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Learning a new language is an amazing adventure, and reading is definitely one of the best ways to improve your skills! If you're learning Spanish, reading easy Spanish books can give you a special and immersive experience.It helps you learn new words and understand how sentences are formed, making it easier to understand. Spring Spanish (a project I'm a co-founder of) has 5 great tips about reading in Spanish. Take a look! And now, let's check out the top 12 easy Spanish books that will make your language-learning journey even more exciting!Choosing easy Spanish books as a learning tool is a great strategy for beginners.These books use simple vocabulary and sentence structures, making them easy-to-read and enjoyable for those starting their Spanish language journey. The good news is that you can combine reading with another effective method for learning Spanish and that is Conversation Based Chunking.This technique involves breaking down conversations into smaller, manageable chunks and practicing them repeatedly. By focusing on specific phrases or expressions in context, you can improve your reading, listening, and speaking skills.So, when you're reading these books, look out for chunks and learn them together instead of just repeating separated words.Discover the world of literature with our curated list of beginner-friendly books!El Principito is a timeless story that dives into the universal truths of life through the eyes of a young prince who embarks on a journey across planets.Its profound teachings are presented in simple and captivating narratives.Why It's Easy to Read in Spanish: The language is simple and poetic, making it easy-to-read for Spanish learners. Short chapters and concise sentences help readers understand the story's essence and underlying messages easily.A quote from the book: „Cuando el misterio es demasiado impresionante no es posible desobedecer." (When a mystery is too overpowering, one dare not disobey.) The Little Prince is a classic tale of equal appeal to children and adults. On one level it is the story of an airman's discovery, in the desert, of a small boy from another planet - the Little Prince of the title - and his stories of intergalactic travel, while on the other hand it is a thought-provoking allegory of the human condition.ORDER FROM AMAZON: EL PRINCIPITO / THE LITTLE PRINCE (SPANISH EDITION)Santiago, a shepherd boy, embarks on a quest to uncover his personal legend and the treasures of his dreams in El alquimista.This captivating tale takes us on a spiritual journey, exploring the enigmas of life and emphasizing the significance of pursuing our heart's desires.Why It's Easy to Read in Spanish: Coelho's writing is clear and relatable. The story is engaging, and the use of everyday language combined with profound wisdom makes it a compelling read for everyone.A quote from the book: „Si lo que tú has encontrado está formado por materia pura, jamás se pudrirá. Y tú podrás volver un día. Si fue sólo un momento de luz, como la explosión de una estrella, entonces no encontrarás nada cuando regreses." (If what one finds is made of pure matter, it will never spoil. If what you had found was only a moment of light, like the explosion of a star, you would find nothing on your return) The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho continues to change the lives of its readers forever. With more than two million copies sold around the world, The Alchemist has established itself as a modern classic, universally admired.ORDER FROM AMAZON: EL ALQUIMISTASet in the magical town of Macondo, Cien años de soledad chronicles the Buendía family's seven generations. It's a blend of magic realism and historical events, creating a rich overview of Latin American culture and history.Why It's Easy to Read in Spanish: This novel may be slightly more advanced with its rich language and intricate narrative, but it provides Spanish learners with an immersive experience in Latin American culture and idiomatic expressions. The recurring themes and family stories throughout the book help improve comprehension and reinforce vocabulary.A quote from the book: „El mundo era tan reciente que muchas cosas carecían de nombre, y para nombrarlas había que señalarlas con el dedo." (The world was so recent that many things lacked names, and in order to indicate them it was necessary to point.) One Hundred Years of Solitude tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendiá family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad and alive with unforgettable men and women—brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul—this novel is a masterpiece in the art of fiction.ORDER FROM AMAZON: CIEN AÑOS DE SOLEDADChildren's books are always a good option when learning a new language: they are both good for kids and for adults who want to practice the language with simple terms and chunks.The Papelucho series is a cherished collection of children's books that chronicle the escapades and musings of Papelucho, an 8-year-old boy from Chile. Through his diary entries, readers are immersed in his everyday experiences, family dynamics, and the joys and obstacles of childhood.Why It's Easy to Read in Spanish: Marcela Paz uses simple language that's typical of a child's narrative. The short diary entries and familiar everyday situations make it relatable and easily understandable for Spanish learners.A quote from the book: "La gente grande no se acuerda ya de lo mucho que cuesta estudiar. Creen que uno no tiene nada en la cabeza… Y hay que ver lo difícil que es poner atención y no pensar en otra cosa.Porque hay tanto en qué pensar." (Grown-ups no longer remember how hard it is to study. They think one has nothing in their head… And you have to see how difficult it is to pay attention and not think about something else. Because there is so much to think about.) Papelucho is the main character in a series of children's books created by Chilean writer Marcela Paz. Twelve books were published between 1947 and 1974. The series became a classic among books for children in Chile.ORDER FROM AMAZON: PAPELUCHOThe story of Peter Pan is a classic narrative about a young boy who refuses to age. Accompanied by his loyal fairy companion, Tinker Bell, Peter leads the Darling children on a remarkable journey to Neverland, where they come face to face with pirates, mermaids, and the clever Captain Hook.Why It's Easy to Read in Spanish: The whimsical nature and simple language of the Spanish version make it accessible to young readers and beginners in the language. The story is full of dialogue and action, encouraging active engagement from learners.A quote from the book: „Nunca digas adiós, porque decir adiós significa irse lejos e irse lejos significa olvidar…" (Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting.) Peter Pan is a fictional character created by Scottish novelist and playwright J. M. Barrie. A free-spirited and mischievous young boy who can fly and never grows up...ORDER FROM AMAZON: PETER PANCuentos de la selva comprises a series of short stories that portray the lives and hardships of animals in the South American rainforest. Quiroga skillfully gives these creatures human-like qualities, imparting valuable life lessons and providing a glimpse into the rich ecosystem of the jungle.Why It's Easy to Read in Spanish: Quiroga's descriptive yet straightforward writing style creates vivid imagery of the jungle and its inhabitants. Each short story has a clear central theme, making it easier for Spanish learners to comprehend the narrative's main message.A quote from the book: „No es nuestra inteligencia, sino nuestro trabajo quien nos hace tan fuertes." (It is not our intelligence, but our hard work that makes us so strong.) Collection of eight short stories in which Quiroga captures the magic of the jungle, which is the scene of exciting adventures illuminated by nature in all its splendor.ORDER FROM AMAZON: CUENTOS DE LA SELVABilingual books are amazing when you're already familiar with another language and the story of the book.Join Alice on a captivating adventure in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland as she tumbles down a rabbit hole into a whimsical world full of extraordinary characters such as the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts. This bilingual edition presents the dreamlike landscape in both English and Spanish, allowing readers to explore both languages simultaneously.Why It's Easy to Read: The immediate context and translation provided by the side-by-side presentation of English and Spanish texts offer benefits. This format helps readers who are already familiar with the story in their native language to intuitively understand the Spanish content, reinforcing vocabulary and sentence structure through familiar context.A quote from the book: „Creo que sí, que has perdido la cabeza, estás completamente loco. Pero te diré un secreto: las mejores personas lo están." (I'm afraid so. You're entirely Bonkers. But I will tell you a secret, All the best people are.) Sandra Cisneros' story centers on Corina, who rediscovers her past while reading old letters from her youth. The letters transport her back to her time in Paris and her friendship with Martita. As memories of love, longing, and the trials of youth and being in a foreign land resurface, Corina reconnects with her past. The narrative seamlessly transitions between English and Spanish, reflecting Corina's bicultural heritage.Why It's Easy to Read: Sandra Cisneros incorporates both English and Spanish in her writing, creating a seamless bilingual style that appeals to bilingual readers and language learners alike. The combination of these languages adds context, helping to decipher the meaning of unfamiliar words or phrases.A quote from the book: „Tener a la persona a quien amas viva y sana, viviendo en el planeta al mismo tiempo que tú, pero eligiendo no estar contigo. Eso es peor que la muerte, creo yo." (To have the person you love alive and well, living on the planet at the same time as you, but choosing not to be with you. That is worse than death, I believe.) This section is useful because… well, we've all been there. The polyglots, too!They started out just like you: they were lost in all the vocabulary and grammar, they went through the same challenges you are in right now. And maybe, that's a huge pro in this case, because who else would know it better how to learn Spanish than the ones who already mastered it?Check out these books to make our list of easy Spanish books for beginners complete:This book from Olly Richards is a work of art for Spanish learners. Olly (a friend of mine) has designed this book to give a sense of achievement and, even more important, enjoyment.This is indeed in the top list for easy Spanish books for beginners. If you're looking to improve your skills and learn more about European culture, you can't hesitate to buy it.You can also get the audiobook to practice your listening comprehension.Author: Olly RichardsBook Length: 238 pagesSuitable for: BeginnersWhat makes this Lingo Mastery book different from the others is that it doesn't only offer 20 engaging stories, but also quizzes to test your reading comprehension, everyday Spanish phrases, and useful dialogues.(We love dialogues. They're full of useful chunks.)At the end of each story, you can read the summary either in English or Spanish to help you get a better understanding of everything. If you want to start your Spanish learning journey in a fun way, get this book.Author: Lingo MasteryBook Length: 210 pagesSuitable for: BeginnersLearning Spanish by reading a book has never been so easy.This book offers 25 outstanding and easy-to-read stories you can use to develop your skills.They are pretty engaging and you'll want to read them all at once. This book even offers a list of vocabulary that will help you expand yours and help you communicate better.And the more words you learn (in context), the better you can express your thoughts. This Spanish book is definitely a must-have if you're starting to learn Spanish.Author: Fluency FasterBook Length: 148 pagesSuitable for: BeginnersWe can't really compile a list of books on the website without mentioning the own Effortless Conversations book.It's not only about learning Spanish, but gives you a methodology to learn any language fluently without having to memorize word lists and grammar rules.Thousands of students have read the book and transformed the way they learn Spanish and other languages.You can be next Author: Lukas Van VyveHow to learn any language without memorizing word lists and grammar rulesA 4-step method to identify common word combinations (chunks) and imprint them on your brain so they roll off the tongue in conversationsSet up a study plan to make more progress in the next 12 weeks than all of last yearBeside books, there are other easy-to-understand Spanish stories and materials to practice the language.Hola Qué Pasa is a well-known Spanish-language website that provides a wide range of articles covering culture, travel, and language learning tips. It aims to serve Spanish learners and is a valuable resource worth exploring. Why It's Good to Read: The website simplifies ideas in Spanish and offers explanations for unfamiliar words, empowering readers to develop their language skills in a practical setting without feeling overwhelmed.El País is a highly esteemed newspaper in the Spanish-speaking world. It offers a diverse array of content, consisting of in-depth news, political analyses, as well as culture and entertainment articles. Why It's Good to Read: By reading El País, Learners can introduce themselves in formal, journalistic Spanish, which aids in their familiarity with current events in the Spanish-speaking world. The wide array of topics might be a little harder to understand at first but you will always have what to talk about with your Spanish acquaintances.BBC Mundo is the Spanish-language arm of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), providing news, articles, and analyses on global events from a Spanish-speaking perspective. Why It's Good to Read: BBC Mundo provides balanced and well-researched content in clear and concise Spanish. With its international perspective, learners can gain a unique cultural lens to view global events, enhancing both linguistic and cultural comprehension.I. Pair the following quotes with their corresponding books. Pay attention to the style and narrative of the quote as it can help you decide which book it is from!Quote: „Creo que sí, que has perdido la cabeza, estás completamente loco. Pero te diré un secreto: las mejores personas lo están." (I'm afraid so. You're entirely Bonkers. But I will tell you a secret, All the best people are.)DivergenteWinnetouLas aventuras de Alicia en el país de las maravillasQuote: „Si lo que tú has encontrado está formado por materia pura, jamás se pudrirá. Y tú podrás volver un día. Si fue sólo un momento de luz, como la explosión de una estrella, entonces no encontrarás nada cuando regreses." (If what one finds is made of pure matter, it will never spoil. If what you had found was only a moment of light, like the explosion of a star, you would find nothing on your return)El alquimistaPeter PanEl Señor de los AnillosQuote: „Cuando el misterio es demasiado impresionante no es posible desobedecer." (When a mystery is too overpowering, one dare not disobey.)PapeluchoEl Guardian Entre El CentenoEl PrincipitoSpanish is a language that comes from every continent, and it's natural to want to learn it! The available resources for learners of all levels are incredible.If you're a beginner, you can try online or paper versions of easy Spanish books, education websites, or even YouTube videos! These