAL FAST
SPANISH

575	most	mayoría
576	red	rojo
577	after	tras
578	top	superior
579	to walk	andar
580	short	corto
581	author	autor
582	fourth	cuarto
583	sky	cielo
584	known	conocido
585	to prefer	preferir
586	memory	recuerdo
587	to ensure	asegurar
588	forgiveness	perdón
589	function	función
590	cause	causa
591	serious	grave
592	decision	decisión
593	music	música
594	strange	extraño
595	to grow	crecer
596	to emerge	surgir
597	movie	película
598	expression	expresión
599	husband	marido
600	around	alrededor
601	dog	perro
602	to deliver	entregar
603	river	río

604	exactly	exactamente
605	security	seguridad
606	king	rey
607	term	término
608	to place	colocar
609	metro	metro
610	doctor	médico
611	room	habitación
612	to establish	establecer
613	to save	guardar
614	art	arte
615	pair	par
616	to start	iniciar
617	fire	fuego
618	to lower	bajar
619	consequence	consecuencia
620	to note	notar
621	act	acto
622	to put	meter
623	absolute	absoluto
624	penalty	pena
625	to act	actuar
626	height	altura
627	desire	deseo
628	out, outside	afuera
629	precisely	precisamente
630	twenty	veinte
631	dream	sueño
632	claim	pretender

REAL FAST
SPANISH

633	task	tarea
634	coffee	café
635	letter	carta
636	barely, just	apenas
637	property	propiedad
638	product	producto
639	personal	personal
640	simply	simplemente
641	impossible	imposible
642	taste	gusto
643	to agree (remember)	acordar(se)
644	site	sitio
645	language	lengua
646	to cut	cortar
647	plan	plan
648	baby	bebé
649	to correspond	corresponder
650	to break	romper
651	never	jamás
652	to acquire	adquirir
653	weapon	arma
654	project	proyecto
655	memory	memoria
656	origin	origen
657	element	elemento
658	lost	perdido
659	English	inglés
660	market	mercado
661	course	curso

662	to launch	lanzar
663	given	dado
664	to take advantage of	aprovechar
665	interior	interior
666	hard	duro
667	to support	apoyar
668	worse	peor
669	deny	negar
670	advance	avanzar
671	use	uso
672	arm	brazo
673	teacher	profesor
674	resolve	resolver
675	future	futuro
676	half	mitad
677	clothing	ropa
678	is costly to (to cost)	costar
679	rich	rico
680	total	total
681	to require	exigir
682	opinion	opinión
683	to increase	aumentar
684	to collect	recoger
685	mouth	boca
686	address	dirección
687	pure	puro
688	president	presidente
689	to abandon	abandonar
690	piece	pieza

691	last night	anoche
692	professional	profesional
693	to impose	imponer
694	about	acerca
695	to force	obligar
696	physical	físico
697	attitude	actitud
698	sea	mar
699	entry	entrada
700	contact	contacto
701	to apply	aplicar
702	correct	correcto
703	capital	capital
704	title	título
705	back	detrás
706	post	puesto
707	material	material
708	blow	golpe
709	to dispose	disponer
710	communication	comunicación
711	to express	expresar
712	sorry	disculpe
713	simple	simple
714	completely	totalmente
715	to provoke	provocar
716	normal	normal
717	to defend	defender
718	disease	enfermedad
719	matter	materia

REAL FAST
SPANISH

720	remove	quitar
721	to conserve	conservar
722	modern	moderno
723	hospital	hospital
724	to depend	depender
725	nature	naturaleza
726	capacity	capacidad
727	actual	actual
728	mark	marcar
729	distance	distancia
730	full	pleno
731	perfect	perfecto
732	closed	cerrado
733	to share	compartir
734	quiet	tranquilo
735	information	información
736	environment	ambiente
737	especially	especialmente
738	development	desarrollo
739	sun	sol
740	to consist	consistir
741	probably	probablemente
742	to constitute	constituir
743	yesterday	ayer
744	ready	dispuesto
745	to cover	cubrir
746	to function	funcionar
747	ringer	campañero
748	nice	bonito

