

LEARN SPANISH

**300%
Faster!**

69 TIPS

**Learn to
Speak Like
a Native!**

**SEBASTIAN
ARCHER**



Learn Spanish
300% Faster!
69 Tips to Speak Like a Native

By
Sebastian Archer

© Copyright 2015 – All rights reserved

In no way is it legal to reproduce, duplicate, or transmit any part of this document in either electronic means or in printed format. Recording of this publication is strictly prohibited and any storage of this document is not allowed unless with written permission from the publisher. All rights reserved.

The information provided herein is stated to be truthful and consistent, in that any liability, in terms of inattention or otherwise, by any usage or abuse of any policies, processes, or directions contained within is the solitary and utter responsibility of the recipient reader. Under no circumstances will any legal responsibility or blame be held against the publisher for any reparation, damages, or monetary loss due to the information herein, either directly or indirectly.

Respective authors own all copyrights not held by the publisher.

Legal Notice:

This ebook is copyright protected. This is only for personal use. You cannot amend, distribute, sell, use, quote or paraphrase any part or the content within this ebook without the consent of the author or copyright owner. Legal action will be pursued if this is breached.

Disclaimer Notice:

Please note the information contained within this document is for educational and entertainment purposes only. Every attempt has been made to provide accurate, up to date and reliable complete information. No warranties of any kind are expressed or implied. Readers acknowledge that the author is not engaging in the rendering of legal, financial, medical or professional advice.

By reading this document, the reader agrees that under no circumstances are we responsible for any losses, direct or indirect, which are incurred as a result of the use of information contained within this document, including, but not limited to, errors, omissions, or inaccuracies.

Table of Contents

Introduction: Why You Can Learn Spanish 300% Faster, Starting Today

Chapter 1: How to Approach Learning Spanish Like a World Class Spanish Learner

Chapter 2: How to Use Pareto Efficiency to Learn the 20% of Spanish that Gives You 80% of Your Conversational Ability

Chapter 3: Learn the Core Branches of a Spanish Sentence, and Make Real Sentences 10 Times Faster

Chapter 4: Get Help from Cognates – Your Many Spanish Friends

Chapter 5: Learn the Spanish that You Personally will Use More

Chapter 6: Use Spaced Repetition Systems – It's Simpler than It Sounds!

Chapter 7: Using Flashcards with Images, the Right Way

Chapter 8: Use Visual Memory Tricks to Make New Spanish Words Stick

Chapter 9: Quick Exercise – Instantly & Permanently Memorize 5 New Spanish Words

Chapter 10: Create Your Own Spanish Language Memory Palace

Chapter 11: How to Speak with Native Spanish Speakers for \$5 an Hour

Chapter 12: Do a Class IN Spanish, NOT a Spanish Language Class!

Chapter 13: How to Choose (and Train) Your Spanish Conversation Partner

Chapter 14: Learn Spanish Grammar the Simple, Fun Way

Chapter 15: Master Spanish Pronunciation in Weeks, Not Years

Chapter 16: How to Read Spanish the Right Way to Improve Faster

Chapter 17: The 12 Best Apps and Online Resources for Superfast Spanish Learning

Conclusion: Life is Short, Learn Faster

Introduction: Why You Can Learn Spanish 300% Faster, Starting Today

"To have another language is to possess a second soul." - Charlemagne

You can learn Spanish quickly and easily, even if you've had trouble learning in the past. There's a general belief in society that Spanish should take years to learn and start speaking with confidence.

Well frankly, that's nonsense.

Spanish is a relatively simple, fun language to learn. The key to learning 2, 3, or 5 times faster than the average Spanish learner is to firstly, adopt the right mindset. Then use a combination of simple methods of accelerated learning, developed by masters of language, memory and speed learning over the last two decades.

This book is designed to bring all of these methods together, summarizing the principles and techniques for you in easy-to-follow steps. So that you can understand them and instantly put them to use as you learn Spanish, dramatically speeding up your learning speed. When you follow these principles and techniques, there's no reason why you cannot start speaking Spanish confidently with native speakers in a few months. No reason at all.

And you should learn Spanish as fast as you possibly can, because life is short and there's no need to draw it out. Most of all, because the fast way is also the fun that way!

You're lucky to be a Spanish-learner in this day and age, when such great leaps forward have been taken in the science and practice of speed-learning. With so many incredible learning resources at your fingertips. You're also lucky to be studying Spanish in particular, because it is a language that breaks down so logically and simply into easy to manage chunks. And Spanish also shares many words and structures with English. As you'll soon learn you can take advantage of these many similarities to start making sentences and speaking, today!

Why so many students waste years, and you can do it in months

It's incredibly sad that so many students of Spanish waste years going to classes with very ineffective and outdated learning methods. Just plodding along with no real aim, following books that have illogical structures and uninteresting topics, studying under well-meaning teachers who don't understand the modern principles of rapid-learning.

The truth is that these days there is no excuse for learning Spanish the old, slow way. Most methods of teaching and learning Spanish used today were developed hundreds of years ago, in a time when they knew far less about the human brain and how it learns. Hopefully with this book we can help bring the entire subject into the new era of speed learning.

Inside you will learn how to immediately use the principles and lessons of speed-learning language masters like Michel Thomas, Benny Lewis, Tim Ferriss, Daniel Tammatt, Gabriel Wyner and more. Enhanced with easy to use memory techniques from world memory champions like Dominic O'Brien to absorb vocabulary super-fast.

You'll learn about the right mindset for learning Spanish quickly, and how to adopt it so that you enjoy the process far more and as a result shoot forward faster. You'll learn how focusing on the right parts of the Spanish language first, with productive focus on the most used words and structures, triples your learning speed. There are a handful of words and phrases which act as main branch words, or building blocks, to the wider Spanish language, allowing you to speak long and real life, every day Spanish sentences even from the earliest speaking sessions. While using spaced repetition systems and flashcards allows you to quickly and permanently absorb these key words and phrases into your memory.

You'll learn how focusing on the end goal of actually speaking Spanish, and starting with speaking too, greatly enhances your progress. How you can easily practice with Spanish native speakers for a few dollars a day, without even leaving your home country. And if you choose to visit Spain or any Spanish-speaking country to learn and practice, you'll discover here the mistakes that many people make, and how to make the most of any trip to improve ten times faster than others, while also having a richer and more fulfilling visit.

You'll learn how to listen to real Spanish all the time, about things you are genuinely interested in to boost your comprehension. And you'll learn the very best online resources available today for Spanish-learners. Intelligent use of these resources alone will easily increase your learning speed by 300% and more.

The truth is you can learn to speak Spanish with confidence in months, instead of years. This book will show you how.

Exited? Bueno. Let's begin.

In the first chapter you'll learn 4 fundamental mindsets that all world-class language learners naturally have. And how you can start thinking about learning Spanish in a totally liberating, empowering and effective way.

Chapter 1: How to Approach Learning Spanish Like a World Class Spanish Learner

“What we learn with pleasure we never forget.” – Alfred Mercier

To take on Spanish and absorb it quickly, you have to break it down and tackle it in an intelligent way. Vaguely going to classes and reading out lists of clumped vocabulary by category, and boring lists of verb conjugations, all this does nothing for you. At the end of such a lesson you have not used Spanish in a realistic way, and you haven't tried to learn in the most efficient way. Yet this is how most students try to study Spanish.

The traditional methods of studying are hard work, boring, ineffective and demotivating. Instead, learning a language should be fun, relaxing, and liberating, with a real feeling of constant progress as you make whole sentences to express yourself, and communicate with other people in Spanish.

Here are some key mindsets that world language-learning masters use to speed ahead with their Spanish.