resources expand your vocabulary and boost your confidence.As we mentioned before, Conversation Based Chunking could be a great solution to all your questions about language learning. Read books and websites and learn chunks while entertaining yourself!Try our Conversation Based Chunking Starter Pack to master your skills today! Books are some of the most valuable tools you can use while learning Spanish—they don't expire, you don't need a monthly subscription, they're in-depth and they've been trusted for decades.This post is a compilation of my personal recommendations for the 17 best books to learn Spanish this year.Contents Best Books to Learn Spanish in 2024If you like getting your information from videos, you might want to check out our video round-up of excellent books to learn Spanish.You'll find even more resources, allowing you to top off your Spanish textbook library!1. "Practice Makes Perfect Complete Spanish Grammar"Check availability on AmazonBest for: OverallThis edition of the "Practice Makes Perfect" series is a 350-page workbook covering the most important Spanish grammar rules.There are clear explanations, many realistic examples and free online audio recordings to practice your listening skills.The good thing about this book is that it offers various exercises for different learning styles, like multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank games and creative writing exercises.Plus, the structure is easy to follow.Highlights:Covers the most essential grammar rules you need to knowOffers easy-to-access online audio recordingsWide variety of reinforcement exercises 2. "See It and Say It in Spanish"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Absolute beginnersThis book teaches level-one Spanish vocabulary through pictures using two specific techniques.First, it uses the word and picture method. Each new word or sentence is accompanied by a line drawing that instantly explains its meaning.Second, the ready-made vocabulary presents you with everyday Spanish words and phrases that look and sound like their English equivalents to ease you into conversational Spanish faster.These two methods pack a powerful punch, and the book gives you the vocabulary to express yourself quickly and meaningfully in Spanish.Highlights:Focuses on teaching you Spanish naturally, without word-for-word English translationsTeaches relevant Spanish words and phrases you can use dailyAlso includes a traveler's word list, pronunciation guide and a grammar section 3. "Collins Easy Learning: Spanish Conversation"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Beginner conversation skillsThe book consists of 12 units, each focusing on a specific situation (formal or informal).They include themes such as school, home, social media and business. Each unit's key phrases are compiled at the end, forming an accessible, quick-access glossary.Of course, when learning conversation, you'll need to do more than memorize sentences. The book also provides quick grammar and verb lessons to help you break down the phrases.Plus, plenty of example sentences are provided to illustrate points.This book can make a great resource that gets you comfortable with the essentials and expectations of Spanish conversation.Highlights:Lessons are theme-based with highly relevant vocabularyIncludes short grammar lessonsCan be used as a stand-alone course 4. "Easy Spanish Step-By-Step"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Beginner grammarThis book's main goal is to get you speaking Spanish confidently, without having to translate too much in your head or worry about making mistakes.It's grammar-based, so you're learning the foundations of Spanish structure and verb conjugation from the get-go while also engaging with readings that reinforce what you've learned through context.Plus, the vocabulary and verbs introduced are based on spoken frequency to ensure you start communicating and understanding as soon as possible.Highlights:Grammar-focused with the goal of increasing speaking confidenceIntroduces more than 300 frequently used verbs and key termsIncludes various exercises to reinforce the material 5. "Spanish Language Learning: The Ultimate Guide"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Learning how to learn SpanishThink of this book as the first guide to pick up before considering other self-study Spanish books.It lays out the pros and cons of top Spanish learning resources, such as dictionaries and self-study books, to name a few.It provides a comprehensive collection of thoughtful reviews so you can select the resources that will work best for your needs.Highlights:Helps you map out the most effective resources for your Spanish study planFind cost-effective resources for all aspects of learning: vocabulary, grammar, conversation and advanced SpanishHighest ranked books are listed first 6. "Oxford Picture Dictionary English-Spanish"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Use as a study dictionaryThis book is a bilingual picture dictionary where every term is illustrated with contextual drawings.It's organized into 12 themed units that cover various aspects of life like people, housing, food, recreation and more. The dictionary features stories, role plays, clear visual descriptions of words and dialogues to help you learn new vocabulary quickly.It's not a classic dictionary—you can easily read a page per day and get a lot out of it. Plus, it'll take you three to five minutes!Highlights:Highly organizedTeaches you relevant content you'll use in daily lifeOne page is enough learning material for an entire day's lesson 7. "Spanish Short Stories for Beginners"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Reading Spanish storiesEvery short story in this book is formatted to teach you specific Spanish language concepts.Although the title states that the book is for beginners, it may be more suitable for intermediate learners.The Spanish used in some stories can be challenging, so the book may not be the best first choice for true novices.Highlights:Each story is written with beginners in mind and has a specific learning goalQuestions at the end of each story help you form sentences and improve your reading comprehensionGlossaries and summaries help you pick up on new vocabulary and grammar and ensure you understand 8. "Spanish for Dummies"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Use as a reference guideWhether you want to learn about different varieties of wine and how to identify them, how to operate your new computer software or, in this case, about the Spanish language, the "For Dummies" series is here to help.These books are ideal to be used as a supplement to the main textbooks you are studying. The short chapters, helpful tips sections and easy-to-navigate index intermingle to provide a stress-free learning experience.Highlights:Covers grammar, verb conjugations and pronunciationsIncludes a mini-dictionary with extra vocabulary and exercisesIncludes a CD that features real-world Spanish dialogues 9. "Madrigal's Magic Key to Spanish"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Fast learningPeople rave in this book's review section, stating that its format and presentation are unbeatable and that it helps clarify often-murky Spanish topics and teaches in a fun way.It highlights how many Spanish words English speakers already know and demonstrates a few rules on how to "Spanishify" them.As much as this seems like an obscure method, the author provides extensive examples throughout the guide and exercises to practice and master this approach.Highlights:Promises to help you read, write and speak Spanish in only a few weeksGives you the knowledge to start forming sentences after just the first lessonThe teaching method allows you to learn thousands of Spanish words in a few weeks 10. "501 Spanish Verbs"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Learning verb conjugationThis book is similar to the 2,000 Most Common Spanish Words book in that it teaches you the most frequently used Spanish verbs—501, to be exact.You'll also learn how to conjugate them in every tense and mood.The book includes many bonus features—like the following mentioned in the highlights—and detailed instructions that explain how to use each verb (and the book).Highlights:The 501 verbs are the most frequently used verbs in Spanish and were professionally curatedEach verb also comes with lists of synonyms, antonyms, idioms and example sentencesComes with access to online content like audio programs for pronunciation, listening comprehension and four practice quizzes 11. "Practice Makes Perfect" SeriesCheck availability on AmazonBest for: Learning Spanish tensesThese workbooks have clear explanations while still including important grammatical details that often get simplified in other resources.After introducing each topic, there are plenty of practice exercises with solutions in the back.In the grammar and verb-focused workbooks, the creators did a fantastic job of gradually teaching and integrating vocabulary while focusing on the grammatical topic.Workbooks available in this series include: Basic Spanish, Spanish Pronouns and Prepositions, Spanish Verb Tenses, Complete Spanish Grammar and Spanish Vocabulary.Highlights:A glossary and verb tables are included in the back of the grammar workbooksComplete with five Spanish workbooks focused on different skillsIncludes more than 250 exercises for vocabulary building and material reinforcement 12. "2000 Most Common Spanish Words in Context"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Comprehensive vocabulary learningThis book teaches you the most frequently-used 2,000 Spanish words, allowing you to quickly understand most words used in everyday conversations.Every word comes with example sentences showing how to use it in conversation—a feature that will likely be the most useful.Finally, it'll set a foundation for your Spanish vocabulary before you move on to more advanced terms and phrases.Highlights:Learn the most frequently used words to start understanding the majority of conversations fastTeaches each word in context, not in isolationIncludes tips and tricks for improving your Spanish learning throughout the book 13. "Living Language Spanish, Complete Edition"Check availability on AmazonBest for: A structured textbook seriesLiving Language is a huge multimedia Spanish program that contains three books (beginner, intermediate and advanced) and nine CDs (three for each level).It's well organized with topic-based chapters (instead of lesson-based chapters like in most courses), and the goal is to teach you conversational Spanish more than anything else.The CDs are high-quality, clear and well-modulated recordings with the speaking rate set at a learner-appropriate speed.As you progress, you'll learn new words, sentence structures and conjugations in each chapter.Highlights:Covers all three levels of Spanish (beginner, intermediate, advanced)Heavy focus on conversational Spanish skillsAccompanying CDs let you practice listening comprehension and correct pronunciation 14. "Practical Spanish Grammar"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Self-StudyingThis book merges the concept of a traditional phrasebook with grammar, vocabulary lessons and corresponding activities to ensure readers grasp the concepts.This book has been said to be so comprehensive that it could be the base of a Spanish study program.Highlights:Uses an interactive format that has been tested and rewritten to help you teach yourself at a pace optimal for progressTeaches over 1,000 of the most common Spanish wordsSample dialogues include culture notes 15. "Practice Makes Perfect: Spanish Conversation"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Improving conversational skillsThis book is organized into 12 units that present realistic conversational situations like making introductions, giving opinions, going on a date or telling a story.Each chapter starts with a dialogue, followed by various exercises to put what you learned into practice.An English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English glossary is also included to help you along.It's important to note that this book is intended for intermediate learners.Highlights:Focuses on realistic conversation topics you'll use frequentlyEach chapter contains a dialogue and exercisesClear instructions for correct pronunciation, syntax and word usage 16. "Advanced Spanish Step-by-Step"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Studying at the B2-C2 levelThis book covers intermediate to advanced Spanish grammar in an easy, progressive manner.Lessons cover important Spanish grammar topics like complex verb tenses, parts of speech, sentence structure and more. And along the way, you'll learn plenty of vocabulary you'll use in real conversation.Before choosing this book, make sure you've reached an intermediate Spanish level. Otherwise, you may get a bit overwhelmed by the content and exercises, as they're quite detailed and extensive.Highlights:Perfect for more advanced learners who don't want to spend time relearning basic grammar conceptsLearn new vocabulary on top of grammarThe step-by-step approach makes the path from intermediate to advanced more clear and easy to follow 17. "Practice Makes Perfect: Advanced Spanish Grammar"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Advanced learnersThis book goes into the intricate details of Spanish and is aimed at intermediate to advanced students.It features many practical exercises to help you communicate more naturally.This breaks free from the ready-to-use sentences found in other books and encourages you to create more sophisticated phrases as you go along. If you already have a good grasp of Spanish and want to go beyond the fundamental principles, this book is a great option.Highlights:Provides various practice exercisesFocuses on natural communicationEncourages you to produce the language on your own Best Spanish NovelsIntermediate and advanced learners might benefit more from reading native Spanish content—books meant to be read by native speakers. Here are some of the best novels.Verónica decide morir. This novel is by Paulo Coehlo. It's one I've personally read and it taught me a lot of new vocabulary, even as an already fluent speaker. It's a little depressing—a girl tries to take her own life and is admitted to a hospital, and it follows her journey while staying there. But if you don't mind that, this book is a goldmine for vocabulary that's more advanced but still used in normal life.La sombra del viento. This is another one I read (but never finished) when I was a low-intermediate learner. It's about a young boy named Daniel whose father takes him to "The Cemetery of Forgotten Books." He finds a cursed book there that takes him to a labyrinth where he discovers lots of dark secrets.La fragilidad de un corazón bajo la lluvia. I started reading this book after hearing about it on Spanish "BookTok"—basically a niche of creators who share their opinions and experiences after reading certain novels and talk about their current reads on TikTok. It's about a young girl in Spain who was engaged, but her fiance calls it off after thinking she really doesn't want to marry him anymore. And her grandfather is also dying. She suddenly finds herself retracing her life, healing wounds that have led to the incidents occurring in her life at the current moment. I would definitely say this one is for advanced learners.Como agua para chocolate. This Mexican novel is a classic and many Spanish learners recommend it. It's set in the revolutionary period of Mexico in the early 1900s. Tita is the youngest daughter of her family and her parents won't allow her to get married—she must remain single to take care of her mother, per