REAL FAST
SPANISH

749	output	salida
750	to fit	caber
751	awareness	conciencia
752	to meet	atender
753	sick	enfermo
754	incredible	increíble
755	to insist	insistir
756	custom	costumbre
757	silly	tono
758	news	noticia
759	circumstance	circunstancia
760	is painful to (to hurt)	doler
761	private	privado
762	style	estilo
763	price	precio
764	popular	popular
765	to sit	sentar
766	plant	planta
767	that	ése
768	character	personaje
769	famous	famoso
770	hunger	hambre
771	success	éxito
772	to merit	merecer
773	building	edificio
774	authority	autoridad
775	stone	piedra
776	to include	incluir
777	boat	barco

REAL FAST
SPANISH

778	set	conjunto
779	hotel	hotel
780	thirty	treinta
781	immediate	inmediato
782	to cross	cruzar
783	yours	tuyo
784	to tend	tender
785	finally	finalmente
786	to advertise	anunciar
787	bath	baño
788	spirit	espíritu
789	member	miembro
790	direct	directo
791	pleasure	placer
792	to wake	despertar
793	resource	recurso
794	wall	pared
795	error	error
796	accurate	preciso
797	miscellaneous	diverso
798	difficulty	dificultad
799	to comment	comentar
800	to publish	publicar
801	family, familiar	familiar
802	will	voluntad
803	meeting	reunión
804	model	modelo
805	secret	secreto
806	to load	cargar

807	date	fecha
808	to participate	participar
809	train	tren
810	to prevent	impedir
811	purpose	propósito
812	to save	salvar
813	hurry	prisa
814	degree	grado
815	to escape	escapar
816	deal	negocio
817	fight	lucha
818	to throw	tirar
819	whole	entero
820	interesting	interesante
821	wide	amplio
822	silence	silencio
823	to answer	contestar
824	newspaper	periódico
825	is worrying to (to worry)	preocupar
826	teacher	maestro
827	provide	prestar
828	quality	calidad
829	salt	sal
830	to exhibit	exponer
831	control	control
832	civil	civil
833	rare	raro
834	science	ciencia
835	size	tamaño

836	table	cuadro
837	horse	caballo
838	responsibility	responsabilidad
839	fifty	cincuenta
840	internal	interno
841	detail	detalle
842	march	marcha
843	nine	nueve
844	meat	carne
845	plane	avión
846	hair	pelo
847	thought	pensamiento
848	to travel	viajar
849	charge	cargo
850	to separate	separar
851	construction	construcción
852	trial	juicio
853	ground	terreno
854	floor	piso
855	company	compañía
856	gold	oro
857	to return	regresar
858	text	texto
859	source	fuente
860	present	presente
861	official	oficial
862	definitive	definitivo
863	magazine	revista
864	damage	daño

865	hope	esperanza
866	machine	máquina
867	to contemplate	contemplar
868	to travel	recorrer
869	mind	mente
870	phrase	frase
871	exercise	ejercicio
872	room	sala
873	to last	durar
874	instrument	instrumento
875	that	aquello
876	defense	defensa
877	director	director
878	remove	retirar
879	explanation	explicación
880	article	artículo
881	below	debajo
882	to remain	permanecer
883	to attend	asistir
884	twelve	doce
885	permission	permiso
886	radio	radio
887	to organize	organizar
888	choice	elección
889	visit	visita
890	funny	divertido
891	to contain	contener
892	support	apoyo
893	tree	árbol

894	to visit	visitar
895	to report	informar
896	encounter	encuentro
897	sex	sexo
898	like	parecido
899	current	corriente
900	friendly	amable
901	reading	lectura
902	message	mensaje
903	existence	existencia
904	language	lenguaje
905	costume	traje
906	to send	enviar
907	soul	alma
908	even, yet, still	aun
909	destination	destino
910	education	educación
911	to care	cuidar
912	to intervene	intervenir
913	dinner	cena
914	operation	operación
915	perfectly	perfectamente
916	to extend	extender
917	to check	comprobar
918	note	nota
919	particular	particular
920	to delay	tardar
921	in, inside	adentro
922	military	militar

923	song	canción
924	attached	unido
925	to discuss	discutir
926	to fear	temer
927	extraordinary	extraordinario
928	theater	teatro
929	to face	enfrentar
930	newly, freshly	recién
931	average	media
932	letter	letra
933	feeling	sentimiento
934	to drive	conducir
935	completely	completamente
936	cold	frío
937	to sign	firmar
938	solution	solución
939	health	salud
940	works	funciona
941	print	impresión
942	to complain	quejarse
943	intention	intención
944	rate	ritmo
945	green	verde
946	exact	exacto
947	to respect	respetar
948	terrible	terrible
949	bank	banco
950	via	vía
951	to hold	sostener

