



# start spanish

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# Welcome to the Michel Thomas Method



Congratulations on purchasing the truly remarkable way to learn a language. With the Michel Thomas Method there's no reading, no writing and no homework. Just sit back, absorb, and soon you'll be speaking another language with confidence.

The Michel Thomas Method works by breaking a language down into its component parts and enabling you to reconstruct the language yourself – to form your own sentences and to say what you want, when you want. By learning the language in small steps, you can build it up yourself to produce ever more complicated sentences. Perfected over 25 years, the all-audio Michel Thomas Method has been used by millions of people around the world.

Now it's your turn.

**To get started, simply insert the CD and press 'play'!**

# About Michel Thomas

Michel Thomas (1914–2005) was a gifted linguist who mastered more than ten languages in his lifetime and became famous for teaching much of Hollywood's 'A' list how to speak a foreign language. Film stars such as Woody Allen, Emma Thompson and Barbra Streisand paid thousands of dollars each for face-to-face lessons.

Michel, a Polish Jew, developed his method after discovering the untapped potential of the human mind during his traumatic wartime experiences. The only way he survived this period of his life, which included being captured by the Gestapo, was by concentrating and placing his mind beyond the physical. Fascinated by this experience, he was determined that after the war he would devote himself to exploring further the power of the human mind, and so dedicated his life to education.

In 1947, he moved to Los Angeles and set up the Michel Thomas Language Centers, from where he taught languages for over fifty years in New York, Beverly Hills and London.

Michel Thomas died at his home in New York City on Saturday 8th January 2005. He was 90 years old.

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## Track 1

- 0:16 Introduction. How to use this course
- 3:31 This course teaches standard Spanish. There's a slight difference in pronunciation between Castilian Spanish, spoken in parts of Spain, and the Spanish spoken everywhere else in that 'c' before 'e' or 'i' and 'z' are pronounced like 'th' in English. Everywhere else they will be pronounced 's'.

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## Track 2

- 0:00 Similarity between Spanish and English. Active vocabulary is small: 500–1500 words. Key endings: words ending in -ible and -able are pronounced differently but often have the same meaning.
- 2:14 possible *posible*
- 2:17 probable *probable*
- 2:20 it is *es*
- 2:26 It is possible. *Es posible.*
- 2:41 It is probable. *Es probable.*
- 2:47 It is terrible. *Es terrible.*
- 2:54 It is acceptable. *Es aceptable.*
- 3:18 for me *para mí*
- 3:26 for you *para usted*
- 3:41 It is for me. *Es para mí.*
- 3:47 It is not. *No es.*
- 3:51 It is not for you. *No es para usted.*
- 4:16 It is not for you; it is for me. *No es para usted; es para mí.*
- 4:27 It is not possible for me. *No es posible para mí.*
- 4:36 It is possible for you. *Es posible para usted.*
- 4:45 It is acceptable for me. *Es aceptable para mí.*

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## Track 3

- 0:00 You can ask a question using inflection.
- 0:06 It is acceptable for you. *Es aceptable para usted.*
- 0:19 Is it acceptable for you? *¿Es aceptable para usted?*

0:50	Isn't it (Is it not) acceptable for you?	<i>¿No es aceptable para usted?</i>
1:01	Why?	<i>¿Por qué?</i>
1:08	because	<i>porque</i>
1:10	Why isn't it acceptable for you?	<i>¿Por qué no es aceptable para usted?</i>
1:20	Inflection is not necessary if you use a question word like 'why?' ( <i>¿por qué?</i> ).	
1:35	like that / that way	<i>así</i>
1:58	It is like that.	<i>Es así.</i>
2:02	It is not like that.	<i>No es así.</i>
2:07	It is not possible that way.	<i>No es posible así.</i>
2:14	It is not acceptable for me that way.	<i>No es aceptable para mí así.</i>
2:28	Why isn't it acceptable for you that way?	<i>¿Por qué no es aceptable para usted así?</i>
2:48	I feel	<i>siento</i>
3:11	The -o verb ending expresses 'I', so there's no need to use the Spanish for 'I' ( <i>yo</i> ). If you say ' <i>yo siento</i> ', then it makes it more emphatic: 'I feel'.	
3:16	I	<i>yo</i>
3:39	I'm sorry (I feel it).	<i>Lo siento.</i>
3:56	but	<i>pero</i>
4:01	I'm sorry, but...	<i>Lo siento, pero...</i>
4:06	I'm sorry, but it is not acceptable for me that way.	<i>Lo siento, pero no es aceptable para mí así.</i>
4:21	I'm sorry, but it is not possible that way.	<i>Lo siento, pero no es posible así.</i>