tradition. So when she falls in love with Pedro, not only can she not marry him, but he has to marry her older sister.El principito. This is another classic novel. It's also short and probably the easiest to read out of this list. A pilot crashes in the Sahara Desert and meets a young boy called "The Little Prince" (el principito). The prince tells him that he's from another planet and tells the pilot how he got to Earth, as well as the other plants he's visited. There are six planets, and they each represent a human flaw. Through his time on Earth, the prince learns that the most important things aren't the things we can see.If none of these catch your eye, I recommend exploring more books in these posts: More Book Resources for Learning SpanishIf reading is your jam, there are plenty more book resources you can use to enhance your Spanish skills. Check out these posts to explore more variations of Spanish book genres:Keep in mind that to ensure your Spanish studies are completely balanced and you become well-rounded in all skills, it's best to supplement your book studies with more audio or video-based learning, whether it be through Netflix or online immersion programs like FluentU. FAQs About Books in Spanish Which books are good to learn Spanish?The best book to learn Spanish is one that is suitable for your level (or just slightly above) and that teaches you vocabulary and/or grammar relevant to your goals.If you'd like books to be your primary resource, I suggest starting one of the books I've listed in the post. Can I learn Spanish from a book?Yes! You can learn vocabulary, grammar, reading skills and in some cases, listening skills if the book comes with an audiobook version, online resources or CDs.But as I mentioned earlier, be sure to balance your book studies with more authentic Spanish immersion to develop all your language skills. What is the fastest method to learn Spanish?Immersion is the fastest way to learn Spanish. Consuming content meant for native speakers but is still appropriate for your level is the best way to achieve immersion from home. This includes reading Spanish books, watching TV shows and movies, listening to music and more.It's also great to pair immersion with another resource, such as these textbooks. How can I learn Spanish quickly by myself?You can speed up your Spanish learning progress on your own by combining traditional learning (like textbooks and online courses) with at-home immersion methods, like we discussed above.Try to spend 30 minutes to an hour each day learning Spanish and keep track of your study habits and learning progress to achieve the fastest results.So, there you have them! Pick some Spanish learning books from this list or find your own picks, and use the advice in this article to get the most out of each title.Don't be afraid to branch out and read books written in Spanish that aren't specifically for learners to broaden your horizons, either. If you've made it this far that means you probably enjoy learning Spanish with engaging material and will then love FluentU. Other sites use scripted content. FluentU uses a natural approach that helps you ease into the Spanish language and culture over time. You'll learn Spanish as it's actually spoken by real people. FluentU has a wide variety of videos, as you can see here: FluentU brings native videos within reach with interactive transcripts. You can tap on any word to look it up instantly. Every definition has examples that have been written to help you understand how the word is used. If you see an interesting word you don't know, you can add it to a vocab list. Review a complete interactive transcript under the Dialogue tab, and find words and phrases listed under Vocab. Learn all the vocabulary in any video with FluentU's robust learning engine. Swipe left or right to see more examples of the word you're on. The best part is that FluentU keeps track of the vocabulary that you're learning, and gives you extra practice with difficult words. It'll even remind you when it's time to review what you've learned. Every learner has a truly personalized experience, even if they're learning with the same video. Start using the FluentU website on your computer or tablet or, better yet, download the FluentU app from the iTunes or Google Play store. Click here to take advantage of our current sale! (Expires at the end of this month.)Page 2I've been learning Spanish for seven years. I'm now fluent and living in Lima, Peru where I speak it every day, and am preparing to take the C1 DELE exam in November.All this to say, I have more experience researching, trying out, hating and loving Spanish resources than the average person. So to spare you the struggle, here are my top 10 favorite websites for learning Spanish—whether you're a beginner, advanced or in exam prep like me.Contents 1. LengaliaLengalia is one of my favorite Spanish websites and I still use it today for DELE exam prep.It has grammar and vocabulary courses for all six of the CEFR levels, A1 through C2. There are also six Spanish business courses (including medical Spanish, presenting and negotiating, etc.), a pronunciation course, two vocabulary-only courses and more.My favorite thing about these courses is that the lessons are insanely in-depth and provide more than enough practice exercises for you to really get the grammar point down.Each lesson has a lesson objective and introduction. Then, there's the grammar explanation—the part of the lesson that introduces you to the new concept and instructs you on all the ways to use it. Then comes the highlight of Lengalia—the practice exercises.There are 2-3 pages of exercises, with roughly 10 exercises each. They're mostly fill-in-the-blank exercises where you choose the correct answer from a dropdown. Next comes vocabulary drills, "communication" (where you learn colloquial phrases and sayings), reading comprehension, listening comprehension and dictation exercises.Once you've completed all those exercises, you move on to the next lesson.Finally, there's an extensive test at the end of each course that gives you a certificate with the corresponding CEFR level if you pass.I will say, Lengalia's in-depth grammar style can be tedious. If you're studying casually, don't care about the DELE exam or don't like intense grammar instruction, you might be better off with one of the more interactive, unstructured resources on this list. 2. StudySpanish.comStudySpanish.com is a free website full of grammar lessons. There are vocabulary and pronunciation lessons too—which are great if you're really on a budget and need something free—but there's no audio, example sentences or guided instruction. Just lists.StudySpanish's grammar section is the only high school Spanish resource I continued to use after graduating. There are nine units with 10-25 lessons each, and the topics range from beginner lessons—like noun gender, plural forms, articles, etc.—to advanced topics like the imperfect subjunctive.You can follow the lessons one by one exactly as StudySpanish has them structured or use it as a grammar reference guide. For example, I started by skimming through the units and making a list of the grammar points I didn't recognize. Then, I went through them based on which ones I felt were the most important for me.Each lesson is a page of notes that includes an explanation of the rule, example sentences for each usage, and exceptions and irregularities when applicable. At the end, there's a basic quiz, mini-test, two or three harder quizzes, a full test and a "final."Like Lengalia, you get plenty of practice before moving onto the next topic. But not so much that it's intense and feels like homework. And since there's no progress tracking—you don't even need an account to use StudySpanish—you don't feel any pressure to spend time taking quizzes if you don't need them.But the website is lacking in other areas. For example, there's absolutely no content other than the text instruction (in English)—there are no videos, no audio, no dictation, nothing. So you'll definitely need to supplement it with a more well-rounded resource. 3. FluentUFluentU is a video-based learning program that teaches Spanish through authentic videos that native speakers watch. Music videos, movie trailers, episodes from TV shows like the Simpsons and The Big Bang Theory, news clips, inspiring talks and more.Each video comes with interactive subtitles, which means you can hover over words you don't know the meaning of to instantly see the translation. Clicking on it brings you to a small page on the same screen with the word's meaning, example sentences, a list of other videos where it's used in context and the option to add it to one of your personalized flashcard decks.To find videos to watch, you can filter by level (Beginner 1 to Advanced 2), video type and topic—such as health and lifestyle, history and culture, humor, food and more.Once you've found a video, you're shown a keyword list of new vocabulary, which includes audio pronunciations and the meaning of the words. And once you've finished watching, you take a quiz on the new vocab.One of my favorite things about FluentU is the variety of content types and study formats available. Aside from watching videos, there's structured course content that uses story dialogues to teach grammar and vocabulary. And there's also a Netflix extension that lets you watch full-length TV shows and movies with the same interactive subtitle feature the website uses.There's also the FluentU YouTube channel, which has tons of clips from popular movies and TV shows dubbed in Spanish. There are bilingual subtitles, and the host breaks down meaningful vocabulary, grammar and cultural contexts used throughout the clips.One potential downside is that while learning with FluentU videos can be as casual or intense as you want, the quizzes are super thorough—which might make them tedious and less attractive if you just want to dabble in Spanish or study for fun. They take you through tons of vocabulary so you understand as close to everything in the video as possible, which some students might just find unnecessary. 4. PreplyPreply is an online tutoring platform that lets you take one-on-one lessons with private Spanish teachers. As of August 2024, there are over 7,800 Spanish tutors alone.You can create your own lesson plans with your tutor or choose to follow one of Preply's pre-designed courses. And there are built-in practice tools you can use within the website, like flashcards, lesson notes and exercises for course lesson topics.There are two ways to find a Preply tutor. Let Preply match you with a few based on your answers to their questions when you sign up, or search for them yourself using the many filters available. Filters let you set your price range—you can find tutors for as low as $4 per hour—country of birth, availability, teaching specialties (such as conversational Spanish, beginners, DELE prep, etc.) and more.You first book a trial lesson with a tutor, which is refundable if you aren't happy with the class. Once you've chosen one, you buy a subscription of a certain amount of hours based on how many classes you want to take each week.Some people don't like this and would rather pay by the lesson. But I love it. Having a balance of prepaid lessons keeps me motivated and encourages me to keep a consistent learning schedule instead of haphazardly scheduling lessons when I remember, "have the time" or want to spend money. I've studied with my Mexican Preply tutor for three years now and my Peruvian DELE prep tutor for a year and a half (we also ended up meeting in person when I started solo traveling Peru in 2023). 5. MemriseMemrise is a very well-known language learning app often compared to Duolingo, but it's undergone lots of changes recently. It's best known for teaching vocabulary through spaced repetition flashcards, but there are quite a few new features as well.The Spanish course is broken down into seven levels, starting from Absolute Beginner and ending with Mastery. The homepage has an overview of your progress, including how long you have to go until you reach the next level. Underneath, there's a box that shows how many new words you've learned, how many new videos you've watched and how many conversations you've had.Unlike most programs, Memrise's courses don't follow a specific structure. You level up based on how many points you earn, which you earn through learning new words. To learn new words, you go to "Scenarios," which brings you to a huge collection of mini-courses you can take. These include Activities, Education, Health, Opinions, Relationships and more.Once you start a lesson, you learn the new vocabulary through drills that include translation, matching and listening exercises. Once you've completed enough exercises, Memrise marks the word as "learned." From there, you continue to review your words using Memrise's spaced repetition algorithm.The videos and conversations are newer features. You can watch videos of native speakers based on your current level, which are followed by a comprehension quiz. And the conversations are had through a chatbot with AI.Now, here's the feature I use most. Memrise also has a community website where you can find user-created courses and make your own courses (which are basically flashcard decks). This was the old version of Memrise. I use it today (alongside Anki) to house my DELE exam prep flashcards.Although I love Memrise for learning new vocab, there's really no focus on grammar. So I wouldn't recommend using it as your only resource. And the videos—while a great concept—are scripted, so they aren't really authentic.You can read more about Memrise in our in-depth review here: 6. PimsleurPimsleur is an audio-based program that offers courses in over 50 languages. Their Spanish course has five levels total, and they offer separate courses for Castillian Spanish and Latin American Spanish.Each lesson opens with a conversation between two native speakers—even the very first one. You won't be able to understand it, but by the end of 30 minutes, you will.After the conversation, the host guides you through each word and phrase by having you listen and repeat after the native speakers. He uses English to explain what they mean, but as the course progresses, the English becomes much less common.Throughout the lesson, he revisits words you learned a few minutes prior and challenges you to use them in new ways, such as asking you to translate a sentence into Spanish that you haven't heard before (but know the words).Each lesson is 30 minutes each and there are 30 lessons per level. Since there are five levels, there are 150 lessons in total.Pimsleur is an excellent choice if you're busy and want something you can use on the go, or if you're an auditory learner who prefers to start listening and speaking from day one. And the website does have extra features like flashcards and a reading guide if you want to use them. But if you're more visual or prefer more traditional study, it's probably not the program for you. If it's caught your interest, I recommend checking out our full Pimsleur review here: 7. LingodaLingoda isn't another tutoring website—it's an online language school. You take group classes of no more than five people with teachers who follow a structured, professionally designed course.They're famous for their "Lingoda Sprint," which is a two-month challenge where you take 15 or 30 classes per month. If you complete it successfully, you get 50% of your money back.The courses are designed to correlate with the CEFR requirements, starting from level A1 and ending at level B2. Each of the levels is broken down into mini-courses with 13 "chapters." For example, there's B1.1, B1.2 and B1.3 before moving on to the B2.1 course.Chapters are