952	moon	luna
953	skin	piel
954	left	izquierda
955	before	delante
956	religious	religioso
957	to warn	advertir
958	dark	oscuro
959	research	investigación
960	heat	calor
961	shop	tienda
962	conversation	conversación
963	Christmas	navidad
964	summer	verano
965	respect	respeto
966	grandfather	abuelo
967	north	norte
968	through	mediante
969	tradition	tradición
970	is sufficient to (to be enough)	bastar
971	couple	pareja
972	population	población
973	lawyer	abogado
974	daily	diario
975	honor	honor
976	blue	azul
977	to mention	mencionar
978	generation	generación
979	vision	visión
980	concrete	concrete

REAL FAST
SPANISH

981	completed	terminado
982	to propose	plantear
983	left	dejado
984	to test	probar
985	to swear, pledge	jurar
986	beautiful	hermoso
987	danger	peligro
988	confidence	confianza
989	to fill	llenar
990	simple	sencillo
991	to improve	mejorar
992	concept	concepto
993	to highlight	destacar
994	wood	madera
995	to walk	caminar
996	to employ	emplear
997	to agree	convenir
998	energy	energía
999	to admit	admitir
1000	is delightful to (to love)	encantar

Chapter 3 – Not All Grammar Rules Are Created Equally

Similar to Spanish vocabulary, the rules of Spanish grammar should also be approached with disparate attention.

There are many grammar rules that cover verb tenses such as subjunctive, imperative commands, future perfect tense and so on...

Rather than focus your efforts on the grammar rules that are less frequent, focus your attention around the grammar that is going to help you converse as quickly as possible.

REAL FAST
SPANISH

Conversation hackers use the grammar rules that are going to help them form and convey ideas without having to memorise hundreds of grammar rules and verb conjugations.

The following 13 sentences will help you convey a range of ideas in Spanish without the heavy lifting. You can take these sentences and apply different nouns, verbs and adjectives to express almost anything.

ENGLISH	ESPAÑOL
The apple is red	La manzana es roja
It is John's apple	Es la manzana de John
I give John the apple	Le doy la manzana a John
We give him the apple	Le damos la manzana
He gives it to John	Él se la da a John
She gives it to him	Ella se la da
I must give it to him	Debo dársela a él
I want to give it to her	Quiero dársela (a ella)
I'm going to know tomorrow	Voy a conocer mañana
I can't eat the apple	No puedo comer la manzana
I have eaten the apple	Me he comido la manzana
Is the apple red?	¿Es la manzana roja?
The apples are red	Las manzanas son rojas

To break down the above and substitute different vocabulary to convey different ideas consider the first sentence:

La manzana es roja

You could substitute the noun “manzana” and the adjective “roja” for “comida” and “rica”:

La comida es rica

Which literally translates to “the food is rich” but more closely means “the food is tasty or good.” You could also substitute “buena” instead of “rica” for good – the possibilities are endless.

Another example, take the tenth sentence:

No puedo comer la manzana

REAL FAST SPANISH

You could substitute the noun “manzana” and verb “comer” for “decir” and “palabra”:

No puedo decir la palabra

Which means “I cannot say the word.”

Or you could substitute:

No puedo entender la idea

Which means “I cannot understand the idea”

Another example is a quick ‘hack’ for talking about the future tense. The ninth sentence:

Voy a conocer mañana

“Voy” is the first person conjugation for “ir” which means “to go”. Similar to English, Spanish also uses the verb meaning “to go” to talk about the future. For example, you might say “I’m going to eat something,” in Spanish this would be:

Voy a comer algo

As you can see with 1000 vocabulary words and 13 sentences you can express almost anything with a little creativity.

Chapter 4 – Total Vocabulary And Grammar Is Different To Usable Vocabulary And Grammar

A good friend of mine can speak five languages and he has a very simple strategy for converting total vocabulary to useable vocabulary. He carries a notepad in his pocket. When he hears a new word he writes the word down. The next day he looks to create an opportunity to use the new word in context. It is a very simple strategy but one that he considers essential for learning any new language.