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#### Track 4

0:00	Key endings: English -ent and -ant endings become -ente and -ante in Spanish.	
0:12	different	<i>diferente</i>
0:23	important	<i>importante</i>
0:37	It is important for me.	<i>Es importante para mí.</i>
0:46	It is not different that way.	<i>No es diferente así.</i>
0:57	good	<i>bueno</i>
1:03	very	<i>muy</i>

1:09	It is very good.	<i>Es muy bueno.</i>
1:24	It is not very good.	<i>No es muy bueno.</i>
1:30	It is not very different that way.	<i>No es muy diferente así.</i>
1:53	But it is very important for me.	<i>Pero es muy importante para mí.</i>
2:08	There is only one stressed syllable per word in Spanish. When a word ends in a vowel, the stress will usually be on the penultimate syllable, so ' <i>importante</i> '.	
2:55	restaurant	<i>restaurante</i>

### Track 5

0:00	I have	<i>tengo</i>
0:16	Again, the -o verb ending expresses 'I'.	
0:28	I don't have	<i>no tengo</i>
0:53	I have it.	<i>Lo tengo.</i>
1:05	I don't have it.	<i>No lo tengo.</i>
1:19	I want	<i>quiero</i>
1:30	The Spanish 'qu' sounds like the English 'k'.	
1:53	I want it.	<i>Lo quiero.</i>
2:03	I don't want it that way.	<i>No lo quiero así.</i>
2:13	I need	<i>necesito</i>
2:22	How to stress a four-syllable word ending in a vowel (' <i>necesito</i> ').	
2:47	I need it.	<i>Lo necesito.</i>
2:53	I don't need it.	<i>No lo necesito.</i>
3:03	now	<i>ahora</i>
3:06	hour	<i>hora</i>
3:10	'h' is not pronounced in Spanish.	
3:16	at, to	<i>a</i>
3:23	I want it ...	<i>Lo quiero ...</i>
3:31	... but I don't need it now.	<i>... pero no lo necesito ahora.</i>

### Track 6

0:00	constant	<i>constante</i>
0:19	evident	<i>evidente</i>
0:28	urgent	<i>urgente</i>
0:30	Spanish 'g' before 'e' and 'i' is pronounced like 'ch', as in Scottish 'loch'.	
0:52	It is very urgent.	<i>Es muy urgente.</i>

0:59	I need it now; it is very urgent.	<i>Lo necesito ahora; es muy urgente.</i>
1:36	you have	<i>tiene, Usted tiene</i>
2:00	What?	<i>¿Qué?</i>
2:07	What do you have?	<i>¿Qué tiene?</i>
2:28	What do you have for me now?	<i>¿Qué tiene para mí ahora?</i>
3:31	You have it.	<i>Lo tiene.</i>
3:40	Do you have it?	<i>¿Lo tiene?</i>
3:46	You don't have it.	<i>No lo tiene.</i>
3:52	Don't you have it?	<i>¿No lo tiene?</i>
4:01	Don't you have it for me now?	<i>¿No lo tiene para mí ahora?</i>
4:11	Why don't you have it for me now, because I need it now?	<i>¿Por qué no lo tiene para mí ahora, porque lo necesito ahora?</i>

### Track 7

0:00	I want	<i>quiero</i>
0:22	I don't want it.	<i>No lo quiero.</i>
0:32	The -o verb ending is for 'I'. Change the -o to an -e, and you have the verb ending for 'you'.	
0:39	you want	<i>quiere</i>
1:01	What do you want?	<i>¿Qué quiere?</i>
1:29	You want it.	<i>Lo quiere.</i>
1:47	Do you want it?	<i>¿Lo quiere?</i>
1:58	Why don't you want it that way?	<i>¿Por qué no lo quiere así?</i>
2:14	to know	<i>saber</i>
2:23	I want to know.	<i>Quiero saber.</i>
2:29	I don't want to know.	<i>No quiero saber.</i>
2:37	I want to know why you don't have it for me now.	<i>Quiero saber por qué no lo tiene para mí ahora.</i>

### Track 8

0:00	I can	<i>puedo</i>
0:22	you can	<i>puede</i>
0:32	to do / to make	<i>hacer</i>
0:43	to do like that	<i>hacer así</i>