the lessons you complete by taking classes. Each chapter has a specific lesson topic, such as job interviews, talking about the past, the evolution of technology, etc. Before taking the class, you're expected to read over the chapter material—a PDF that includes the new vocabulary, practice exercises and grammar notes when applicable.Classes are an hour long and are very interactive—you're encouraged to discuss the lesson material with your fellow students and the teacher. Classes are also immersive, meaning they're 100% in Spanish.Something I love about Lingoda is that there are classes available 24/7. The tutors come from all parts of Latin America and Spain, making it possible to find classes available in your timezone at almost any hour.There are also options for one-on-one classes, but they're more expensive. And while you're encouraged to follow the same CEFR course structure, you can request that your tutor teach you a specific subject outside of the curriculum.If you want a thoroughly structured pathway to Spanish proficiency with lots of support from native-speaking professionals, I highly recommend Lingoda. But if you're more of an independent studier like me, it's probably not your cup of tea and can feel stifling. Here's our complete Lingoda review if you want to learn more: 8. Dreaming SpanishDreaming Spanish uses a unique approach to teaching Spanish. Like FluentU, you learn by watching native-speaker videos in Spanish. But that's all you do—literally.Dreaming Spanish uses the comprehensible input method, a concept theorized by Stephen Krashen. It proposes that language should be acquired, not learned. And you acquire a language by consuming content slightly above your current level. "Learning" refers to traditional study methods like flashcards, quizzes, note taking, etc., and it's highly discouraged in this method.And if you're wondering if this applies to absolute beginners as well, it does. Dreaming Spanish has tons of videos—and they continue to upload new videos on their website daily—for absolute beginners through advanced, fluent learners.I wrote all about Dreaming Spanish and my experience with it in the detailed review you'll find at the end of this section. But what I can say now is that even the newbie videos are incredibly engaging and despite being fluent in Spanish, I can see how they'd work for someone with no experience.Dreaming Spanish has a series dedicated to each level: Superbeginner, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. The series is comprised of themed playlists. I still use Dreaming Spanish every once in a while because the videos are that entertaining. I'm almost finished with the "Relationship Problems" series hosted by two Mexican women and a talk show covering social issues hosted by an Argentine and Mexican speaker.The progress tracker is one of my favorite features. There are seven levels to Dreaming Spanish, and you level up by compiling "watch hours"—how much time you've spent watching videos. For example, reaching level two takes 50 hours, level three takes 150, etc. Dreaming Spanish automatically adds time to your watch hours as you watch videos on the platform, but you can also manually add them if you've watched something on a different one, like YouTube or Netflix.If you're looking to learn Spanish the "ultra natural" way using comprehensible input, Dreaming Spanish is hands-down the resource for you. The only problem is that many people actually like traditional learning styles, and Dreaming Spanish strongly discourages any type of studying. Plus, even though you can argue that comprehensible input is more effective in the long run, it takes significantly longer to be able to have conversations in Spanish by just consuming content.Here's my Dreaming Spanish review I mentioned earlier: 9. SpanishPod101SpanishPod101 teaches Spanish through podcast and video lessons. There are thousands of them, and they continue to produce new content regularly.You start by choosing a learning path. There are multiple, but taking a placement test or specifying your level when signing up lets SpanishPod101 recommend one to start. Learning paths are based on topics so you can easily choose something that you're interested in—such as business, regional slang, expressing emotions, etc. There are also learning paths specifically focused on grammar and culture.Aside from those, SpanishPod101 also has specialized learning paths for several Spanish dialects, including Peruvian Spanish, Costa Rican Spanish, Mexican Spanish, Castilian Spanish and more.The lessons start with either a podcast or a video where you're introduced to the new vocabulary and grammar. They're normally pretty short, between 10-15 minutes. Then, you practice with the various study tools—quizzes, downloadable PDF lesson notes, audio reviews, lesson transcripts and grammar notes.There are also several other features on SpanishPod101, and they have quite a few standalone resources, like their Top 2,000 Spanish Words list. There's also a Word of the Day and a built-in dictionary.Premium Plus members also have access to the "Live Spanish Tutor" resource. It's 24/7 messaging access to a native Spanish tutor who can give you tips, correct your homework and answer your questions. There's also an option to take private or group classes with your tutor.That being said, you might find the lesson structure repetitive or that there's too much focus on dialogues instead of having varied teaching methods. I recommend using SpanishPod101 as a supplementary resource, but not as a standalone one. I prefer something more structured, and there are so many learning pathways that it's easy to feel overwhelmed.If SpanishPod101 sounds like a resource you might want to use, I recommend learning more about it in this review here: 10. GlossikaGlossika is unique in that it doesn't teach you Spanish words—it teaches you sentences. The idea is that you learn Spanish naturally by learning small sentences rather than isolated words, and through them you pick up on grammar.The sentences start out short in the beginning levels, normally two to three words long. There aren't any lessons—instead, you have training sessions. Each session introduces you to five new sentences and you complete five repetitions for each one, so you do 25 reps total.The reps are basically flashcards with native speaker audio. First, you hear and see the English, then the Spanish. If you do full-practice mode, you then write the Spanish sentence into the box and record yourself saying it.You set a daily rep goal and a daily review goal. The reviews are the same as the training sessions, but instead of learning new sentences, you complete reps of the old ones. Glossika uses a spaced repetition system, so the reviews only make you do reps for the sentences you're close to forgetting.Something I loved when using Glossika was that the progress tracking was super detailed. It keeps track of your study hours, how many reps and reviews you've done in total, how many times you've reached your goals and how many sentences you've learned.The only drawback is that it gets very repetitive. All you're doing is completing sentence reps, and I found myself dozing off a few times if I did too much. So I'd suggest only studying for 15-30 minutes. There's also no grammar instruction, so if you like studying grammar (like me), you'll need to supplement it with another resource.I also wrote a review of Glossika while I was using the program, which you can find here:These are some of the most tried-and-true websites, many of which I still use today as an advanced speaker in DELE prep.Try out your favorites and experiment. Once you've found two to three, you'll have a solid Spanish resource collection that can take you far. Honorable MentionsHere are a few more Spanish websites that I found helpful. I'd recommend using these as supplemental resources when you want something different or want to consult a different source.Duolingo. Duolingo uses a "skill tree" to introduce vocabulary and grammar rules through a series of entertaining quizzes, building to more advanced skills as you go. It has a gamified approach to language learning and offers a rather straightforward and fun way to learn Spanish. You may already be familiar with the app, though its website platform and its online language forums are also helpful. See our full Duolingo review here.Mango Languages. Mango Languages is a self-paced course that uses algorithms to individually tailor learning material for each learner. Lessons are a blend of listening and reading activities that focus on conversational mastery by demonstrating how things are actually applied. Memory-building exercises, grammar notes and critical-thinking activities all help learners build strong language skills. Cultural notes enhance the experience and provide idioms and insights that make the language come alive. Read our full Mango Languages review here.Babbel. Babbel is a great app for anyone just starting a new language, with content that can provide a solid foundation for later learning. However, the app is limited in its scope, not offering much for intermediate and advanced learners, despite its promises to teach "language for life." Read our full Babbel review here.Busuu. Busuu is a language learning program that encourages you to develop all your language skills—speaking, listening, reading and writing—at once. For example, it has a speech recognition tool that helps you improve your speaking skills just using your phone. There's a desktop version with an easy-to-use interface. Of course, you can download the app for your iOS and Android devices. Busuu also provides offline lessons so you can download them to study without an internet connection. Read our full Busuu review here.Rosetta Stone. Rosetta Stone has been a language learning giant since the 1990s. Today, it continues its legacy with an updated interface and streamlined instruction, but sometimes falls short of providing a comprehensive language learning experience. Read our full review of Rosetta Stone here.Rocket Languages. Rocket Languages promises to teach you to talk "just like locals do." We can assume that this means we'll learn through authentic conversations in Spanish, and that there will be targeted pronunciation exercises throughout each course. The program also claims you will "learn how the language actually works." This means that the program also includes explicit grammar instruction. Read our full review of Rocket Languages here.BBC Spanish. The British Broadcasting Company, renowned for its international news coverage, is also pretty great at providing language learning content. All the content on BBC Spanish is free to use and it includes a lot of Spanish language culture, fun video aspects and plenty of reading material.MosaLingua. MosaLingua is a simple but effective Spanish learning website with over 3,500 flashcards featuring the language's most used words. Because the site only teaches vocabulary, it should be thought of as an add-on to another language learning website that covers grammar and culture more explicitly.123TeachMe. 123TeachMe offers a selection of free Spanish learning materials. It's a great resource for consistent Spanish practice that you can use every day, either for focused study or just to get in a few minutes of practice in your downtime. You'll find self-study courses covering everything from basic survival Spanish to dental Spanish. There's also a massive selection of verb conjugation charts, tests, quizzes, a word of the day, a phrase of the day and a verb of the day.ProfedeELE. ProfeDeELE is full of diverse content for all learning levels. Materials include songs, podcasts, lectures and videos and are separated to conform with those levels as laid out in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Cultural activities are part of the program, as well, and there are quizzes to help learners keep track of how their language learning is progressing. ProfeDeELA is a comprehensive option for learners, especially those who appreciate a clear-cut method for starting from beginner and moving onward.Coffee Break Spanish. What's really enticing about this website is the invitation to sit down with a coffee as you learn Spanish. The website's easy-to-follow sessions also add to its appeal and are well worth checking out. Some of the resources on the website are free, including the two-minute challenges and the podcast. If you're looking to properly immerse yourself in Spanish with this site you'll at least need the low-cost subscription. This will include audio and video lessons with notes to help develop your Spanish in an organized and fun way. Read our full Coffee Break Spanish review here.University of Texas. Starting at the beginner level and progressing through to advanced and superior, the University of Texas' Spanish Proficiency Exercises page has activities organized by task. Each task includes videos, grammar, vocabulary, phrases and a podcast. The tasks all have some kind of language focus. Some are about describing things or situations, and others are grammar-based, like using conditionals to talk about hypothetical situations. There are also functional language tasks, such as booking a reservation or making a complaint. The website layout is somewhat dense and decidedly plain, but the material is high-quality and very structured.Speaking Latino. Speaking Latino is a teacher and student resource site aimed at real-life and authentic Spanish learning. Grouped by country, this site has a ton of resources to learn slang and general vocabulary, and it includes articles, books, videos, websites, podcasts and more. By noting the differences in Spanish between countries, you will have a better idea of how different types of Spanish speakers communicate.SpanishDictionary.com. Besides functioning as a Spanish dictionary and translator, SpanishDict also has plenty of useful learning resources. There are mini grammar lessons and curated vocabulary lists with quizzes. The grammar lessons include teaching videos and review exercises that are primarily in fill-in-the-blank format. Conveniently, the questions also include audio snippets spoken by native speakers. The vocabulary quizzes ask you to translate words (with included visual guides) into their Spanish counterparts.Conjuguemos. Conjuguemos has a ton of fun interactive activities for conjugation, vocabulary and grammar practice. The platform was actually designed to be a classroom aid, with graded quizzes, flashcards and games aligning with popular Spanish learner textbooks. The free account gives you access to plenty of comprehensive exercises that will keep you occupied for a long time. Conjuguemos also allows you to download helpful charts and notes for your convenience.Fluencia. Fluencia guides you seamlessly through an expansive amount of learning, beginning with a quiz to start you off at the right level. From there, it'll have you focusing on specific areas that you're interested in or need help with. Most of the process is based on translating exercises, but they are well thought out. There's a monthly subscription fee once you reach a certain level, but the site's simplicity, quality and encouraging messages seem to make it worthwhile.Amauta. Amauta is a Latin American Spanish school. Its website is one of the few offering level testing in Latin American Spanish, although its exams only cover beginning through intermediate levels. The level tests are purely grammatical. However, the website does have online learning exercises for all levels—including advanced—with games, vocabulary, idioms and more, as well as information on a range of Latin American recipes, music and literature.Cervantes. Cervantes is another Spain-based school with rigorous online testing. The