First, break Spanish down into its key components

When you break Spanish down, you realize there is not so much to learn before the stage where you are able to talk well and express yourself.

In later chapters you will learn the most common 300 words, which can make up 70% or 80% of spoken Spanish. Don't you think it would make sense to learn these words first? A later chapter will show you how to implement the Pareto Principle into your Spanish learning. So you focus on the 20% of Spanish that gives you 80% of your results.

You also don't need to learn how to conjugate all those verbs to start making perfect sentences and expressing yourself. Why not focus on the key 'building block' verbs. The 5 or 6 verbs that are like the main branches of a tree, allowing you to build hundreds, or thousands, of other sentences by adding just the infinitive of other verbs. Why not learn these first, so you can start speaking real Spanish from day one?

Examples of these main branch words are ‘I want = quiero’ or ‘I can = puedo’. From these base branch verbs you can express many more things, and even quite complex sentences, without knowing much grammar. When you start with these strong supporting verbs you can quickly start speaking and gain in confidence. Expanding your Spanish from there. It’s a very simple approach. But most students do not think this way. A later chapter will cover these in detail.

Secondly, Spanish should always be fun and relaxing to learn

A language is fun. There is pleasure purely in progressing, in that feeling when you realize you are making new sentences and using new words. Much as a child feels great joy to learn anything new.

These days too many people associate learning languages with work, work, work. But when you relax and enjoy your journey into Spanish, you progress so much faster. Your mind naturally remembers words more easily, just as you naturally remember facts in a hobby you love. You remember without trying, because you find it so much fun and so interesting.

World class Spanish-learners make sure they are creating early wins, speaking real Spanish right for the start, seeing progress, celebrating it and building momentum. They also embrace mistakes as they progress. In fact, they love mistakes. They enjoy them, they don’t care if they make them. They just smile, remember the right way, take the lesson, and carry on.

If you need more joy in your learning of Spanish, this book will give it back to you. As you learn how easy it is to progress faster, you will naturally start to get excited as you shoot ahead and begin really talking.

Thirdly, they use intelligent memory methods

Your memory does not optimally remember things under every condition. You can easily use the concepts of visual memory cues and spaced repetition to supercharge how quickly and permanently you memorize new words, sentence structures and grammatical points. All you need to do is understand how your memory works, then use that knowledge to instantly make things five times easier.

Fourthly, if they follow a course, they make sure it’s a good one

Most courses out there do not adhere to any of these principles of rapid language acquisition. Not even a few of them. Therefore most successful Spanish learners set out to guide their own study following the principles in this book. If you are already following a Spanish course, you might want to reconsider after you have read this book.

There are certain Spanish courses out there which follow these efficient and effective speed-learning methods. The creators of this book are currently working on an exceptionally methodical course to take learners from beginner to confident conversationalists in record time. The next edition will have the details.

Now, let's move on to the meat of the book. The first principle of fast Spanish-learning is using Pareto Efficiency to study the right parts of Spanish first. The parts you need. The next chapter will show you how.

Chapter 2: How to Use Pareto Efficiency to Learn the 20% of Spanish that Gives You 80% of Your Conversational Ability

“Focus on being productive instead of busy.” – Tim Ferriss

Your goal is to be able to understand and express as much in Spanish as quickly as possible. So it makes sense to focus all your efforts at first on the 100 words in Spanish that make up over 50% of spoken Spanish conversation. Then the 300 common words that make up 65% of Spanish conversation.

With that 65% you can actually express over 75% of meaning. You can say 75% of all you will ever need to say in day to day conversation. That is a long way towards good conversational skill in Spanish!

When you have reached the 1,000 most common words in Spanish you are easily able to express 97% of what you need to in Spanish. In fact, many native Spanish speakers only use those 1,000 most common words and even less during an average day. Most people rarely use more than the 1,500 most common words.

This is the first level in using Pareto Efficiency to master Spanish quickly. As mentioned, you want to find the 20% of Spanish that takes you 80% of the way to your goal. Imagine how much faster you will learn Spanish compared to someone who has no idea about this concept (perhaps you a few minutes ago?). Another student who is simply learning long lists of words, with no idea if they are common or not.

When you combine this principle of efficiency with the advanced memory methods in this book, such as visual cues, spaced repetition systems and using flashcards the right way, you will be speaking real Spanish ten times sooner.

Here are [625 Common Words](#) – they are all very visual words, and in the 1,000 most common words. Because they are visual they are ideal for flashcards. Even before this you can search on Google for the 300 most common words in Spanish, there are plenty of lists out there. And you can

begin right here with the 100 most common words in Spanish. Do you know them all yet?

el / la = the

de = of, from

que = that, which

y = and

a = to, at

en = in, on

un = a, an

ser = to be

se = self, oneself [reflexive marker]

no = no

haber = to have

por = by, for, through

con = with

su = his, her, their, your (fam)

para = for, to, in order to

como = like, as

estar = to be

tener = to have

le = indirect object pronoun

lo = the (+ noun)

lo = masc direct object pronoun

todo = all, everything

pero = but

más = more

hacer= to do, make

o = or

poder = to be able to, can

decir = to tell, say

este = this (m); esta (f)

ir = to go

otro = other, another

ese = that (m); esa (f)

la = fem direct object pronoun

si = if, whether

me = yo, me, mí

ya = now, already, still

ver = to see

porque = because

dar = to give

cuando = when

él = he

muy = very, really

sin = without

vez = time, occurrence

mucho = much, many, a lot

saber = to know

qué = what?

sobre = on top of, over, about

mi = my

alguno = some; (pron) someone

mismo = same

yo = I

también = also,

hasta = until, up to; (adv) even

año = year

dos = two

querer = to want, love

entre = between

así = like that

primero = first

desde = from, since

grande = large, great, big

eso = that

ni = not even, neither, nor

nos = (verb) us

llegar = to arrive

pasar = to pass, spend (time)

tiempo = time, weather

ella = she; ellas them

sí = yes

día = day

uno = one

bien = well

poco = little few; (adv) a little bit

deber = should, ought to; to owe

entonces = so, then

poner = to put (on); get (+ adj)

cosa = thing

tanto = much

hombre = man, mankind, husband

parecer = to seem, look like

nuestro = our

tan = such, a, too, so

donde = where

ahora = now

parte = part, portion

después = after, later

vida = life

quedar = to remain, stay

siempre = always

creer = to believe

hablar = to speak, talk

llevar = to take, carry

dejar = to let, leave

nada = nothing

cada = each, every

seguir = to follow

menos = less, fewer

nuevo = new

encontrar = to find

In addition to focusing on the most common words to enhance your Pareto Efficiency, there's an even more powerful way that focusing on the right

words and sentences first can supercharge your speed of progress. The next chapter will teach you all about Spanish building blocks.

Chapter 3: Learn the Core Branches of a Spanish Sentence, and Make Real Sentences 10 Times Faster

“Progress isn't made by early risers. It's made by lazy men trying to find easier ways to do something.” — Robert Heinlein

One of the fastest ways to start speaking real Spanish right away, is to learn the core supporting branch words of Spanish sentences. When you focus on learning these 5 or 6 core words first, you can make full and quite complex sentences with ease by adding on other verbs, without even knowing how to conjugate them. Like adding smaller branches or leaves onto the core supporting branches.

The majority of spoken Spanish is a repetition of very similar words and sentence structures, with smaller variations in little parts of vocabulary. More advanced Spanish does require a wider knowledge of very specific words, but you can actually express almost all you need to with the most important ‘structural building blocks’ of Spanish, in addition to knowing the most common words.