0:59	'c' before 'e' and 'i' (for example, 'hacer') is pronounced 'th' in Castilian Spanish, but in Latin America and some parts of Spain it is pronounced 's'.	
1:25	What do you want to do now?	¿Qué quiere hacer ahora?
1:50	When a word ends in a consonant, the stress will be placed on the last syllable.	
2:03	to eat	comer
2:14	something	algo
2:19	I want something.	Quiero algo.
2:25	I have something for you.	Tengo algo para usted.
2:52	I want to eat.	Quiero comer.
3:02	I want to eat something now.	Quiero comer algo ahora.
3:21	I am hungry. (I have hunger.)	Tengo hambre.
3:26	hunger	hambre
3:34	man	hombre
3:58	I want to eat something now because I'm hungry.	Quiero comer algo ahora porque tengo hambre.
4:41	What do you want to eat?	¿Qué quiere comer?
5:06	You are hungry.	Tiene hambre.
5:14	Are you hungry?	¿Tiene hambre?
5:20	Are you hungry? Do you want to eat something now?	¿Tiene hambre? ¿Quiere comer algo ahora?
5:40	Why don't you want to eat?	¿Por qué no quiere comer?

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### Track 9

0:00	Key ending: English words ending in -ary end in -ario in Spanish.	
0:15	necessary	necesario
0:20	It is not necessary for me now because I don't need it.	No es necesario para mí ahora porque no lo necesito.
1:31	I'm sorry, but I don't have it and I don't want it because I don't need it now.	Lo siento, pero no lo tengo y no lo quiero porque no lo necesito ahora.
1:52	and	y
2:12	contrary	contrario
2:19	on the contrary	al contrario
2:23	vocabulary	vocabulario

**Track 10**

0:00	to see	ver
0:10	Pronunciation of Spanish 'v' is the same as 'b'.	
0:55	When you add 'it' to the whole verb, the position is as in English, i.e. 'it' follows the verb. The verb and 'it' are written as one word: 'verlo' – 'to see it'.	
1:09	to see it	verlo
1:14	I want to see it.	Quiero verlo.
1:19	I don't want to see it.	No quiero verlo.
1:38	Do you want to see it?	¿Quiere verlo?
1:48	Why don't you want to see it?	¿Por qué no quiere verlo?
2:08	I can	puedo
2:25	you can	puede
2:28	I cannot see it.	No puedo verlo.
2:36	If there are two or more consecutive verbs in a sentence, the second and subsequent verbs will be in the full form (the 'to' form in English, i.e. the infinitive).	
2:58	Can you see it?	¿Puede verlo?
3:11	You can see it.	Puede verlo.
3:39	What can you see?	¿Qué puede ver?
3:49	Why can't you see it?	¿Por qué no puede verlo?
4:16	to do / to make	hacer
4:26	to see	ver
4:29	to see it	verlo
4:37	to do it	hacerlo
4:56	I don't want to do it that way ...	No quiero hacerlo así ...
5:08	... because I cannot do it.	... porque no puedo hacerlo.
5:22	Why can't you do it?	¿Por qué no puede hacerlo?
5:44	I want to know why you can't do it that way.	Quiero saber por qué no puede hacerlo así.

**Track 11**

0:00	Key endings: words in English ending in -ence and -ance end in -encia and -ancia in Spanish.	
0:20	difference	diferencia
0:25	importance	importancia

0:31	influence	<i>influencia</i>
0:35	preference	<i>preferencia</i>
0:43	the difference	<i>la diferencia</i>
0:50	a difference	<i>una diferencia</i>
0:55	What difference?	<i>¿Qué diferencia?</i>
1:05	the preference	<i>la preferencia</i>
1:23	Stress on ' <i>preferencia</i> ' is on the syllable before last.	
1:33	a preference	<i>una preferencia</i>
1:40	What preference?	<i>¿Qué preferencia?</i>
1:47	Do you have a preference?	<i>¿Tiene una preferencia?</i>
2:02	What preference do you have?	<i>¿Qué preferencia tiene?</i>
2:13	For what restaurant do you have a preference?	<i>¿Para qué restaurante tiene una preferencia?</i>
2:39	tonight	<i>esta noche</i>
2:53	It is for tonight.	<i>Es para esta noche.</i>
3:06	For what restaurant do you have a preference tonight?	<i>¿Para qué restaurante tiene una preferencia esta noche?</i>