testing format is easy to navigate and modern, though heavy on grammar, and you have to start at the first out of five levels and see how far you get. The Cervantes system has a strong reputation for quality teaching and its tests match that.Polly Lingual. Polly Lingual offers beginner through advanced Spanish courses in addition to specific courses on grammar, travel, business and medicine. Lessons are grouped thematically, so it's easy to pick and choose the topics that are most relevant to you. Polly Lingual also offers different exercises to practice lesson content such as crossword puzzles, conjugation trainers, and reviews. Plus, Polly Lingual also offers affordable tutoring with native Spanish speakers.Learn Practical Spanish Online. Practical Spanish offers beginner through advanced Spanish lessons that focus on Latin American Spanish. You'll learn vocabulary and grammar rules ranging from beginning topics like possessive pronouns to intermediate topics like the subjunctive. The lessons provide written tutorials as well as audio to help you absorb native-speaker pronunciation. Practical Spanish also offers e-books for purchase that come with recordings. There are options for beginner, intermediate and advanced learners. Books are some of the most valuable tools you can use while learning Spanish—they don't expire, you don't need a monthly subscription, they're in-depth and they've been trusted for decades.This post is a compilation of my personal recommendations for the 17 best books to learn Spanish this year.Contents Best Books to Learn Spanish in 2024If you like getting your information from videos, you might want to check out our video round-up of excellent books to learn Spanish.You'll find even more resources, allowing you to top off your Spanish textbook library!1. "Practice Makes Perfect Complete Spanish Grammar"Check availability on AmazonBest for: OverallThis edition of the "Practice Makes Perfect" series is a 350-page workbook covering the most important Spanish grammar rules.There are clear explanations, many realistic examples and free online audio recordings to practice your listening skills.The good thing about this book is that it offers various exercises for different learning styles, like multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank games and creative writing exercises.Plus, the structure is easy to follow.Highlights:Covers the most essential grammar rules you need to knowOffers easy-to-access online audio recordingsWide variety of reinforcement exercises 2. "See It and Say It in Spanish"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Absolute beginnersThis book teaches level-one Spanish vocabulary through pictures using two specific techniques.First, it uses the word and picture method. Each new word or sentence is accompanied by a line drawing that instantly explains its meaning.Second, the ready-made vocabulary presents you with everyday Spanish words and phrases that look and sound like their English equivalents to ease you into conversational Spanish faster.These two methods pack a powerful punch, and the book gives you the vocabulary to express yourself quickly and meaningfully in Spanish.Highlights:Focuses on teaching you Spanish naturally, without word-for-word English translationsTeaches relevant Spanish words and phrases you can use dailyAlso includes a traveler's word list, pronunciation guide and a grammar section 3. "Collins Easy Learning: Spanish Conversation"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Beginner conversation skillsThe book consists of 12 units, each focusing on a specific situation (formal or informal).They include themes such as school, home, social media and business. Each unit's key phrases are compiled at the end, forming an accessible, quick-access glossary.Of course, when learning conversation, you'll need to do more than memorize sentences. The book also provides quick grammar and verb lessons to help you break down the phrases.Plus, plenty of example sentences are provided to illustrate points.This book can make a great resource that gets you comfortable with the essentials and expectations of Spanish conversation.Highlights:Lessons are theme-based with highly relevant vocabularyIncludes short grammar lessonsCan be used as a stand-alone course 4. "Easy Spanish Step-By-Step"Check availability on AmazonBest for: Beginner grammarThis book's main goal is to get you speaking Spanish confidently, without having to translate too much in your head or worry about making mistakes.It's grammar-based, so you're learning the foundations of Spanish structure and verb conjugation from the get-go while also engaging with readings that reinforce what you've learned through context.Plus, the vocabulary and verbs introduced are based on spoken frequency to ensure you start communicating and understanding as soon as

possible.Highlights:Grammar-focused with the goal of increasing speaking confidenceIntroduces more than 300 frequently used verbs and key termsIncludes various exercises to reinforce the material 5. “Spanish Language Learning: The Ultimate Guide”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Learning how to learn SpanishThink of this book as the first guide to pick up before considering other self-study Spanish books.It lays out the pros and cons of top Spanish learning resources, such as dictionaries and self-study books, to name a few.It provides a comprehensive collection of thoughtful reviews so you can select the resources that will work best for your needs.Highlights:Helps you map out the most effective resources for your Spanish study planFind cost-effective resources for all aspects of learning: vocabulary, grammar, conversation and advanced SpanishHighest ranked books are listed first 6. “Oxford Picture Dictionary English-Spanish”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Use as a study dictionaryThis book is a bilingual picture dictionary where every term is illustrated with contextual drawings.It’s organized into 12 themed units that cover various aspects of life like people, housing, food, recreation and more. The dictionary features stories, role plays, clear visual descriptions of words and dialogues to help you learn new vocabulary quickly.It’s not a classic dictionary—you can easily read a page per day and get a lot out of it. Plus, it’ll take you three to five minutes!Highlights:Highly organizedTeaches you relevant content you’ll use in daily lifeOne page is enough learning material for an entire day’s lesson 7. “Spanish Short Stories for Beginners”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Reading Spanish storiesEvery short story in this book is formatted to teach you specific Spanish language concepts.Although the title states that the book is for beginners, it may be more suitable for intermediate learners.The Spanish used in some stories can be challenging, so the book may not be the best first choice for true novices.Highlights:Each story is written with beginners in mind and has a specific learning goalQuestions at the end of each story help you form sentences and improve your reading comprehensionGlossaries and summaries help you pick up on new vocabulary and grammar and ensure you understand 8. “Spanish for Dummies”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Use as a reference guideWhether you want to learn about different varieties of wine and how to identify them, how to operate your new computer software or, in this case, about the Spanish language, the “For Dummies” series is here to help.These books are ideal to be used as a supplement to the main textbooks you are studying.The short chapters, helpful tips sections and easy-to-navigate index intermingle to provide a stress-free learning experience.Highlights:Covers grammar, verb conjugations and pronunciationsIncludes a mini-dictionary with extra vocabulary and exercisesIncludes a CD that features real-world Spanish dialogues 9. “Madrigal’s Magic Key to Spanish”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Fast learningPeople rave in this book’s review section, stating that its format and presentation are unbeatable and that it helps clarify often-murky Spanish topics and teaches in a fun way.It highlights how many Spanish words English speakers already know and demonstrates a few rules on how to “Spanishify” them.As much as this seems like an obscure method, the author provides extensive examples throughout the guide and exercises to practice and master this approach.Highlights:Promises to help you read, write and speak Spanish in only a few weeksGives you the knowledge to start forming sentences after just the first lessonThe teaching method allows you to learn thousands of Spanish words in a few weeks 10. “501 Spanish Verbs”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Learning verb conjugationThis book is similar to the 2,000 Most Common Spanish Words book in that it teaches you the most frequently used Spanish verbs—501, to be exact.You’ll also learn how to conjugate them in every tense and mood.The book includes many bonus features—like the following mentioned in the highlights—and detailed instructions that explain how to use each verb (and the book).Highlights:The 501 verbs are the most frequently used verbs in Spanish and were professionally curatedEach verb also comes with lists of synonyms, antonyms, idioms and example sentencesComes with access to online content like audio programs for pronunciation, listening comprehension and four practice quizzes 11. “Practice Makes Perfect” SeriesCheck availability on AmazonBest for: Learning Spanish tensesThese workbooks have clear explanations while still including important grammatical details that often get simplified in other resources.After introducing each topic, there are plenty of practice exercises with solutions in the back.In the grammar and verb-focused workbooks, the creators did a fantastic job of gradually teaching and integrating vocabulary while focusing on the grammatical topic.Workbooks available in this series include: Basic Spanish, Spanish Pronouns and Prepositions, Spanish Verb Tenses, Complete Spanish Grammar and Spanish Vocabulary.Highlights:A glossary and verb tables are included in the back of the grammar workbooksComplete with five Spanish workbooks focused on different skillsIncludes more than 250 exercises for vocabulary building and material reinforcement 12. “2000 Most Common Spanish Words in Context”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Comprehensive vocabulary learningThis book teaches you the most frequently-used 2,000 Spanish words, allowing you to quickly understand most words used in everyday conversations.Every word comes with example sentences showing how to use it in conversation—a feature that will likely be the most useful.Finally, it’ll set a foundation for your Spanish vocabulary before you move on to more advanced terms and phrases.Highlights:Learn the most frequently used words to start understanding the majority of conversations fastTeaches each word in context, not in isolationIncludes tips and tricks for improving your Spanish learning throughout the book 13. “Living Language Spanish, Complete Edition”Check availability on AmazonBest for: A structured textbook seriesLiving Language is a huge multimedia Spanish program that contains three books (beginner, intermediate and advanced) and nine CDs (three for each level).It’s well organized with topic-based chapters (instead of lesson-based chapters like in most courses), and the goal is to teach you conversational Spanish more than anything else.The CDs are high-quality, clear and well-modulated recordings with the speaking rate set at a learner-appropriate speed.As you progress, you’ll learn new words, sentence structures and conjugations in each chapter.Highlights:Covers all three levels of Spanish (beginner, intermediate, advanced)Heavy focus on conversational Spanish skillsAccompanying CDs let you practice listening comprehension and correct pronunciation 14. “Practical Spanish Grammar”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Self-StudyingThis book merges the concept of a traditional phrasebook with grammar, vocabulary lessons and corresponding activities to ensure readers grasp the concepts.This book has been said to be so comprehensive that it could be the base of a Spanish study program.Highlights:Uses an interactive format that has been tested and rewritten to help you teach yourself at a pace optimal for progressTeaches over 1,000 of the most common Spanish wordsSample dialogues include culture notes 15. “Practice Makes Perfect: Spanish Conversation”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Improving conversational skillsThis book is organized into 12 units that present realistic conversational situations like making introductions, giving opinions, going on a date or telling a story.Each chapter starts with a dialogue, followed by various exercises to put what you learned into practice.An English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English glossary is also included to help you along.It’s important to note that this book is intended for intermediate learners.Highlights:Focuses on realistic conversation topics you’ll use frequentlyEach chapter contains a dialogue and exercisesClear instructions for correct pronunciation, syntax and word usage 16. “Advanced Spanish Step-by-Step”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Studying at the B2-C2 levelThis book covers intermediate to advanced Spanish grammar in an easy, progressive manner.Lessons cover important Spanish grammar topics like complex verb tenses, parts of speech, sentence structure and more. And along the way, you’ll learn plenty of vocabulary you’ll use in real conversation.Before choosing this book, make sure you’ve reached an intermediate Spanish level. Otherwise, you may get a bit overwhelmed by the content and exercises, as they’re quite detailed and extensive.Highlights:Perfect for more advanced learners who don’t want to spend time relearning basic grammar conceptsLearn new vocabulary on top of grammarThe step-by-step approach makes the path from intermediate to advanced more clear and easy to follow 17. “Practice Makes Perfect: Advanced Spanish Grammar”Check availability on AmazonBest for: Advanced learnersThis book goes into the intricate details of Spanish and is aimed at intermediate to advanced students.It features many practical exercises to help you communicate more naturally.This breaks free from the ready-to-use sentences found in other books and encourages you to create more sophisticated phrases as you go along. If you already have a good grasp of Spanish and want to go beyond the fundamental principles, this book is a great option.Highlights:Provides various practice exercisesFocuses on natural communicationEncourages you to produce the language on your own Best Spanish NovelsIntermediate and advanced learners might benefit more from reading native Spanish content—books meant to be read by native speakers. Here are some of the best novels.Verónica decide morir. This novel is by Paulo Coehlo. It’s one I’ve personally read and it taught me a lot of new vocabulary, even as an already fluent speaker. It’s a little depressing—a girl tries to take her own life and is admitted to a hospital, and it follows her journey while staying there. But if you don’t mind that, this book is a goldmine for vocabulary that’s more advanced but still used in normal life.La sombra del viento. This is another one I read (but never finished) when I was a low-intermediate learner. It’s about a young boy named Daniel whose father takes him to “The Cemetery of Forgotten Books.” He finds a cursed book there that takes him to a labyrinth where he discovers lots of dark secrets.La fragilidad de un corazón bajo la lluvia. I started