Just three primary colors – red, green and blue – combine to make all the thousands (even millions) of colors in existence. A painter could sit down with just these three colors and create any variety of images, with any color he desires, to visually express anything he wants. All he needs is these three basic primary ‘building block’ colors.

It’s similar with Spanish. As you learn, focus on learning first these core building blocks and supporting branch words, upon which you can hang other words to build a vast variety of different sentences, without needing to know too much grammar. Some of these words are:

To want = querer

To need = necesitar

To have = tener

To like = gustar

To be = estar / ser

Can / able to = poder

Should = deber

Going to (for the future) = voy

When you learn these words in detail, you can use them as a base in a sentence to create longer sentences. These words are some of the most common verbs used in every day Spanish. So much of what we try to express use these verbs and other similar ones.

You can also use all the other verbs by adding them onto a sentence which begins with one of these words, only needing to know only the infinitives of them. As one example, instead of saying ‘She understands’ you can say ‘she can understand.’

‘Ella puede entender’

So if you know the infinitive of the verb ‘understand’, which is ‘entender’ then you don’t need to learn the conjugation right away to use it easily in many different sentence types.

You can say ‘Ella puede...’ and then add on any of hundreds of other verbs, in their infinitive form, not having to worry about the correct conjugation. Learning from this perspective greatly speeds up how quickly you can actually communicate. You can do this at every level of Spanish, not just when you are beginning.

Also, focus on learning common joining words, which allow you to extend sentences. Learn them immediately when you begin and use them often.

Three good examples are ‘because’, which is ‘porque’, and ‘or’ which is ‘o’, and ‘so’ or ‘then’, which are both ‘entonces.’

I’m going to go tonight because I want to speak Spanish = ‘Voy a ir esta noche porque quiero hablar español’

This sentence doesn’t require a good understanding of ‘go’ or ‘speak’. You know the basic word ‘Voy a’ and ‘Quiero’ – everything else is just the infinitive. It’s a very real sentence, the kind that native speakers use all the

time. With just this ‘Voy a’ and ‘Porque’ and ‘Quiero’ you can then say so much about future plans and desires.

Spanish students should be speaking sentences like this in their first lesson. In the first ten minutes. And much more besides. Instead of reciting lists of verb conjugations and learning numbers and days of the week.

It’s critical that you are speaking real Spanish right from the beginning, exactly as you would express yourself with friends in real life. This way the language is a living, breathing thing to you. It has meaning and soul.

So follow this strategy of starting with any words and phrases that will allow you to make meaningful sentences from the first lesson. This will build great motivation and excitement in you, and a love of the language.

Always form complete sentences when you learn a new word too. Focusing purely on grammar and repetition of individual words crushes motivation, yet it’s the cornerstone of most ineffective Spanish lessons today.

In the next chapter you will learn another huge motivation-booster. By discovering that you already know and can speak many Spanish words!

Chapter 4: Get Help from Cognates – Your Many Spanish Friends

“I get by with a little help from my friends.” – The Beatles

This should be one of the first things you focus on when you learn Spanish. There are many great similarities between Spanish and English. Many words which are either exactly the same, or very similar, making them easy to remember.

Many of these words are in the 1,000 most common Spanish words, and even the most common 300 and most common 100!

Here we'll take a look at the first ones you should learn. But whatever level of Spanish you are at, you can investigate these words to progress yourself quickly. As soon as you learn what they are, immediately start making full sentences with them, just to cement them in your mind.

When you are just starting, why not use these words, especially the nouns, in the sentences you form. So you can say quite complex sentences about interesting things the moment you learn a verb or two. They differ sometimes in pronunciation, so check how they sound online.

Again, focus on the 20/80 Pareto Principle. With these cognates, of which you can find long lists online, try to match up the words that are common. Learn those first, forget about the rest for now.

Here are some instantly useful words, which sound the same or almost exactly the same. Instead of writing the translation, I'll just give you the Spanish word. Can you guess what they are in English? As you read, remember – these are all Spanish words! If you're a beginner you should be happy with how much Spanish you can already understand and speak because of them. And these are only a few common ones, you can find hundreds more.

chocolate

festival

formal
informal
general
final
hospital
local
miserable
melón
manual
natural
normal
original
pasta
personal
piano
regular
similar
simple
religión
taxi
total
usual

Then,

Then, all ‘tion’ words in English become ‘cion’ words in Spanish. Almost exactly the same. For example, information = información. Guess what these words mean. Try to think of more yourself.

reservación, posición, condición

Even easier, most 'sion' words are the same in Spanish. Guess what these words mean:

decisión, conclusión, explosión

English words ending in 'ary' usually become 'ario'. Guess what these Spanish words mean:

diario, salario, aniversario, secretario, temporario

And English words ending in 'ic' simply become 'ico'. Can you guess these words?

automático, básico, domestico, erótico, exótico, genérico, irónico, alcohólico, mosaico, mágico, publico

English words ending in 'ous' most often become 'ioso'. Guess these ones:

curioso, delicioso, religioso, tedioso, misterioso

And another batch, words that end with 'act' become 'acto'. Like these words:

acto, contacto, exacto, insecto, perfecto, producto, excepto, conflicto

See how many common words you know already? It's a mystery why most Spanish courses don't start with these words on the very first day. Rather than just discovering them by chance later on, remember all these Spanish friends (and more) as soon as possible, and start using them in real sentences today.

How can you best use them?

Look at the previous lessons and combine the lessons with these words which you already know. You could sit down for one afternoon and see how many sentences you can express once you know those few initial 'building block' words from the previous chapter. Just try it for fun. You will likely find that you can already express quite a lot. And you have a very strong foundation to begin growing from. You can next focus on the most common 100 words (the ones you don't yet know), building full, interesting, realistic sentences with each new word you learn.

Ask your conversation partner to look at these words and help you practice little conversations and sentences using them (see how to find a lovely native-speaking Spanish conversation partner for free or as little as \$5 an hour in a later chapter).

Compare this starting-point to learning Spanish with how most students begin. Spending hours in a classroom, not speaking much because they are waiting for other students to speak, then listing off the days of the week, animal names, how to introduce themselves and endless verb conjugations with exercises about things they don't care about, and which don't even practice full, complete, realistic sentences.

Students leaving traditional Spanish classes like those don't feel like they have progressed at all. And they feel like there's a long, hard journey ahead of them, and hopefully, one day they will be able to speak Spanish a little. If you begin this way you will start speaking Spanish from the first hour, and finish feeling fantastic.

There is one more strategy for efficiency in what elements of the Spanish language to focus on. When you look at the most common words, remember that everyone is an individual. When you go out in the world and have real Spanish conversations, there are many things you will personally say ten times more than the next person. The next chapter will show you how to prepare for this.

Chapter 5: Learn the Spanish that You Personally will Use More

“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.” – Rita Mae Brown

When you begin thinking about Spanish with Pareto Efficiency (which by now I hope you are!) you will notice that it's simply all about learning the things which you have the highest probability of needing in real life conversation. So, think about this for yourself.

Following a general Spanish course book is a terribly inefficient way of learning, precisely because of this point. Your Spanish is real. It's a way of sharing your thoughts, views and life with another person, through the window of the Spanish language.

When you're speaking Spanish a certain amount of joy comes from simply being able to make and understand sentences in Spanish. But that joy is magnified many times when you're truly expressing yourself. When you can say things just as you might say them in English, which is where you really start to love the language. And it's so important to begin this way, not wait until later.

Carry a notepad, and start to note down what topics you talk about with your friends. What you like to say, what expressions you use. What is your favorite passion or pass-time? Often a fantastic way to learn is to find a native Spanish speaker who loves the same thing and begin talking about it in Spanish. Your brain will be hungry to learn the words you need to express it.