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## Track 12

0:00	Where?	<i>¿Dónde?</i>
0:07	Where do you want to eat?	<i>¿Dónde quiere comer?</i>
0:22	the dinner	<i>la cena</i>
0:38	to dine	<i>cenar</i>
0:48	Where do you want to have dinner (to dine) tonight?	<i>¿Dónde quiere cenar esta noche?</i>
1:21	For what restaurant do you have a preference tonight?	<i>¿Para qué restaurante tiene una preferencia esta noche?</i>
1:43	Key ending: words ending in -ion are similar in English and Spanish.	
1:50	opinion	<i>opinión</i>
1:54	Key ending: words ending in -tion in English end in -ción in Spanish.	
2:12	condition	<i>condición</i>
2:24	position	<i>posición</i>
2:33	reservation	<i>reservación</i>
2:45	the reservation	<i>la reservación</i>
2:51	a reservation	<i>una reservación</i>
3:02	Do you have a reservation for me for tonight?	<i>¿Tiene una reservación para mí para esta noche?</i>

**Track 13**

0:27	the condition	<i>la condición</i>
0:32	a condition	<i>una condición</i>
0:37	What condition?	<i>¿Qué condición?</i>
0:51	Key ending: words ending in -ation in English end in -ación in Spanish.	
1:14	the reservation	<i>la reservación</i>
1:19	a reservation	<i>una reservación</i>
1:25	What reservation?	<i>¿Qué reservación?</i>
1:39	of	<i>de</i>
1:43	the confirmation of the reservation	<i>la confirmación de la reservación</i>
1:57	Do you have the confirmation of the reservation for me for tonight?	<i>¿Tiene la confirmación de la reservación para mí para esta noche?</i>
2:38	kind / type	<i>tipo</i>
2:46	What type (kind) of reservation do you have for me for tonight?	<i>¿Qué tipo de reservación tiene para mí para esta noche?</i>
3:23	What kind of reservation do you want?	<i>¿Qué tipo de reservación quiere?</i>

**Track 14**

0:00	Key ending: nouns ending in -ion in English are the same in Spanish (-ión). There are nearly 1200 of them. One exception is the word for 'translation'.	
0:22	translation	<i>traducción</i>
0:31	I need a translation.	<i>Necesito una traducción.</i>
0:49	Can you make a translation for me?	<i>¿Puede hacer una traducción para mí?</i>
1:09	'puede' is used both for 'can you?' (question) and 'will you please' (polite request). The difference is in the inflection.	
1:14	Will you make a translation for me.	<i>Puede hacer una traducción para mí.</i>
1:39	please	<i>por favor</i>
2:10	Will you please do it for me.	<i>Puede hacerlo para mí por favor.</i>
2:25	Can you do it for me today?	<i>¿Puede hacerlo para mí hoy?</i>
2:45	today	<i>hoy</i>
3:47	explanation	<i>explicación</i>

3:55	to give	<i>dar</i>
4:02	Will you give an explanation.	<i>Puede dar una explicación.</i>
4:18	Can you give an explanation?	<i>¿Puede dar una explicación?</i>

### Track 15

- 0:00 Verbs that are derived from nouns that are similar in English and Spanish will also be similar. To make the verb in Spanish, you just add *-ar* to the English verb.
- 0:13 formation *formación*
- 0:30 to form *formar*
- 0:38 to conform *conformar*
- 0:57 to confirm *confirmar*
- 1:09 The whole form of a verb, the infinitive, is expressed with 'to' in English (for example, 'to eat'). In Spanish, it is expressed in an ending. There are three types of verbs: *-ar*, *-er*, *-ir*
- 1:38 to speak *hablar*
- 1:43 to eat *comer*
- 1:47 to come *venir*
- 1:50 to leave *salir*
- 2:01 All Spanish verbs have an *-r* at the end, so the stress is on the last syllable.
- 2:09 Spanish words which end in a consonant are stressed on the last syllable. [See also the 'NOSE' rule, 3:08 and 3:39 below.]
- 2:15 Spanish words which end in a vowel are stressed on the penultimate syllable: 'tengo', 'quiero', 'necesito', 'importante', 'restaurante'.
- 2:51 Two consonants are exceptions to the rule that words ending in a consonant are stressed on the last syllable: *-n* and *-s*. Words ending in *-n* and *-s* are stressed on the penultimate syllable, the same as for vowels.
- 3:08 Michel's 'NOSE' rule: words ending in *-n*, *-s* or any vowel are stressed on the penultimate syllable; words ending in any other consonant are stressed on the last syllable.
- 3:39 Words that are stressed in defiance of the 'NOSE' rule have a written accent to show the stress: *Mérida*, *México*, *reservación*, *condición*, *posición*, *situación*, *impresión*.
- 4:11 Merida *Mérida*
- 4:36 Mexico *México*
- 4:47 reservation *reservación*