reading this book after hearing about it on Spanish “BookTok”—basically a niche of creators who share their opinions and experiences after reading certain novels and talk about their current reads on TikTok. It’s about a young girl in Spain who was engaged, but her fiance calls it off after thinking she really doesn’t want to marry him anymore. And her grandfather is also dying. She suddenly finds herself retracing her life, healing wounds that have led to the incidents occurring in her life at the current moment. I would definitely say this one is for advanced learners.Como agua para chocolate. This Mexican novel is a classic and many Spanish learners recommend it. It’s set in the revolutionary period of Mexico in the early 1900s. Tita is the youngest daughter of her family and her parents won’t allow her to get married—she must remain single to take care of her mother, per tradition. So when she falls in love with Pedro, not only can she not marry him, but he has to marry her older sister.El principito. This is another classic novel. It’s also short and probably the easiest to read out of this list. A pilot crashes in the Sahara Desert and meets a young boy called “The Little Prince” (el principito). The prince tells him that he’s from another planet and tells the pilot how he got to Earth, as well as the other plants he’s visited. There are six planets, and they each represent a human flaw. Through his time on Earth, the prince learns that the most important things aren’t the things we can see.If none of these catch your eye, I recommend exploring more books in these posts: More Book Resources for Learning SpanishIf reading is your jam, there are plenty more book resources you can use to enhance your Spanish skills. Check out these posts to explore more variations of Spanish book genres:Keep in mind that to ensure your Spanish studies are completely balanced and you become well-rounded in all skills, it’s best to supplement your book studies with more audio or video-based learning, whether it be through Netflix or online immersion programs like FluentU. FAQs About Books in Spanish Which books are good to learn Spanish?The best book to learn Spanish is one that is suitable for your level (or just slightly above) and that teaches you vocabulary and/or grammar relevant to your goals.If you’d like books to be your primary resource, I suggest starting one of the books I’ve listed in the post. Can I learn Spanish from a book?Yes! You can learn vocabulary, grammar, reading skills and in some cases, listening skills if the book comes with an audiobook version, online resources or CDs.But as I mentioned earlier, be sure to balance your book studies with more authentic Spanish immersion to develop all your language skills. What is the fastest method to learn Spanish?Immersion is the fastest way to learn Spanish. Consuming content meant for native speakers but is still appropriate for your level is the best way to achieve immersion from home. This includes reading Spanish books, watching TV shows and movies, listening to music and more.It’s also great to pair immersion with another resource, such as these textbooks. How can I learn Spanish quickly by myself?You can speed up your Spanish learning progress on your own by combining traditional learning (like textbooks and online courses) with at-home immersion methods, like we discussed above.Try to spend 30 minutes to an hour each day learning Spanish and keep track of your study habits and learning progress to achieve the fastest results.So, there you have them! Pick some Spanish learning books from this list or find your own picks, and use the advice in this article to get the most out of each title.Don’t be afraid to branch out and read books written in Spanish that aren’t specifically for learners to broaden your horizons, either. If you've made it this far that means you probably enjoy learning Spanish with engaging material and will then love FluentU. Other sites use scripted content. FluentU uses a natural approach that helps you ease into the Spanish language and culture over time. You’ll learn Spanish as it’s actually spoken by real people. FluentU has a wide variety of videos, as you can see here: FluentU brings native videos within reach with interactive transcripts. You can tap on any word to look it up instantly. Every definition has examples that have been written to help you understand how the word is used. If you see an interesting word you don’t know, you can add it to a vocab list. Review a complete interactive transcript under the Dialogue tab, and find words and phrases listed under Vocab. Learn all the vocabulary in any video with FluentU’s robust learning engine. Swipe left or right to see more examples of the word you’re on. The best part is that FluentU keeps track of the vocabulary that you’re learning, and gives you extra practice with difficult words. It'll even remind you when it’s time to review what you’ve learned. Every learner has a truly personalized experience, even if they’re learning with the same video. Start using the FluentU website on your computer or tablet or, better yet, download the FluentU app from the iTunes or Google Play store. Click here to take advantage of our current sale! (Expires at the end of this month.)Page 2I’ve been learning Spanish for seven years. I’m now fluent and living in Lima, Peru where I speak it every day, and am preparing to take the C1 DELE exam in November.All this to say, I have more experience researching, trying out, hating and loving Spanish resources than the average person. So to spare you the struggle, here are my top 10 favorite websites for learning Spanish—whether you’re a beginner, advanced or in exam prep like me.Contents 1. LengaliaLengalia is one of my favorite Spanish websites and I still use it today for DELE exam prep.It has grammar and vocabulary courses for all six of the CEFR levels, A1 through C2. There are also six Spanish business courses (including medical Spanish, presenting and negotiating, etc.), a pronunciation course, two vocabulary-only courses and more.My favorite thing about these courses is that the lessons are insanely in-depth and provide more than enough practice exercises for you to really get the grammar point down.Each lesson has a lesson objective and introduction. Then, there’s the grammar explanation—the part of the lesson that introduces you to the new concept and instructs you on all the ways to use it. Then comes the highlight of Lengalia—the practice exercises.There are 2-3 pages of exercises, with roughly 10 exercises each. They’re mostly fill-in-the-blank exercises where you choose the correct answer from a dropdown. Next comes vocabulary drills, “communication” (where you learn colloquial phrases and sayings), reading comprehension, listening comprehension and dictation exercises.Once you’ve completed all those exercises, you move on to the next lesson.Finally, there’s an extensive test at the end of each course that gives you a certificate with the corresponding CEFR level if you pass.I will say, Lengalia’s in-depth grammar style can be tedious. If you’re studying casually, don’t care about the DELE exam or don’t like intense grammar instruction, you might be better off with one of the more interactive, unstructured resources on this list. 2. StudySpanish.comStudySpanish.com is a free website full of grammar lessons. There are vocabulary and pronunciation lessons too—which are great if you’re really on a budget and need something free—but there’s no audio, example sentences or guided instruction. Just lists.StudySpanish’s grammar section is the only high school Spanish resource I continued to use after graduating. There are nine units with 10-25 lessons each, and the topics range from beginner lessons—like noun gender, plural forms, articles, etc.—to advanced topics like the imperfect subjunctive.You can follow the lessons one by one exactly as StudySpanish has them structured or use it as a grammar reference guide. For example, I started by skimming through the units and making a list of the grammar points I didn’t recognize. Then, I went through them based on which ones I felt were the most important for me.Each lesson is a page of notes that includes an explanation of the rule, example sentences for each usage, and exceptions and irregularities when applicable. At the end, there’s a basic quiz, mini-test, two or three harder quizzes, a full test and a “final.”Like Lengalia, you get plenty of practice before moving onto the next topic. But not so much that it’s intense and feels like homework. And since there’s no progress tracking—you don’t even need an account to use StudySpanish—you don’t feel any pressure to spend time taking quizzes if you don’t need them.But the website is lacking in other areas. For example, there’s absolutely no content other than the text instruction (in English)—there are no videos, no audio, no dictation, nothing. So you’ll definitely need to supplement it with a more well-rounded resource. 3. FluentUFluentU is a video-based learning program that teaches Spanish through authentic videos that native speakers watch. Music videos, movie trailers, episodes from TV shows like the Simpsons and The Big Bang Theory, news clips, inspiring talks and more.Each video comes with interactive subtitles, which means you can hover over words you don’t know the meaning of to instantly see the translation. Clicking on it brings you to a small page on the same screen with the word’s meaning, example sentences, a list of other videos where it’s used in context and the option to add it to one of your personalized flashcard decks.To find videos to watch, you can filter by level (Beginner 1 to Advanced 2), video type and topic—such as health and lifestyle, history and culture, humor, food and more.Once you’ve found a video, you’re shown a keyword list of new vocabulary, which includes audio pronunciations and the meaning of the words. And once you’ve finished watching, you take a quiz on the new vocab.One of my favorite things about FluentU is the variety of content types and study formats available. Aside from watching videos, there’s structured course content that uses story dialogues to teach grammar and vocabulary. And there’s also a Netflix extension that lets you watch full-length TV shows and movies with the same interactive subtitle feature the website uses.There’s also the FluentU YouTube channel, which has tons of clips from popular movies and TV shows dubbed in Spanish. There are bilingual subtitles, and the host breaks down meaningful vocabulary, grammar and cultural contexts used throughout the clips.One potential downside is that while learning with FluentU videos can be as casual or intense as you want, the quizzes are super thorough—which might make them tedious and less attractive if you just want to dabble in Spanish or study for fun. They take you through tons of vocabulary so you understand as close to everything in the video as possible, which some students might just find unnecessary. 4. PreplyPreply is an online tutoring platform that lets you take one-on-one lessons with private Spanish teachers. As of August 2024, there are over 7,800 Spanish tutors alone.You can create your own lesson plans with your tutor or choose to follow one of Preply’s pre-designed courses. And there are built-in practice tools you can use within the website, like flashcards, lesson notes and exercises for course lesson topics.There are two ways to find a Preply tutor. Let Preply match you with a few based on your answers to their questions when you sign up, or search for them yourself using the many filters available. Filters let you set your price range—you can find tutors for as low as $4 per hour—country of birth, availability, teaching specialties (such as conversational Spanish, beginners, DELE prep, etc.) and more.You first book a trial lesson with a tutor, which is refundable if you aren’t happy with the class. Once you’ve chosen one, you buy a subscription of a certain amount of hours based on how many classes you want to take each week.Some people don’t like this and would rather pay by the lesson. But I love it. Having a balance of prepaid lessons keeps me motivated and encourages me to keep a consistent learning schedule instead of haphazardly scheduling lessons when I remember, “have the time” or want to spend money. I’ve studied with my Mexican Preply tutor for three years now and my Peruvian DELE prep tutor for a year and a half (we also ended up meeting in person when I started solo traveling Peru in 2023). 5. MemriseMemrise is a very well-known language learning app often compared to Duolingo, but it’s undergone lots of changes recently. It’s best known for teaching vocabulary through spaced repetition flashcards, but there are quite a few new features as well.The Spanish course is broken down into seven levels, starting from Absolute Beginner and ending with Mastery. The homepage has an overview of your progress, including how long you have to go until you reach the next level. Underneath, there’s a box that shows how many new words you’ve learned, how many new videos you’ve watched and how many conversations you’ve had.Unlike most programs, Memrise’s courses don’t follow a specific structure. You level up based on how many points you earn, which you earn through learning new words. To learn new words, you go to “Scenarios,” which brings you to a huge collection of mini-courses you can take. These include Activities, Education, Health, Opinions, Relationships and more.Once you start a lesson, you learn the new vocabulary through drills that include translation, matching and listening exercises. Once you’ve completed enough exercises, Memrise marks the word as “learned.” From there, you continue to review your words using Memrise’s spaced repetition algorithm.The videos and conversations are newer features. You can watch videos of native speakers based on your current level, which are followed by a comprehension quiz. And the conversations are had through a chatbot with AI.Now, here’s the feature I use most. Memrise also has a community website where you can find user-created courses and make your own courses (which are basically flashcard decks). This was the old version of Memrise. I use it today (alongside Anki) to house my DELE exam prep flashcards.Although I love Memrise for learning new vocab, there’s really no focus on grammar. So I wouldn’t recommend using it as your only resource. And the videos—while a great concept—are scripted, so they aren’t really authentic.You can read more about Memrise in our in-depth review here: 6. PimsleurPimsleur is an audio-based program that offers courses in over 50 languages. Their Spanish course has five levels total, and they offer separate courses for Castillian Spanish and Latin American Spanish.Each lesson opens with a conversation between two native speakers—even the very first one. You won’t be able to understand it, but by the end of 30 minutes, you will.After the conversation, the host guides you through each word and phrase by having you listen and repeat after the native speakers. He uses English to explain what they mean, but as the course progresses, the English becomes much less common.Throughout the lesson, he revisits words you learned a few minutes prior and challenges you to use them in new ways, such as asking you to translate a sentence into Spanish that you haven’t heard before (but know the words).Each lesson is 30 minutes each and there are 30 lessons per level. Since there are five levels, there are 150 lessons in total.Pimsleur is an excellent choice if you’re busy and want something you can use on the go, or if you’re an auditory learner who prefers to start listening and speaking from day one. And the website does have extra features like flashcards and