How can you describe your life and your favorite stories to people in Spanish? If you're just beginning, find the simplest, most efficient way to express these things. If you are more advanced have more fun with it.

Now, also imagine yourself in real situations you may soon be in. In conversation or in life. Learn how to agree, disagree, express strong approval or passion. How to swear if you swear a lot in English. How to

make jokes if you make jokes a lot in English. Go straight to the things you want to express.

And then of course also think about the situations you might be in as you travel to a Spanish speaking country. This is one thing the courses get half-right. Everyone needs restaurant talk, asking for directions or language to book a train ticket. However, you might expect to be in rather more unique situations personal to you, like talking about programming if you are going to visit Meetups in Madrid for programmers. Or haggling politely if you're planning to do business.

A wonderful thing you will discover is that all of these different areas of Spanish (including most things for business) can mostly be expressed with the same 'bricks, mortar and core branch' words we discussed earlier on. You simply need to supplement them with extra vocabulary and expressions – the twigs and leaves.

Whether you're learning this personal-targeted vocabulary, cognate 'friend' words, or any of the other 300 most common or 1,000 most common words, there are certain memory techniques that will help you to absorb and memorize them ten all times more easily. The next chapter will introduce you to the most powerful memory concept for any Spanish learner.

Chapter 6: Use Spaced Repetition Systems – It's Simpler than It Sounds!

“Repetition is the mother of skill.” – Anthony Robbins

Your mind remembers new information in a certain optimal way. It also forgets things, following a certain pattern. This pattern of remembering or forgetting depends on how often and how strongly your mind is exposed to the new bits of information.

Spaced Repetition Systems work based on a quite simple principle of how quickly you forget new Spanish words. When you're first exposed to a word, if you don't use, see or hear it again, you will begin to forget it quite soon. First it will stop being fresh in your mind, then it will slowly disappear deeper into your memory, as new, fresher information comes in. It will stop being readily at hand when you need it.

So the idea is that when you first learn a new word, you use it immediately. Then you use it again five minutes later, before you forget it. Then you can take a slightly longer break before using it again, because the second reminder drummed it in more deeply. So you next use the word after a 30 minute gap. And then again 6 hours later.

The next repetition is 24 hours later. And then the next gap can be 2 days. The following gap after that is 7 days. Then 2 weeks, one month and so on.

This spaced repetition gradually extends the gaps between reminders. It means you keep words fresh and make sure they stay in your memory, ready to use in conversation with ease.

It might sound tricky to keep track of new words and remember to revise them after the correct interval of time, especially if you're learning dozens of new words every day. But fortunately, with technology, it's easy to coordinate no matter how many new words you're learning.

The trick is to use intelligent flashcards. Use an app called Anki App. It's one of the greatest Spanish-learning tools you can find. Program in your

words, and it will automatically repeat them to you at spaced intervals. It's an amazing way to progress.

Flashcards in general are a fantastic tool for Spanish learners. Especially when you're using them in conjunction with the principles in this book. The next chapter will teach you how to create your own flashcards, which are perfectly designed to express meaning strongly, and help your memory absorb the information faster.

Chapter 7: Using Flashcards with Images, the Right Way

“A picture paints a thousand words,” – Frederick R. Barnard

With flashcards, you can create your own physical cards as well as having them online or on Anki App. And with any flashcards, physical or digital, the best thing you can do is find an image, rather than use just the word itself. Images speak so strongly, and convey so many nuances of meaning (as you will see in the chapter on instant memorization).

Every time you learn a new word, quickly look it up at Google Images at Google.es. You will be given a whole range of pictures that clearly express the meaning. Take one or two images you like and use them in your flashcard. This will drill it into your memory far faster. An image speaks a thousand words. So use images to reach your 1,000 most common Spanish words.

One note on using physical flashcards. Make sure that you are looking at them with a similar spaced repetition methodology from the previous chapter. One great way to do this is to collect them in clumps, organized by when you learned them. Also you can color-code the cards. Best of all, combine Anki App with the physical cards, so you can combine the two of them together.

Now, flashcards and spaced repetition speeds up your memorization significantly. Yet there's another method that allows you to absorb new Spanish words at an even faster rate. And the techniques all work in perfect combination with each other.

The next chapter teaches methods of making new information stay permanently, even if you are only exposed to a new Spanish word once. It's an incredibly powerful trick that will make you learn 5 or 10 times faster than if you have no real strategy for memory at all.

Chapter 8: Use Visual Memory Tricks to Make New Spanish Words Stick

“Your memory works with images and journeys. The more vivid and interesting these images are, the better.” – Dominic O’Brien

Our minds work in a very visual way. It’s simply how they are designed.

We evolved over hundreds of thousands of years with only very physical, visual, sensual things to live by. Sight, smell, touch, taste, sounds. Sight most of all. In the past, we had to remember what plants looked like, what were signs of dangerous animals, or animals to hunt, how to see if there is water nearby. We had to remember tracks and landmarks. Faces and shapes and colors.

Today, after millions of years of evolution, our brains still remember things that are visual very strongly. And very easily. We remember sounds, but images stay without any effort at all. To see for yourself, picture what you had for breakfast this morning. Got it?

Now, picture a favorite childhood location. Can you see it? You probably can, quite well, even though you haven’t thought about it in many years. This is because an image in our mind is permanently imprinted there. It will always be there. And so it will always be possible to recall. Try to picture a pleasant place from your past. Perhaps a holiday you once went on. A nice walk down to the beach, or somewhere in nature. These images don’t take long to come to our minds. Yet at the time you made no strong conscious decision to memorize what you were seeing.

A wonderful thing about our minds is that images we imagine – images which we did not actually see in real life – get stored just as well as things we actually see. You might daydream and imagine a wonderful adventure or story. If it was very exciting, in any way, that daydream will stay with you, imprinted on your mind, ready to recall later if you tried.

There’s a better way to demonstrate to yourself how visual your memory is. That is to use this skill to memorize Spanish words.

This technique was first devised by 8-time world memory champion Dominic O'Brien. It's simple and powerful. And using it, Mr O'Brien could memorize hundreds of words a day in any language, but we don't need such a crazy pace. You can easily memorize dozens of words a day if you like. When you use this technique to help memorize the most common words in Spanish, and then also use flashcards with spaced repetition on Anki App. You will progress ten or twenty times faster than someone who tries to remember words the old way.

Sounds interesting? Let's look into it.

Here is the trick. When you hear a new Spanish word, you immediately want to think of an English word, or a couple of English words, that this new Spanish word sounds similar to. At least find an English word, where beginning sounds similar to the new Spanish word.

Then you create a very visual, over-the-top image in your mind involving the English words and the meaning of the Spanish word.

Then, when you later try to recollect the meaning of the word, the image jumps into your mind. That image instantly reminds you of the sound of the Spanish word. And that clue is like a hook, to trigger your memory. It makes it so much easier than having nothing to go on at all.

The Spanish word comes to mind easily because you made the image big and unusual, as we'll talk about in a minute. And also because your brain simply works so well with images. They stick, and come to mind easily and quickly.

Don't worry if this sounds a bit confusing. It's best to illustrate with a couple of examples.

Let's say you learn the word 'sacar' which means to remove or take out. You repeat the word 'sacar' and think, what does it sound like in English?

Whatever comes to your mind is good. It only has to be a word, or a few words, which are quite visual. So what jumped into my mind was 'sack' and then 'car'.

So my image will involve a sack and a car and the meaning of the word 'to remove' or 'take out'.

I'll imagine someone has to take out the trash. So my image is going to be someone taking out the trash, but in a huge sack, like a giant sack of grain. And he is dragging this huge sack because inside it there is a whole car!