5:23	situation	<i>situación</i>
5:29	impression	<i>impresión</i>
5:45	What impression do you have of the situation?	<i>¿Qué impresión tiene de la situación?</i>

**Track 16**

0:00	like that / that way	<i>así</i>
0:08	Words stressed in defiance of the 'NOSE' rule [continued]: 'así' – 'like that', 'aquí' – 'here'.	
0:17	here	<i>aquí</i>
0:43	Will you make a reservation for me (please).	<i>Puede hacer una reservación para mí (por favor).</i>
1:14	Can you make a reservation for me?	<i>¿Puede hacer una reservación para mí?</i>
1:23	Why can you not (can't you) make a reservation for me?	<i>¿Por qué no puede hacer una reservación para mí?</i>
1:59	to know	<i>saber</i>
2:05	to see	<i>ver</i>
2:15	I want to know it.	<i>Quiero saberlo.</i>
2:24	I want to see it.	<i>Quiero verlo.</i>
2:36	to see it	<i>verlo</i>
2:37	to see you	<i>verle</i>
2:42	to see them	<i>verlos</i>
2:47	to see them (feminine)	<i>verlas</i>
3:04	I want to see them.	<i>Quiero verlos.</i>
3:13	I want to see them (all women).	<i>Quiero verlas.</i>
3:16	I want to see it.	<i>Quiero verlo.</i>
3:26	I want to see you.	<i>Quiero verle.</i>
3:40	to see me	<i>verme</i>
3:50	There are two types of 'me': 'mí' as in 'para mí' ('for me') and 'me' as in 'verme' ('to see me').	

**Track 17**

0:00	to understand	<i>comprender</i>
0:09	to understand it	<i>comprenderlo</i>
0:16	to understand you	<i>comprenderle</i>

0:22	to understand them	<i>comprenderlos</i>
0:28	to understand them (all ladies)	<i>comprenderlas</i>
0:39	to understand me	<i>comprenderme</i>
0:45	Can you understand me?	<i>¿Puede comprenderme?</i>
0:59	Why can't you understand me?	<i>¿Por qué no puede comprenderme?</i>
1:17	to say / to tell	<i>decir</i>
1:58	to tell it	<i>decirlo</i>
2:05	to tell you	<i>decirle</i>
2:10	to tell me	<i>decirme</i>
2:15	Can you tell me? / Will you tell me.	<i>Puede decirme.</i>
2:30	Why can't you tell me now?	<i>¿Por qué no puede decirme ahora?</i>
2:43	I want to know it.	<i>Quiero saberlo.</i>
2:51	to buy	<i>comprar</i>
3:00	I want to buy something here.	<i>Quiero comprar algo aquí.</i>
3:13	What do you want to buy here?	<i>¿Qué quiere comprar aquí?</i>
3:42	Why don't you want to buy it?	<i>¿Por qué no quiere comprarlo?</i>

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### Track 18

0:00	expensive	<i>caro</i>
0:10	It is very expensive.	<i>Es muy caro.</i>
0:30	Do you have it?	<i>¿Lo tiene?</i>
0:36	Why don't you have it for me?	<i>¿Por qué no lo tiene para mí?</i>
0:49	to have	<i>tener</i>
1:04	I want to have it because I need it.	<i>Quiero tenerlo porque lo necesito.</i>
2:04	I have to / I must	<i>tengo que</i>
2:07	Add 'que' to the verb 'tener' ('to have') to make 'must' or 'have to'.	
2:26	I have to do it.	<i>Tengo que hacerlo.</i>
2:40	to leave	<i>salir</i>
2:46	I have to leave.	<i>Tengo que salir.</i>
2:58	soon	<i>pronto</i>
3:03	I have to leave soon.	<i>Tengo que salir pronto.</i>
3:19	you have to / you must	<i>tiene que</i>
3:25	You have to do it.	<i>Tiene que hacerlo.</i>
3:31	When?	<i>¿Cuándo?</i>
3:37	When do you have to do it?	<i>¿Cuándo tiene que hacerlo?</i>

Millions of people worldwide speak Spanish thanks to the Michel Thomas Method.



## **Here's what people say about Michel Thomas:**

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The Times