Say you have committed 1000 words to memory – can you recall and use those words on demand?

Conversation hackers know that the words they have been committing to memory do not become effective until they can be used.

For example, you may be able to read an article in your target language from the words in your total vocabulary but you will not be able to converse until you can use and recall those words when you require them.

Put in another way, there is a gap between the total number of words you understand and the total number of words you can use in the moment of a conversation.

Conversation hackers appreciate that this gap exists and seek to close it as quickly as possible.

This fourth principle is about a three step process:

REAL FAST SPANISH

1. Know – You must first know what a word means
2. Recall – Next you need to be able to recall that word without a prompt
3. Use – You then need to be able to use the word that you have successfully recalled in context

To start this process, look to use the top 1000 words you are committing to memory from principle two as often as possible.

You do this by creating opportunities to use the words. You have lots of options for this:

1. Use the words with a Spanish native
2. Use the words with a friend who is learning Spanish
3. Use the words with a family member, a dog, or a tree...
4. Use the words by recording them into a phone or computer

Don't underestimate the value of having a conversation with a tree or something that is not going to laugh at you or make you feel shy or embarrassed when first trying to use the language. Each word will have to pass your lips at least once before you can be confident in using it again.

You have to close the gap between total vocabulary and useable vocabulary as quickly as possible and the only way to do this is to start using the vocabulary. There is, of course, the old axiom "use it or lose it" but here this forth principle is really saying "use it to gain it".

Chapter 5 – Listening Comprehension Hacking

Listen comprehension is a critical skill for conversation. If you can't understand what is being said, you won't be able to engage in any conversation.

If I was being honest, listening comprehension for me has been one of the hardest skills to learn. It has taken hours of practice and it is still really difficult to understand every word being said. But like all principles of conversation hacking, it is not about being perfect and understanding every word.

I have a good friend from Scotland who has an unbelievably thick Scottish accent. Despite the time I have spent speaking with him, it still regularly shocks me that he is actually speaking English – at times I might as well be speaking with someone in a foreign language. But, the point is that I didn't need to 'master' the accent of Scotland to be good at English.

Just like the English speaking world there are lots of different Spanish accents.

I also have a friend from Barcelona who has expressed a similar sentiment. Even though Spanish is his first language and he has been speaking and listening to it since he was born, he still struggles to understand the Andalusian accent from the south of Spain.

There are three tips for conversation hackers to improve listening comprehension:

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1. Pick an accent and stick to it.

Choose a Spanish region and get familiar with that region and the way the people from the region form the Spanish sounds. It is not going to be anywhere near as effective to jump from listening to the Spanish of Spain to the Spanish of Mexico than just choosing one and sticking to it.

2. Listening comprehension is most quickly improved with active listening

There are a lot of courses out there that promote passive listening alone. What these courses encourage is listening for hours on end with the idea that the sounds of your target language will eventually make sense. Passive listening does work but tends to be slower and less effective than active listening.

Active listening is where you hear something and take action based on what you have heard. It involves a higher level of engagement which means you are forcing yourself to interpret and make sense of the sounds. It will cause you to make connections to new sounds more quickly and be a much more effective use of your time.

The best form of active listening is actually having a real conversation with a native speaker. The next best form of active listening to use language tools and courses that incorporate active listening exercises.

3. Leverage context for improved listening comprehension

Context fills in the gaps when you ears miss the sounds. If you can only understand a few words it is still possible to guess what is being said given a certain situation.

If you are in a restaurant it is unlikely a waiter is going to ask you what your favourite movie is or what you do in your spare time. A waiter is more likely to ask if you would like something to eat or something to drink.

If you are at the airport, checking in to a hotel or at the bank, the person behind the counter is probably going to ask for identification.

If you are catching up with friends, they are likely to ask how you are, what you have been up to or ask you a question related to something you have told them is going on in your life.

You can start working on your skills for picking up context in English, as you go about your day see if you can start to predict what someone is likely to ask you in a certain situation.

Conversation hackers know that context is critical for listening and the best bit is once your skills are developed you can transfer them to your third or fourth language.

Chapter 6 – Pronunciation Hacking

It could take you years and years to perfect a Spanish accent. But, like the other principles of conversation hacking communicating with perfect pronunciation is

REAL FAST SPANISH

not the goal – the goal is finding the most effective elements of Spanish pronunciation to communicate effectively.