This is a very strong image. But I want to make it even stronger. The more you can add sounds, smell, emotion, violence or anything sexual to an image, the better it remains in your brain.

So I'm picturing that it's so big it's impossible to fit out the kitchen door. The car horn is honking and the guy is pulling the sack, struggling, shouting and swearing, the sack is starting to rip and smelly trash is spilling out. Exhaust from the car is filling the room.

Wow, it's become a pretty weird and memorable image!

Next time I'm trying to remember how to say 'take out' in Spanish, that image of the man taking out the trash will come to my mind. Then I'll see the whole crazy thing, with 'sack' and 'car'. And I'll remember it's 'sacar'!

Let's do another one. If I had to remember the word 'mujer' which means woman, I would need to find any English word or words that sound a bit like 'mujer'. In Spanish the 'j' sound becomes 'h', so the sound I need to get close to is 'muher'.

Well what comes to my mind first is 'moooo' like a cow making its classic 'moo' noise. And then 'hair'. 'Mooo – hair' = mujer. So, can you think of an image involving a cow mooing and some hair, and a woman?

I might picture a woman sitting on top of a cow, which is complaining and 'mooing' very loudly. And the woman has very long hair, so much of it, like Rapunzel. It is covering her and the cow, and the cow is tripping up in it. Mooing like crazy the whole time.

Next time I try to remember what woman is in Spanish, that image will come to my mind.

Seriously, this might sound a bit crazy, but it really does work wonders. And it can be great fun too! Dominic O'Brien used to use this method to memorize hundreds of new words in an hour. All you need is a few a day, or a dozen a day if you're ambitious. With this technique and the one from the previous chapter, you'll progress ten times faster, guaranteed.

Now, why don't you give it a try. In the next chapter, I'll lead you through a quick memory exercise with five useful Spanish words, so you can experience the power of this method first-hand.

Chapter 9: Quick Exercise – Instantly & Permanently Memorize 5 New Spanish Words

“We don’t remember days. We remember moments.” – Cesare Pavese

Let’s have some fun. Here are five useful and common Spanish words. We’ll memorize them now, and you can see how permanently they stick, by testing yourself again tomorrow morning. Or next week.

Please do carry out this exercise. It’s the best way to experience if this method is for you or not. It might well change the way you learn things forever!

If you already know these five words please go and find five other useful words, which are in the most common 300 or 1,000, which you would like to remember permanently. Do it before you read the rest of this chapter, then come back and follow the instructions.

For the following five words, I will lead you through the memorization technique, as explained in the previous chapter. I will also give you some images.

Just before we begin, remember that the best images are ones that leapt to your own mind. Ones that you thought of yourself. They simply stay stronger and longer. But the ones I give you will work just fine. Also remember that if you can enhance the image at all, please do so. If you can make an image bigger, brighter, louder, sexier, more strange, violent or distinct in any way, then your memory will hold onto it more strongly.

Ok, let’s begin. You five words are:

Mano = Hand

Casa = Home

Primero = First

Desayuno = Breakfast

Porque = Because

We'll memorize each in turn. Read the first word a few times. 'Mano', which means 'Hand'. Hear the sound, roll it around your mouth, enjoy it. Quickly look it up on Google Images for that extra visual kick. Now, what does 'Mano' sound like in English words or noises?

I break it into two sounds, 'man' and 'o'. So I want to find an image that represents each of these sounds.

'Man' is easy. I will use an image of a man. Often the first part of a word is enough for you to remember the whole word, but for this exercise let's do each part of the word. So now I need an image for 'o'.

For myself, I imagine someone shouting 'Ooooh!' in surprise. Their mouth is a big 'O' of surprise.

So, now I want to combine these images, with the word 'Hand' in my mind. So I am going to picture my hand becoming Giant. A huge hand (remember, always make your images strange and over the top). With my giant hand I am scooping a man in a suit up off the street. So he is standing on my hand, trying to keep his balance. He's shouting 'Ooooh!' in surprise! His mouth is a huge over-the-top 'O' of surprise.

Close your eyes for a second and picture this strange image in your own mind. Add in sounds, smells, emotions if you can. Got it? Ok, next word.

Casa = Home

Again, read the word a few times. Look it up in Google Images. Think of any times you have heard it before. For example, the expression 'Mi Casa Es Tu Casa' (My Home is Your Home) is very common. Do you know it? Ok, now for the memorization technique.

What does 'Casa' sound like in English? You may have something totally different jump into your own mind, and that is fine. In fact it's far better to go with the images that jump into your own mind. For me, after a bit of thought, it sounds like 'Casandra', the girl from the Trojan War who could predict the future. Or perhaps 'Casi' if you know anyone by that name. Or 'Case' like a case of beer, and then 'Aaaaah!' Or 'Casanova' or even 'Castrate' (sorry, but there's an image you won't forget!)

Pick any of these. Let's go with 'Casanova' – I think we all have an image in our minds of what 'Casanova' looks like, right? Picture a swathe, smooth, sexy Mr Seducer. Let's make him over-the-top with a rose between his teeth, hairy chest out, playing a mandolin. Winking and leering at you. Now, let's combine this image with 'Home'.

So imagine a real Casanova standing at the doorstep of your home. Stopping you from getting in. He is desperately, smoothly trying to seduce you (or perhaps teach you about women if you're a man). You can smell his too-strong aftershave. You can hear his guitar-playing and smooth Spanish voice.

Got it? Ok, next word. Primero = First

Once more, look it up in Google Images. What does 'Primero' sound like to you in English? Perhaps 'Prim' or 'Prime' as in 'Prime Minister' and 'Ero' sounds like the start of 'Aerosmith' to me. Or 'Air' and 'Ooooh!'

We need to connect these images to the word 'First'. When I think of 'first' a race comes to mind. Let's picture the Prime Minister racing against...

Now, Aerosmith would be a perfect image for me to remember 'ero', but you might not know that band or what they look like. This is why it's always best to go with your own images.

For this exercise, let's picture the Prime Minister (whichever one jumps to your mind) in combination with 'Air' so he is in a race, the Olympics 100-metre sprint. And he is blasting past the other runners, carried on a hot puff of air. Like a big visible gust of wind, making him fly. They are all blown out of the way. He is shouting 'Ooooooh!' And shooting through the finishing line to be First.

As usual, add sound and smell and even touch to the image if you can. If you can make it stupid and strange, all the better. Or funny even. Perhaps you could have a funny idea of where that big gust of wind came from (I'll leave that to your own imagination).

Next! Desayuno = Breakfast

What does 'Desayuno' sound like to you? Have a think before reading my answer. How can you break it up? This is a slightly longer word, with four

syllables. Like we talked about before, you can just create an image for the first half of a word, and it will usually be enough to trigger your memory of the whole word. But for the exercise, let's do the whole thing.

'Desa' sounds a bit like the first bit of 'dessert' to me. And 'Yuno' sounds just like 'You Know' or 'You, No' but I'm not sure 'You Know' is visual enough for us. So instead, how about 'unicorn' with a very long nose, as well as its horn. 'Nose' begins with 'No'. I'll give you two options with this word.

What image jumps to mind when you think of breakfast? Is it sitting at your kitchen table, all the food laid out? Ok, in addition to that imagine huge piles of dessert all around, jelly, cake, sweets, strawberries and cream, ice cream. It's sticky and smells so sweet and good and is sticking on your hands and fingers, and squelching under your feet. There is a unicorn with a huge nose just gobbling away, trying to eat it all. You're worried because it might stab you with its horn in all the excitement! Desert, Unicorn, Nose. Desayuno.