a reading guide if you want to use them. But if you’re more visual or prefer more traditional study, it’s probably not the program for you. If it’s caught your interest, I recommend checking out our full Pimsleur review here: 7. LingodaLingoda isn’t another tutoring website—it’s an online language school. You take group classes of no more than five people with teachers who follow a structured, professionally designed course.They’re famous for their “Lingoda Sprint,” which is a two-month challenge where you take 15 or 30 classes per month. If you complete it successfully, you get 50% of your money back.The courses are designed to correlate with the CEFR requirements, starting from level A1 and ending at level B2. Each of the levels is broken down into mini-courses with 13 “chapters.” For example, there’s B1.1, B1.2 and B1.3 before moving on to the B2.1 course.Chapters are the lessons you complete by taking classes. Each chapter has a specific lesson topic, such as job interviews, talking about the past, the evolution of technology, etc. Before taking the class, you’re expected to read over the chapter material—a PDF that includes the new vocabulary, practice exercises and grammar notes when applicable.Classes are an hour long and are very interactive—you’re encouraged to discuss the lesson material with your fellow students and the teacher. Classes are also immersive, meaning they’re 100% in Spanish.Something I love about Lingoda is that there are classes available 24/7. The tutors come from all parts of Latin America and Spain, making it possible to find classes available in your timezone at almost any hour.There are also options for one-on-one classes, but they’re more expensive. And while you’re encouraged to follow the same CEFR course structure, you can request that your tutor teach you a specific subject outside of the curriculum.If you want a thoroughly structured pathway to Spanish proficiency with lots of support from native-speaking professionals, I highly recommend Lingoda. But if you’re more of an independent studier like me, it’s probably not your cup of tea and can feel stifling. Here’s our complete Lingoda review if you want to learn more: 8. Dreaming SpanishDreaming Spanish uses a unique approach to teaching Spanish. Like FluentU, you learn by watching native-speaker videos in Spanish. But that’s all you do—literally.Dreaming Spanish uses the comprehensible input method, a concept theorized by Stephen Krashen. It proposes that language should be acquired, not learned. And you acquire a language by consuming content slightly above your current level. “Learning” refers to traditional study methods like flashcards, quizzes, note taking, etc., and it’s highly discouraged in this method.And if you’re wondering if this applies to absolute beginners as well, it does. Dreaming Spanish has tons of videos—and they continue to upload new videos on their website daily—for absolute beginners through advanced, fluent learners.I wrote all about Dreaming Spanish and my experience with it in the detailed review you’ll find at the end of this section. But what I can say now is that even the newbie videos are incredibly engaging and despite being fluent in Spanish, I can see how they’d work for someone with no experience.Dreaming Spanish has a series dedicated to each level: Superbeginner, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. The series is comprised of themed playlists. I still use Dreaming Spanish every once in a while because the videos are that entertaining. I’m almost finished with the “Relationship Problems” series hosted by two Mexican women and a talk show covering social issues hosted by an Argentine and Mexican speaker.The progress tracker is one of my favorite features. There are seven levels to Dreaming Spanish, and you level up by compiling “watch hours”—how much time you’ve spent watching videos. For example, reaching level two takes 50 hours, level three takes 150, etc. Dreaming Spanish automatically adds time to your watch hours as you watch videos on the platform, but you can also manually add them if you’ve watched something on a different one, like YouTube or Netflix.If you’re looking to learn Spanish the “ultra natural” way using comprehensible input, Dreaming Spanish is hands-down the resource for you. The only problem is that many people actually like traditional learning styles, and Dreaming Spanish strongly discourages any type of studying. Plus, even though you can argue that comprehensible input is more effective in the long run, it takes significantly longer to be able to have conversations in Spanish by just consuming content.Here’s my Dreaming Spanish review I mentioned earlier: 9. SpanishPod101SpanishPod101 teaches Spanish through podcast and video lessons. There are thousands of them, and they continue to produce new content regularly.You start by choosing a learning path. There are multiple, but taking a placement test or specifying your level when signing up lets SpanishPod101 recommend one to start. Learning paths are based on topics so you can easily choose something that you’re interested in—such as business, regional slang, expressing emotions, etc. There are also learning paths specifically focused on grammar and culture.Aside from those, SpanishPod101 also has specialized learning paths for several Spanish dialects, including Peruvian Spanish, Costa Rican Spanish, Mexican Spanish, Castilian Spanish and more.The lessons start with either a podcast or a video where you’re introduced to the new vocabulary and grammar. They’re normally pretty short, between 10-15 minutes. Then, you practice with the various study tools—quizzes, downloadable PDF lesson notes, audio reviews, lesson transcripts and grammar notes.There are also several other features on SpanishPod101, and they have quite a few standalone resources, like their Top 2,000 Spanish Words list. There’s also a Word of the Day and a built-in dictionary.Premium Plus members also have access to the “Live Spanish Tutor” resource. It’s 24/7 messaging access to a native Spanish tutor who can give you tips, correct your homework and answer your questions. There’s also an option to take private or group classes with your tutor.That being said, you might find the lesson structure repetitive or that there’s too much focus on dialogues instead of having varied teaching methods. I recommend using SpanishPod101 as a supplementary resource, but not as a standalone one. I prefer something more structured, and there are so many learning pathways that it’s easy to feel overwhelmed.If SpanishPod101 sounds like a resource you might want to use, I recommend learning more about it in this review here: 10. GlossikaGlossika is unique in that it doesn’t teach you Spanish words—it teaches you sentences. The idea is that you learn Spanish naturally by learning small sentences rather than isolated words, and through them you pick up on grammar.The sentences start out short in the beginning levels, normally two to three words long. There aren’t any lessons—instead, you have training sessions. Each session introduces you to five new sentences and you complete five repetitions for each one, so you do 25 reps total.The reps are basically flashcards with native speaker audio. First, you hear and see the English, then the Spanish. If you do full-practice mode, you then write the Spanish sentence into the box and record yourself saying it.You set a daily rep goal and a daily review goal. The reviews are the same as the training sessions, but instead of learning new sentences, you complete reps of the old ones. Glossika uses a spaced repetition system, so the reviews only make you do reps for the sentences you’re close to forgetting.Something I loved when using Glossika was that the progress tracking was super detailed. It keeps track of your study hours, how many reps and reviews you’ve done in total, how many times you’ve reached your goals and how many sentences you’ve learned.The only drawback is that it gets very repetitive. All you’re doing is completing sentence reps, and I found myself dozing off a few times if I did too much. So I’d suggest only studying for 15-30 minutes. There’s also no grammar instruction, so if you like studying grammar (like me), you’ll need to supplement it with another resource.I also wrote a review of Glossika while I was using the program, which you can find here:These are some of the most tried-and-true websites, many of which I still use today as an advanced speaker in DELE prep.Try out your favorites and experiment. Once you’ve found two to three, you’ll have a solid Spanish resource collection that can take you far. Honorable MentionsHere are a few more Spanish websites that I found helpful. I’d recommend using these as supplemental resources when you want something different or want to consult a different source.Duolingo. Duolingo uses a “skill tree” to introduce vocabulary and grammar rules through a series of entertaining quizzes, building to more advanced skills as you go. It has a gamified approach to language learning and offers a rather straightforward and fun way to learn Spanish. You may already be familiar with the app, though its website platform and its online language forums are also helpful. See our full Duolingo review here.Mango Languages. Mango Languages is a self-paced course that uses algorithms to individually tailor learning material for each learner. Lessons are a blend of listening and reading activities that focus on conversational mastery by demonstrating how things are actually applied. Memory-building exercises, grammar notes and critical-thinking activities all help learners build strong language skills. Cultural notes enhance the experience and provide idioms and insights that make the language come alive. Read our full Mango Languages review here.Babbel. Babbel is a great app for anyone just starting a new language, with content that can provide a solid foundation for later learning. However, the app is limited in its scope, not offering much for intermediate and advanced learners, despite its promises to teach “language for life.” Read our full Babbel review here.Busuu. Busuu is a language learning program that encourages you to develop all your language skills—speaking, listening, reading and writing—at once. For example, it has a speech recognition tool that helps you improve your speaking skills just using your phone. There’s a desktop version with an easy-to-use interface. Of course, you can download the app for your iOS and Android devices. Busuu also provides offline lessons so you can download them to study without an internet connection. Read our full Busuu review here.Rosetta Stone. Rosetta Stone has been a language learning giant since the 1990s. Today, it continues its legacy with an updated interface and streamlined instruction, but sometimes falls short of providing a comprehensive language learning experience. Read our full review of Rosetta Stone here.Rocket Languages. Rocket Languages promises to teach you to talk “just like locals do.” We can assume that this means we’ll learn through authentic conversations in Spanish, and that there will be targeted pronunciation exercises throughout each course. The program also claims you will “learn how the language actually works.” This means that the program also includes explicit grammar instruction. Read our full review of Rocket Languages here.BBC Spanish. The British Broadcasting Company, renowned for its international news coverage, is also pretty great at providing language learning content. All the content on BBC Spanish is free to use and it includes a lot of Spanish language culture, fun video aspects and plenty of reading material.MosaLingua. MosaLingua is a simple but effective Spanish learning website with over 3,500 flashcards featuring the language’s most used words. Because the site only teaches vocabulary, it should be thought of as an add-on to another language learning website that covers grammar and culture more explicitly.123TeachMe. 123TeachMe offers a selection of free Spanish learning materials. It’s a great resource for consistent Spanish practice that you can use every day, either for focused study or just to get in a few minutes of practice in your downtime. You’ll find self-study courses covering everything from basic survival Spanish to dental Spanish. There’s also a massive selection of verb conjugation charts, tests, quizzes, a word of the day, a phrase of the day and a verb of the day.ProfedeELE. ProfeDeELE is full of diverse content for all learning levels. Materials include songs, podcasts, lectures and videos and are separated to conform with those levels as laid out in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Cultural activities are part of the program, as well, and there are quizzes to help learners keep track of how their language learning is progressing. ProfeDeELA is a comprehensive option for learners, especially those who appreciate a clear-cut method for starting from beginner and moving onward.Coffee Break Spanish. What’s really enticing about this website is the invitation to sit down with a coffee as you learn Spanish. The website’s easy-to-follow sessions also add to its appeal and are well worth checking out. Some of the resources on the website are free, including the two-minute challenges and the podcast. If you’re looking to properly immerse yourself in Spanish with this site you’ll at least need the low-cost subscription. This will include audio and video lessons with notes to help develop your Spanish in an organized and fun way. Read our full Coffee Break Spanish review here.University of Texas. Starting at the beginner level and progressing through to advanced and superior, the University of Texas’ Spanish Proficiency Exercises page has activities organized by task. Each task includes videos, grammar, vocabulary, phrases and a podcast. The tasks all have some kind of language focus. Some are about describing things or situations, and others are grammar-based, like using conditionals to talk about hypothetical situations. There are also functional language tasks, such as booking a reservation or making a complaint. The website layout is somewhat dense and decidedly plain, but the material is high-quality and very structured.Speaking Latino. Speaking Latino is a teacher and student resource site aimed at real-life and authentic Spanish learning. Grouped by country, this site has a ton of resources to learn slang and general vocabulary, and it includes articles, books, videos, websites, podcasts and more. By noting the differences in Spanish between countries, you will have a better idea of how different types of Spanish speakers communicate.SpanishDictionary.com. Besides functioning as a Spanish dictionary and translator, SpanishDict also has plenty of useful learning resources. There are mini grammar lessons and curated vocabulary lists with quizzes. The grammar lessons include teaching videos and review exercises that are primarily in fill-in-the-blank format. Conveniently, the questions also include audio snippets spoken by native speakers. The vocabulary quizzes ask you to translate words (with included visual guides) into their Spanish counterparts.Conjuguemos. Conjuguemos has a ton of fun interactive activities for conjugation, vocabulary and grammar practice. The platform was actually designed to be a classroom aid, with graded quizzes, flashcards and games aligning with popular Spanish learner textbooks. The free account gives you access to plenty of comprehensive exercises that will keep you occupied for a long time. Conjuguemos also allows you to download helpful charts and notes for your convenience.Fluencia. Fluencia guides you seamlessly through an expansive amount of learning, beginning with a quiz to start you off at the right level. From there, it’ll have you focusing on specific areas that you’re interested in or need help with. Most of the process is based on translating exercises, but they are well thought out. There’s a monthly subscription fee once you reach a certain level, but the site’s simplicity, quality and encouraging messages seem to make it worthwhile.Amauta. Amauta is a Latin American Spanish school. Its website is one of the few offering level testing in Latin American Spanish, although its exams only cover beginning through intermediate levels. The level tests are purely grammatical. However, the website does have online learning exercises for all levels—including advanced—with games, vocabulary, idioms and more, as well as information on a range of Latin American recipes, music and literature.Cervantes. Cervantes is another Spain-based school with rigorous online testing. The testing format is easy to navigate and modern, though heavy on grammar, and you have to start at the first out of five levels and see how far you get. The Cervantes system has a strong reputation for quality teaching and its tests match that.Polly Lingual. Polly Lingual offers beginner through advanced Spanish courses in addition to specific courses on grammar, travel, business and medicine. Lessons are grouped thematically, so it’s easy to pick and choose the topics that are most relevant to you. Polly Lingual also offers different exercises to practice lesson content such as crossword puzzles, conjugation trainers, and reviews. Plus, Polly Lingual also offers affordable tutoring with native Spanish speakers.Learn Practical Spanish Online. Practical Spanish offers beginner through advanced Spanish lessons that focus on Latin American Spanish. You’ll learn vocabulary and grammar rules ranging from beginning topics like possessive pronouns to intermediate topics like the subjunctive. The lessons provide written tutorials as well as audio to help you absorb native-speaker pronunciation. Practical Spanish also offers e-books for purchase that come with recordings. There are options for beginner, intermediate and advanced learners. 