To convey your thoughts and ideas in Spanish to native speakers there are only a few sounds that you should focus on to hack the process of pronouncing unfamiliar Spanish words.

These sounds are chosen because if you get them wrong you will tend to confuse native speakers. But, conversely if you get them right then it won't matter if your Spanish accent is inauthentic and doesn't sound like a perfect native speaker.

For Spanish, conversation hackers focus a few sounds unique to Spanish – these are:

- The 'g' of 'gente' – This is pronounced with your throat, think of a Scottish person talking about the 'Loch Ness Monster' the 'loch' will come out with a lot of throat.
- The 'll' of 'paella' – This sound is half way between a 'y' and a 'j' in English, think of the 'lll' sound in the English word 'million'.
- The 'y' of 'ayudar' – The Spanish 'y' sound is similar to the sound from the previous example it's halfway between an English 'y' and 'j'.
- The 'ñ' of 'mañana' – This is similar to the 'ni' sound in the English word 'opinion'.
- The 'n' sound of 'manera' – Similar to the English 'n', think of the English word 'net' and not to be confused with the previous sound for 'ñ'.

Once you have a feel for the unfamiliar sounds above, you should look to pronounce the Spanish vowels as accurately as possible – these are:

- 'a' – This is pronounced like the 'a' in the English 'far' or 'pass'.
- 'e' – This is pronounced like the 'e' in the English 'bed'.
- 'i' – This is pronounced like the 'e' in the English 'be' but a little shorter.
- 'o' – This is pronounced like the 'o' in the English 'hot' but a little longer.
- 'u' – This is pronounced like the 'oo' in the English 'too'.

If you can get close to pronouncing these sounds then your accent won't be a big deal, your pronunciation will be good enough for natives to understand.

Chapter 7 – Conversation Skills In General Need To Be Developed

Outside of language specific skills you need to be able to start, stop and continue a conversation. These skills can be transferred from English.

Conversation hackers know that the basics of keeping a conversation going, moving past small talk and being able to say what you want to say in a different way are extremely useful in the conversation hacking process.

REAL FAST SPANISH

This last principle is not so much a language skill as a life skill. But, conversation hackers know it is critical to their conversation hacking process.

If you want reach a conversational level you need to be able to have a lot of conversations.

You need to develop a list of fall back questions and lines to help keep the conversation going if it is starting to die. Rather than let a conversation fall away you should prepare a set of questions that you can return to if you are starting to get nervous or can't figure out what to say next in the moment.

People love to talk about themselves, its human nature, and not unique to one culture. Therefore I suggest the following questions will be very useful for starting a conversation and keeping it going:

Dime un poco sobre ti

Which means 'tell me a little bit about yourself in general.'

¿A que te dedicas?

This translates literally to 'what are you dedicated to?' but more closely means 'what do you do?' as in a day job or career.

¿Que te gusta hacer en tu tiempo libre?

Which means 'what do you like to do in your spare time?'

These are three useful questions that include asking someone about themselves in general, in their career and in their spare time. Almost everybody on the planet will have answers for these three questions. They could probably go on for a while if you prompt them – so go for it!

Start making connections and having conversations.

Conversation hackers know that without this last skill it is difficult to convert total vocabulary to usable vocabulary, it is difficult to make mistakes and it is difficult to have enough exposure to the target language in order to lift your developing skills to a conversational level.

Summary

In summary, the underlying theme to conversation hacking is that the elements of each aspect of language learning can be divided into high and low value. Conversation hackers know that the best way to reach a conversational level quickly is to hack the learning process by focusing on the high value elements first.

Perfecting a language can take 20 or 30 years – conversation hackers do not have this much time. They know that achieving a good level is just as useful as achieving a perfect level.

There is plenty of time to improve your skills through the Spanish Mastery process but you must first achieve a conversational level and the fastest way to do that is to apply the 7 principles discussed in this guide.

REAL FAST SPANISH

Speaking Spanish is a joy and can open you up to a new world of wonder. It will allow you to make new connections and have experiences that were never possible prior to learning the language. If you apply the conversation hacking principles then these experiences and connections are far closer than you think.

Good luck and I hope to see you out there experiencing the world in a different way with a brand new set of skills.