Option two. Again, picture your breakfast table, and all the dessert everywhere. Sticky and smelly. And for some reason there is a big nightclub bouncer standing at the entrance to your kitchen. He is pushing his hand out to you and saying loudly 'You. No!' Not letting you into your own kitchen. You try to push past but he shoves you back, saying over and over again, 'You, No!'

Dessert. You. No. Desayuno.

Ok, one more. Porque = Because.

Spanish is very phonetic, meaning when you read a word, it sounds pretty much the same way. This is very useful. But if you're new to the language, make sure you look up how the word sounds on Youtube or one of the resources in the last chapter. It's important that your memory corresponds to how the word sounds, not how it is spelt.

'Porque' sounds a little like 'Pour' and 'Ken' or 'Key' or 'Kent' or it also sounds like 'Pork' or even 'Porky' like Porky Pig, the Disney character. Go look up Porky Pig now in Google just to remind yourself of how he looks.

Now, what image comes to mind when you think of the English word ‘because’? Perhaps it’s a school classroom, with a teacher hitting the board with chalk and explaining endlessly ‘because, because, because’. Or it might be a kid asking ‘Why’ all the time and you answering, ‘Because...’

You really have to find your own image, but let’s use the classroom. Picture Porky Pig dressed in a school teacher’s uniform in an old-fashioned classroom, and all the students asking him ‘Why This?’ ‘Why That?’ And he keeps going ‘Because...’ but not really explaining anything. Again and again. Hear his strange, funny voice. Make it more fun, with the student throwing things at him. Make it as strange as possible.

Great, we’ve done the five words. Now, let’s test your memory. Without looking, how do you say ‘Hand’ in Spanish? Did you remember? Now how do you say each of these words: home, first, breakfast, because?

I am sure you remembered all of them. We don’t have time right now, but the amazing thing about this technique is that you could continue and memorize 20 or 50 words this way. No problem. This technique, like anything, takes a little skill and practice. But after you have done 50 words, you will be able to come up with images very quickly indeed. And it becomes pure fun!

I’ll give you one more quick challenge in this chapter. Go and find five more words which you want to learn from those lists of common Spanish words. Do this exercise for each one. Then tomorrow morning when you wake up, just go over them in your mind, see how many you can remember.

Think this method is great? Just wait until you see the next chapter. There is a way to double how effective this method is, while memorizing and organizing huge numbers of new words, by using a Spanish Language Memory Palace. Read on to learn how!

Chapter 10: Create Your Own Spanish Language Memory Palace

"To memorize things with a memory palace, you take buildings or locations that you know. And you condense things you want to remember into memorable and bizarre objects and you place them into this building that you know inside your mind. I use central London as a map." – Derren Brown

We've learned how to use a bit of fun imagery to help you remember words faster. Now let's take that one level further. If you want to memorize large numbers of Spanish words (we're talking hundreds or thousands of words here) in a very organized way, so they are even easier to recall, then locations and a Memory Palace will help.

You may have heard of Memory Palaces before. Generally, they are told as mysterious things that only people like Sherlock Holmes can use to remember lots of information. But in fact, they are relatively simple. If you did the exercise in the last chapter, then you have already done the hard part of a memory palace.

The next step is simply to create your images in certain locations which make it easier to recall them. For example, all your words related to cooking can be in one or two restaurants you like. Different types of food can be in that particular type of shop, like a bakery or a butchers. Words related to exercise and movement can be in a gym you know. And so on.

The technique that works best for Spanish vocabulary is to choose a city you know well. Ideally, you can go to Spain and spend a weekend walking around a beautiful Spanish city like Barcelona or Valencia. Then you can split the city into two sections for masculine and feminine words if you like. Plus a small area for neuter words.

Now, simply continue memorizing words with images as in the previous chapter, but this time put them into logical locations, so similar words. and collected together. It is just another way to give your mind slightly faster

access to the words later on and speed up your Spanish-learning journey (which should be pretty darn fast by now).

Now that you know how to at least triple your learning speed in Spanish, a critical step is to start talking straight away! This extra, bold step will accelerate your progress more than any other. The next chapter will show you how you can begin speaking with native Spanish speakers, even if you don't live in a Spanish-speaking country.

Chapter 11: How to Speak with Native Spanish Speakers for \$5 an Hour

“Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice.” – Anton Chekhov

Nothing beats using a skill if you want to progress in it. This is more true of Spanish and other languages than almost any other type of skill. It’s incredible to me how many Spanish courses do not emphasize practicing with real conversation above other things.

Many students can go months and years studying Spanish before they even start having normal, natural conversation in Spanish with native speakers. The truth is, there is no reason why you can’t start speaking Spanish with a native speaker right from the first lesson!

You can learn a few core building block words and vocabulary, learn a few words that are the same in English, then immediately start having short, basic interactions. And the best thing about actually speaking and learning this way is that you feel great. Your confidence and motivation soars. Your brain gets pleasure from it and so starts to learn and remember faster. You start speaking better and wanting to have more conversations!

So one of the most important things you can do to speed up your Spanish-learning journey is start speaking regularly with a native Spanish speaker. That means someone who grew up in Spain or Latin America. Or who somehow has Spanish as his or her mother tongue.

It’s the highest quality of practice you can get. And it’s actually incredibly easy to find a conversation partner.

Most often you hear it recommended that you find someone to exchange English with. So you spend one hour speaking Spanish and then one hour speaking English, for their benefit.

I actually don’t recommend you use this language swap system. You are giving too much with an hour of your time. It’s not efficient and you want

to fit Spanish into your life in the easiest, cheapest way possible, so that you are more likely to keep it up.

For better or for worse, if you're a native English speaker your language is far more valuable on the language market-place. You needn't do a direct swap. But of course, if it feels more fun for you, by all means swap hour for hour.

But a fantastic alternative to swapping, which I highly recommend, is to use a site like italki.com to find a native Spanish teacher or conversation partner who can speak with you every day for as little as \$5 an hour. This is the best way to progress, except perhaps going to live in a Spanish-speaking country.

Just a word of warning, make sure that whoever you find to speak with you understands your system of learning. They should really read this book. Send it to them and make it clear to them that you want to learn in this fashion. Make sure they are allowing you time to relax and have fun and fully form sentences. Don't allow them to interrupt or complete sentences for you. That's a killer to your memory.

Italki is one of the many incredible programs, apps and online resources available to Spanish-learners today. The last chapter will summarize the 12 best of these resources, which you can start using today to supercharge your speed of progression.

But before that there is also an even better way of practicing your Spanish. That is of course to spend a little time in a native Spanish-speaking country. However, if you choose this route make sure you do it the right way. The next chapter will show you how.

Chapter 12: Do a Class IN Spanish, NOT a Spanish Language Class!

“In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is.” – Yogi Berra

Confusing chapter title? Allow me to explain. Most people who travel to a Latin American country, let's say Venezuela, make a big mistake when it comes to improving their Spanish.

This mistake is surprising – they take a Spanish course.

As you already know from this book, Spanish courses are a bad idea. In your own country it's a bad idea, and twice as bad in a native Spanish-speaking country. What an incredible waste of time.

Far, far better would be if you travelled to Venezuela and booked yourself on an intensive 2-week salsa course... *in Spanish*.

When you study a different skill or subject in Spanish, you are immediately learning and using the language. In one single day you will practice Spanish, hear it and use it more than you would in 2 whole weeks on a Spanish language course. You will hear over and over again the basic sentence structures of salsa, all the directions and movements and steps.

The language in a dance class is a very powerful base for all Spanish language. Even Spanish for business. You will be learning a terrific foundation of the language, and also during the breaks you will be speaking Spanish with the other students. You will make native Venezuelan friends. If you study a Spanish language course, then during the breaks you will just be talking to other English speakers in English. Unless you have incredible discipline.