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For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Note: ISO 639-2 is the alpha-3 code. Where two codes are provided (21 languages total), the bibliographic code is given first and the terminology code is given second. ISO 639-1 is the alpha-2 code. Multiple codes for the same language are to be considered synonyms. ISO 639-1 Language Code ISO 639-2 Language Code English name of Language French name of Language es spa Spanish; Castilian espagnol; castillan >> See change history for this code. >> Perform another search Comments on this document: System for writing in Spanish For using Spanish words and titles in Wikipedia, see Wikipedia:Manual of Style/Spain & Spanish-related articles. Spanish languageA manuscript of the Cantar de mio Cid, 13th century Overview Pronunciation stress Orthography Names History Old Middle Influences Grammar Determiners Nouns gender Pronouns personal object Adjectives Prepositions Verbs conjugation irregular verbs Dialects Andalusian Andean Argentine Belizean Bolivian Canarian Caribbean Central American Chilean Colombian Costa Rican Cuban Dominican Ecuadorian Equatoguinean Guatemalan Honduran Mexican Murcian New Mexican Nicaraguan Paraguay Panamanian Peninsular Peruvian Philippine status Puerto Rican Rioplatense Saharan Salvadoran Standard Uruguayan Venezuelan Dialectology Seseo Yeísmo Voseo Leísmo Loísmo Interlanguages Llanito Jopara Judaeo-Spanish Portuñol Spanglish Castrapo Creoles Roquetas Pidgin Chavacano or Chabacano Palenquero or Palenque Teaching Hispanism RAE Instituto Cervantes vte This article contains phonetic transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). For an introductory guide on IPA symbols, see Help:IPA. For the distinction between [ ], / / and ⟨ ⟩, see IPA § Brackets and transcription delimiters. Ortografía de la lengua española (2010) Spanish orthography is the orthography used in the Spanish language. The alphabet uses the Latin script. The spelling is fairly phonemic, especially in comparison to more opaque orthographies like English, having a relatively consistent mapping of graphemes to phonemes; in other words, the pronunciation of a given Spanish-language word can largely be predicted from its spelling and to a slightly lesser extent vice versa. Spanish punctuation uniquely includes the use of inverted question and exclamation marks: ⟨¿⟩ ⟨¡⟩. Spanish uses capital letters much less often than English; they are not used on adjectives derived from proper nouns (e.g. francés, español, portugués from Francia, España, and Portugal, respectively) and book titles capitalize only the first word (e.g. La rebelión de las masas). Spanish uses only the acute accent over any vowel: ⟨á é í ó ú⟩. This accent is used to mark the tonic (stressed) syllable, though it may also be used occasionally to distinguish homophones such as si ('if') and sí ('yes'). The only other diacritics used are the tilde on the letter ⟨ñ⟩, which is considered a separate letter from ⟨n⟩, and the diaeresis used in the sequences ⟨güe⟩ and ⟨güi⟩—as in bilingüe ('bilingual')—to indicate that the ⟨u⟩ is pronounced, [w], rather than having the usual silent role that it plays in unmarked ⟨gue⟩ and ⟨gui⟩. In contrast with English, Spanish has an official body that governs linguistic rules, orthography among them: the Royal Spanish Academy, which makes periodic changes to the orthography. The currently valid work on orthography is the Ortografía de la lengua española, published in 2010. The Spanish language is written using the Spanish alphabet, which is the ISO Latin script with one additional letter, eñe ⟨ñ⟩, for a total of 27 letters.[1] Although the letters ⟨k⟩ and ⟨w⟩ are part of the alphabet, they appear only in loanwords such as karate, kilo, waterpolo and wolframio (tungsten or wolfram) and in sensational spellings: okupa, bakalao. Each letter has a single official name according to the Real Academia Española's new 2010 Common Orthography,[2] but in some regions alternative traditional names coexist as explained below. The digraphs ⟨ch⟩ and ⟨ll⟩ were considered single letters of the alphabet from 1754 to 2010 (and sorted separately from ⟨c⟩ and ⟨l⟩ from 1803 to 1994). Letters in red are no longer part of the alphabet.[3] Spanish alphabet Uppercase A B C Ch1 D E F G H I Lowercase a b c ch d e f g h i Name[4] a be (alternative: be larga, be alta) ce che de e efe ge hache i Phoneme(s) /a/ /b/ /k/, /θ/2 /tʃ/ /d/ /e/ /f/ /g/, /x/ silent3 /i/ ^1 The digraph ⟨ch⟩ represents the affricate /tʃ/. The digraph was formerly treated as a single letter, called che. ^2 The phonemes /θ/ and /s/ are not distinguished in most dialects; see seseo. ^3 With the exception of some loanwords: hámster, hachís, hawaiano, which have /x/. Uppercase J K L Ll M N Ñ O P Q Lowercase j k l ll m n ñ o p q Name[4] jota ka ele elle eme ene eñe o pe cu Phoneme(s) /x/ /k/ /l/4 /ʎ/ /m/5 /n/, /m/5 /ɲ/ /o/ /p/ /k/6 ^4 The digraph ⟨ll⟩ (e.g. calle) represents the palatal lateral /ʎ/ in a few dialects; but in most dialects—because of the historical merger called yeísmo—it, like the letter ⟨y⟩, represents the phoneme /ʝ/. ^5 The exact realization of nasals in syllable-final position depends on phonetic attributes of following consonants (even across word boundaries) so that ⟨n⟩ can represent a nasal that is labial (as in ánfora), palatal (as in cónyuge), velar (as in rincón), etc. In rare instances, word-final ⟨m⟩ is used, but there is no actual pronunciation difference. ^6 Used only in the digraph ⟨qu⟩. Uppercase R8 S T U V W X Y Z Lowercase r s t u v w x y z Name[4] erre ese te u uve, ve, ve corta, ve baja, ve chica uve doble, ve doble, doble ve, doble u equis ye, i griega zeta Phoneme(s) /ɾ/, /r/ /s/ /t/ /u/ /b/ /w/, /b/ /ks/, /s/9 /ʝ/, /i/ /θ/2 ^8 The digraph ⟨rr⟩, which only appears between vowels, represents the trill /r/. ^9 Old orthography with the letter ⟨x⟩ representing /x/ has been preserved in some proper names such as México. For details on Spanish pronunciation, see Spanish phonology and Help:IPA/Spanish. When acute accent and diaeresis marks are used on vowels (⟨á⟩, ⟨é⟩, ⟨í⟩, ⟨ó⟩, ⟨ú⟩ and ⟨ü⟩) they are considered variants of the plain vowel letters, but ⟨ñ⟩ is considered a separate letter from ⟨n⟩. This makes a difference when sorting alphabetically: ⟨ñ⟩ appears in dictionaries after ⟨n⟩. For example, in a Spanish dictionary piñata comes after pinza. There are five digraphs: ⟨ch⟩ ("che" or "ce hache"), ⟨ll⟩ ("elle" or "doble ele"), ⟨rr⟩ ("doble erre"), ⟨gu⟩ ("ge u") and ⟨qu⟩ ("cu u").[5][6][7] While che and elle were each formerly treated as a single letter,[1] in 1994 the tenth congress of the Association of Spanish Language Academies agreed to alphabetize ⟨ch⟩ and ⟨ll⟩ as ordinary sequences of letters. Spain requested the change at the behest of UNESCO and the European Union, in an effort to facilitate translation and computing.[8][9] Thus, for example, in dictionaries, chico is alphabetized after centro and before ciudad, instead of being alphabetized after all words beginning with cu- as was formerly done.[10] Despite their former status as unitary letters of the alphabet, ⟨ch⟩ and ⟨ll⟩ have always been treated as sequences with regard to the rules of capitalization. Thus the word chillón in a text written in all caps is CHILLÓN, not *ChILlÓN, and if it is the first word of a sentence, it is written Chillón, not *CHillón. Sometimes, one finds lifts with buttons marked LLamar, but this double capitalization has always been incorrect according to RAE rules. This is the list of letters from most to least frequent in Spanish texts: ⟨E A O S R N I D L C T U M P B G V Y Q H F Z J Ñ X W K⟩;[11][a] the vowels make up around 45% of the text. The be/be larga/grande/alta and uve/ve corta/chica/baja in blackletter and cursive scripts B and V[1] The letters ⟨b⟩ and ⟨v⟩ were originally simply known as be and ve, which in modern Spanish are pronounced identically. In Old Spanish, they likely represented different sounds, but the sounds merged later. Their usual names are be and uve;[12][13] in some regions, speakers may instead add something to the names to distinguish them. Some Mexicans and most Peruvians generally say be grande / chica ('big B' / 'little V'); Argentines, Uruguayans and Chileans, be larga / corta ('long B' / 'short V'). Some people give examples of words spelt with the letter; e.g., b de burro / v de vaca ('b as in burro' / 'v as in vaca'); Colombians tend to say be grande for B and ve pequeña for V. In Venezuela, they call B b de Bolívar and V v de Venezuela, or be alta and ve baja ('tall B' / 'short V'). Regardless of these regional differences, all Spanish-speaking people recognize be as the official name of B. R[1] The digraph ⟨rr⟩ is sometimes called doble erre or erre doble. It is sometimes suggested that the name of the letter ⟨r⟩ be ere when it is single, and erre when it is double, but the dictionary of the Real Academia Española defines the name of ⟨r⟩ as erre. Ere is considered obsolete.[14] The name ere was used when referring specifically to the alveolar tap /ɾ/ and erre referring to the alveolar trill /r/. The two contrast between vowels, with the latter being represented with ⟨rr⟩, but the sounds are otherwise in complementary distribution so that a single ⟨r⟩ may represent either. As a referent to the trill sound rather than the phoneme, erre can refer to a single or double ⟨r⟩. W[1] In Hispanic American Spanish, ⟨w⟩ is sometimes called doble ve, ve doble, or doble uve. In Colombia, Mexico, and in some Central American countries, because of English acculturation, the letter is usually called doble u (like English "double u"). In Spain, it is usually called uve doble. I Because of its origin, ⟨i⟩ is occasionally known as i latina ("Latin i") to distinguish it from ⟨y⟩, which is known as i griega ("Greek i"). Y[1] The most common name for ⟨y⟩ in Spain is i griega, but it has been commonly superseded in Hispanic American Spanish by ye in an effort to standardize on a one-word name, as opposed to a name consisting of two words. Using ye as the only name for the letter is one of the newest proposed changes specified by the 2010 new common orthography.[1] Z[1] The name for ⟨z⟩ is zeta (formerly also spelled ceta, pronounced the same).[15] In older Spanish, it was called zeda or ceda, and the diminutive form of this word, cedilla, is now used in both Spanish and English to refer to the diacritic mark exhibited in the letter ⟨ç⟩. Besides the letters, other characters are specially associated with Spanish-language texts: The currency symbols of Spanish-language countries: ⟨¢⟩ (centavo), ⟨₡⟩ (colón), ⟨₧⟩ (peseta), ⟨$⟩ (peso), ⟨₲⟩ (Paraguayan guaraní). ⟨℆⟩, abbreviation of cada una or cada uno ('each one') ⟨º⟩ and ⟨ª⟩ are used in abbreviations like 1.º, 1.ª ('first') or D.ª ("doña"); in ordinal numbers they match the grammatical gender of the noun being modified: masculine ⟨º⟩ and feminine ⟨ª⟩. N.º (número, 'number') can be represented as one character ⟨№⟩. ⟨@⟩ is the symbol of the arroba, a pre-metric unit of weight (about 11.502 kg, 25.3 pounds). ⟨¿⟩ and ⟨¡⟩ are used at the beginning of interrogative and exclamatory sentences, respectively. They are also used in the middle of a sentence if only part of the sentence is a question or exclamation: Spanish: Juan se puso a comer y ¡recórcholis! ("John started eating and wow!") The guillemets (Spanish: comillas) ⟨«⟩ and ⟨»⟩ are used in formal settings in the same sense as quotation marks, although they are very uncommon in informal usage.[16] Spanish orthographic rules are similar, but not identical, to those of other Romance languages of the Iberian Peninsula, such as Portuguese, Catalan and Galician. In general, the orthography of Spanish is such that the pronunciation of most words is unambiguous given their written form. The main exception is the letter ⟨x⟩, which usually represents /ks/ or /s/, but can also represent /x/ or /ʃ/, especially in proper nouns from times of Old Spanish (e.g. México or Pedro Ximénez – in both cases the ⟨x⟩ is pronounced /x/). The converse does not always hold, i.e. for a given pronunciation there may be multiple possible spellings, as a result of decisions by the Royal Spanish Academy. The main issues are: the use of both ⟨b⟩ and ⟨v⟩ for /b/; the use of both ⟨j⟩ and ⟨g⟩ for /x/ before ⟨e⟩ and ⟨i⟩; the silent ⟨h⟩; the occasional use of accents to distinguish two words that sound the same, such as tú / tu, sí / si, and más / mas (see differential accents below). For some speakers, additional problems may come from: the use of ⟨y⟩ and ⟨ll⟩ (yeísmo); the use of ⟨y⟩/⟨ll⟩, ⟨hi⟩ and (less commonly) ⟨i⟩ as part of a rising diphthong at the beginning of words (variant of yeísmo);[b] the use of ⟨s⟩ and ⟨z⟩ (as well as ⟨c⟩ and ⟨sc⟩ before ⟨e⟩ and ⟨i⟩), either for /s/ (seseo) or for /θ/ (ceceo); the use of ⟨x⟩ (also ⟨xs⟩ in a few prefixed words) and the letter combinations ⟨cc⟩ and ⟨xc⟩ before ⟨e⟩ and ⟨i⟩, either for /ks~gs/ (seseo) or for /kθ~gθ/ (ceceo); the use of ⟨hu⟩, ⟨gu⟩ and ⟨bu⟩ before a vowel for /w/; the use of both ⟨s⟩ and ⟨x⟩ for /s/ before consonants (in a few Greek-derived words, ⟨x⟩ is used for word-initial /s/ from etymological ξ). The use of ⟨b⟩ and ⟨v⟩, ⟨j⟩ and ⟨g⟩, and the silent ⟨h⟩ is mostly based on etymology. In particular, using ⟨b⟩ in many cases is not a living continuation of Old Spanish (which often had ⟨v⟩ in place of intervocalic ⟨b⟩ as a result of Vulgar Latin merger, as in other Romance languages), but an artificial restitution based on Latin: caballo 'horse' is spelled as Latin caballus and unlike French cheval, Italian cavallo, Portuguese cavalo, or Catalan cavall. The letter ⟨h⟩ is used in place of Latin ⟨h⟩ and ⟨f⟩ (in a few words also ⟨g⟩): hoy