Of course, you don't only have to learn salsa. If you are a beginner, something like salsa or any other dance is recommended, because the instructions and sentence structures are less complex. Perhaps a martial art or yoga, or anything at all that is physical, where 80% of the Spanish you hear will be concerning movement.

If you are a little more advanced, then you can study more advanced topics. Any skill that you always wanted to learn. Perhaps cooking, or photography or cocktail-making. Even public speaking or acting if you want a real challenge and boost to your confidence.

Imagine the difference between two Spanish students who have gone to Venezuela. One sat in a Spanish language course for the whole time. Following a slow class as they moved through some Spanish language books and conversation exercises, rarely speaking actual Spanish with a native, except to order in a restaurant.

The other student spent 2 week intensively using, hearing and learning real Spanish in action, in a salsa class. Making friends with locals and spending time with them after class, speaking Spanish the whole time. Who do you think will be more confident at the end of that period?

Don't follow the language class-addicted crowd. Go native, study something else. You'll shoot upwards faster than you can imagine. And your confidence will soar, because you will always know that you were there, in Venezuela, handling life and learning and socializing IN Spanish.

An excellent way to compliment this tactic, is to prearrange a conversation partner who will meet with you daily, or ever morning or evening when you are free, who is trained in the methods of learning Spanish that you are following. The next chapter will show you how to make sure you are learning with the right person.

Chapter 13: How to Choose (and Train) Your Spanish Conversation Partner

“If you talk to a man or woman in a language they understand, that goes to their head. If you talk to him or her in their own language, that goes to their heart.” – Nelson Mandela

Not all conversation partners are equal. In this book we recommend many resources and methods to find a good conversation partner who is also a native Spanish speaker. But beware any previous teachers, who may still have their own less effective ideas about how you should move forward and learn Spanish.

A great first step, whether you are meeting someone in your own city, via Skype, or in a native Spanish-speaking country, is to send them this book before you meet them.

The person you are talking to must be on the same page as you. They should understand that their purpose in your interaction is to help you gain confidence in speaking full and developed sentences as quickly as possible. As they speak with you, they could note down new words you are learning, and then every now and then ask you how to say a sentence using that word and a structure you are already familiar with. They can note down the English-Spanish cognate ‘friends’.

This repeating sentence structure method, where you practice basic ‘brick and branch’ words and structures over and over, with new words and new meanings. This is a very strong way to progress. And your conversation partner has to understand the value in it, so they can lead you to speak using these methods.

Also, your conversation sessions should be 80% or 90% you talking. Many teachers and conversation partners think they are not doing a good job unless they are talking a lot and leading the conversation.

Quite the opposite is true. You should be leading the conversation with your questions, or asking them to with their questions. Your partner should be

patient, and be prepared to sit there quietly for a long time while you relax and think up the answer. If they start finishing your sentences for you, then your memory isn't being used and reinforced.

During the day, make notes on words and phrases you think will be useful. Then ask your partner during your conversation session. This quiet, intelligent, patient support is the best possible partnership for a Spanish language learner.

Use your time with them well, it's best to trust your memory during the conversation. Then later on you can use flashcards and memory techniques to lock in the new Spanish.

Another thing you will have to check in between conversation sessions is grammar. Now I know we do not recommend grammar-focused lessons, because they are not natural, and rob you of the joy of talking. However, once you adopt this faster, conversational, sentence-forming methodology with your Spanish, then learning the grammar becomes far more pleasant. Especially if you do it the right way. Learn how in the next chapter.

Chapter 14: Learn Spanish Grammar the Simple, Fun Way

“The past, the present and the future walked into a bar.

It was tense.”

As you learn your Spanish, it is of course great to have a grammar book handy. But don't sit down and learn from the grammar book. Learn using all of the wonderful ways suggested in this book. In fact, you can very easily learn Spanish quickly without even looking at a grammar book.

But it usually helps to have one handy. And if you browse it the right way, it will help speed things up for you. When a point of grammar has become particularly interesting and relevant for you because in your last conversation session you really wanted to use that grammar point, and didn't quite get 100% how it works. In those situations open up your grammar book and use it in this way.

Grammar can be simpler than you think. As you open the book, use Gabriel Wyner's three simple questions on the new grammatical point. These three questions will help you to see what is going on here, so you can start using it right away.

1. Can I see any new words here?
2. Can I see any new word forms here?
3. Is this word order surprising me?

Every new piece of grammar will be highlighted by these three questions. Write down your discoveries on a flashcard. Practice making full, interesting sentences with it. And make notes to tell your conversation partner so he or she can lead you through more practice.

Yes, grammar really can be that simple. Students of Spanish make such a big deal out of it. There is no need. Focusing on sentences and having fun, and occasionally filling in gaps with a quick analysis and practice of the new grammatical point. 70% or 80% of the grammar you come across will not even require you to look it up. Simply repeating the sentences in many

various forms will cement it in your memory and mind, ready for accurate use later on.

There's a right and wrong way to learn grammar. And there's also a right and wrong way to go about pronunciation. The next chapter will show you how to approach Spanish pronunciation to make it as easy as possible.

Chapter 15: Master Spanish Pronunciation in Weeks, Not Years

“If you don't know how to pronounce a word, say it loud! Why compound ignorance with inaudibility?” – E.B. White

Spanish is a language with a huge advantage over English for learning – it's mostly phonetic. Meaning when you know how the letters should sound, you can read a word and know exactly how to say it. But first you need to know how they all sound.

One of the earliest things you should do in Spanish is go through the alphabet. Use a phrase book or Spanish dictionary that gives you the phonetic sounds, or comparable sounds in English. Make sure you learn how each letter sounds, and that you are making the correct noise. You can ask a native speaker if it all sounds good to them. You want to be confident that you have the letters down well.

This will make it easy for you to read new words, pick them up and feel confident that you can say them correctly and memorize them. It's harder to memorize a word if there's a doubt in your mind that you've got the sound just right.

When you are pronouncing new words and sounds, instead of using your ears to judge it and remember it, focus on the muscles inside your mouth. And the feelings of the word. If you are musical or have taken singing lessons you are very likely to do this naturally anyway. For the rest of us, it's initially an unusual thing, to focus on the physical shape of a word, more than the sound of it.

The reason this is so powerful is that our ears are trained naturally to hear similarities and simply recognize sounds, rather than distinguish small variations. This is why some people can study Spanish for years and never quite hear how they are making sounds incorrectly. When people tell them the correct method, they hear it, repeat it incorrectly, and can't hear the difference.

Without focusing on the physical shape of the muscles in their mouth and the air flow, and the feelings, they cannot make the tiny adjustments necessary to get it right.

But here is a method that will have even the most tone-deaf of Spanish students speaking with perfect pronunciation.

First, focus on one new sound. Find a few words that have exactly the same sound. You need to sit down with a native Spanish speaker for this. If you are making the incorrect sound, write down a few words that actually use that incorrect sound.

For example, one challenging area of pronunciation in Spanish for native English speakers is the ‘b’ or ‘v’ sound. Both letters sound identical in Spanish, so it is really one sound. But they change slightly depending on where in the word or phrase the ‘b’ or ‘v’ appears.

When the Spanish ‘b’ or ‘v’ is at the start of a phrase, or after an ‘m’ or ‘n’, it sounds similar to the English ‘b’ – only softer and not quite as explosive as the English ‘b’. This ‘big b’ sound is quite easy for English people to pronounce.

However, the rest of the time, such as in the middle of a word or later in a phrase, the ‘b’ or ‘v’ sounds more similar to the English ‘v’ but this sound is made by *almost* touching your two lips together, rather than the upper teeth and lower lip (as ‘v’ is made in English).

In the following phrase the first ‘b’ is strong. The second ‘b’ is this soft ‘v’ sound.

‘Buenos Aires es muy bonito.’ (Buenos Aires is very beautiful).

So, let’s say that you have a little difficulty making this soft ‘v’ sound by touching your two lips together. And instead you are always making the slightly harder ‘b’ sound.

Firstly, let’s make the stronger ‘b’ sound in Buenos Aires. You would make it several times with your native speaking conversation partner telling you when it sounds just right. Then, when it is just right, ask yourself, where is your tongue as you make that sound? Is it high, low, relaxed, tense,

forward, towards the back of the mouth, tense or soft? Make the sound many times, while describing this to your partner.

Then put your finger to your lips in the 'shhhh' signal. Make the sound 'b' again. Ask yourself, what do your lips do? Do they tense? Do they stay relaxed, do you smile or frown?

Then continue making the sound, and this time pay attention to the shape of your mouth. Is it big inside, is it smaller, is it wide or narrow? And finally, how does the air travel out of your throat and mouth as you make the sound, in a short puff, a hiss, or a longer flow? Is it explosive or soft? And finally, ask yourself how the entire thing feels to make.

You see how deep this analysis goes. But it is worth it. Once you recognize how a sound *feels*, you will always remember it and be able to self-correct.

So the next step would be to make the softer 'v' sound for 'bonito' in our example sentence. Keep on trying until your conversation partner says you have it just right. They must be very strict and honest with you. When you finally have it right, keep on making this second sound. And ask yourself all the same questions as before. What are your lips, tongue, mouth doing? How does it feel, how is the air flowing?

Once you can describe these factors, you will see that there are physical differences between the two sounds. You can really become aware of how to shape them. The reason I won't explain the physical differences here for 'b' and 'v' is because they might feel slightly different to you than the words I may use to describe them. It is most effective if you follow this process and 'discover' how the two sounds are different for you, personally.

Then, once you are clear, your conversation partner can lead you through lots of practice. And he or she can keep the two letters or words written on a piece of paper, with a line drawn between them. For the next couple of weeks, as you are talking if you ever make the wrong sound, even slightly wrong, they can just point to a place on the line, so you see which way you have to go. Which sound you are closer to.

Then you can quickly self-correct and master a level of Spanish pronunciation that most students never achieve. You can do in weeks, what takes other students months, years or never!

Now that you know how to pronounce new words when you read them in Spanish, a very fast way to practice and assimilate those new words is to read. This is as a supporting skill to speaking, nothing beats speaking. But reading can help greatly. Like every skill in learning Spanish, there's a right way and a wrong way to do it. The next chapter will show you how.

Chapter 16: How to Read Spanish the Right Way to Improve Faster

“The more you read the more things you’ll know. The more that you learn the more places you’ll go.” – Dr Seuss

Like speaking, it’s a myth that you need to wait before you begin reading in Spanish. You can begin exploring the language in books right now. Because Spanish is phonetic it’s of great value to start reading early on, as you will know how all the words sound without having to check, and it can rapidly enhance your vocabulary, general understanding and speaking skills too.

An important mindset as a reader, whatever level of Spanish you’re at, is to leave trying to understand 100% at the door. Try to just enjoy the process of understanding most of what you read, or even less than most, if you are still quite new to the language. Just browse and enjoy, for as long as you feel like it.

A nice trick is to pick up a simple enough story, where you have already seen and enjoyed the movie. This way you will have a good understanding of the plot, and it will help you stay engaged and fill in the holes. At the same time, get the audiobook in Spanish. Listen, read, remember. A powerful combination.

You can also read children’s books. There are many perfectly enjoyable and intelligent children’s books out there. Not only fiction, non-fiction too. If you get a few children’s books on topics you already know. Then you are supported by colorful pictures and simple language. You might learn or clarify a topic you are interested in while enjoying the language.

Add reading to your daily Spanish practice. Even if it’s only 20 minutes a day, it will help significantly. For reading, listening, speaking and every aspect of Spanish, there are many tools, sites and apps to support you. These days we are really spoilt for choice when it comes to programs that speed up our Spanish. The final chapter will show you 12 of the best tools to support you in your journey.

Chapter 17: The 12 Best Apps and Online Resources for Superfast Spanish Learning

“Know what tools you have to fulfill your purpose.” — Steve Maraboli

We’ve never had so many incredible tools for the rapid learning of Spanish as we do today. Literally at your fingertips you have everything you need to shoot forward in Spanish. If you set about using these tools – the best ones there are – then you will advance more than 300% faster, even if you use nothing else in this book.

We’ve already mentioned a few of the best tools. The absolute essentials like Italki.com, Anki App and Skype. With these extra 12 added to your repertoire, you’ll be flying forward in no time.

1. [My Language Exchange](#)

Set up Skype conversation with native speakers for free.

2. [Michel Thomas Spanish](#)

One of the only Spanish courses I recommend. Follows the logical and productive progression outlined in this book. A masterful course from a language master.

3. [Memrise.com](#)

A fantastic resource for giving you extra mnemonic ideas and tricks to get new Spanish words to stick.

4. [Google Translate](#)

A great way to quickly translate sentences into Spanish.

5. [Lang-8](#)

A resource that allows you to check sentences with real native speakers in Spanish, to see if they are correct and how they sound. Use to check your Google Translate sentences before putting them into your Anki App flashcards.

6. [Google Images Spain](#)

The very best way to get a feel for the meaning of a word is to instantly see images. Use it!

7. [Open Language.com](https://www.openlanguage.com)

This is a comprehensive website with tonnes of resources that help you prepare for and smash through the European Common Framework of Spanish. Perfect if you're aiming for reaching levels through testing, in addition to conversational fluency.

8. [Fluentu.com](https://www.fluentu.com)

This fun and inspiring app takes real life Spanish commercials, movie clips and more and turns them into Spanish-learning experiences. A wonderful listening tool.

9. [Forvo.com](https://www.forvo.com)

The great thing about learning Spanish is that it's phonetic, which means words sound the same way they are spelled. But if you're ever in doubt about how something is pronounced or emphasized, this site will sort you out.

10. [iTunes – Spanish Podcasts](https://www.apple.com/itunes/curriculum/spanish/)

You should live, breathe and listen to Spanish at every given opportunity. Some of the best listening out there is podcasts! Browse iTunes for a podcast in something you love, and listen away.

11. [Radio Lingua](https://www.radio-lingua.com)

If radio is more your thing, listen to a variety of Spanish-speaking channels here.

12. [Meetup](https://www.meetup.com)

Of course, nothing beats face to face conversation in Spanish. Use Meetup.com to find local Spanish practice meetups and go use your Spanish skills for real.

There you have it, with these tools and resources you have no excuse but to shoot forward in your Spanish.

Conclusion: Life is Short, Learn Faster

"We breathe in our first language, and swim in our second." – Adam Gopnik

Well, there you have it. I hope you're excited! The principles outlined in this book may seem unusual to anyone who has studied Spanish using traditional methods. But just take a good look at how long traditional Spanish learners take to advance. Do you really want to move forward at that snail's pace?

You now have some of the very best Spanish speed-learning tools and techniques in the world at your fingertips. World class Spanish and language learners follow these methods. Make sure you do to. With them, there is no reason why you won't be speaking good conversational Spanish in a few months. Instead of years.

So, good luck on your Spanish journey.

Hasta luego!

Your Bonus

Take a sneak peek at this excellent book with your **FREE BONUS CHAPTER:**

Learning
300% Faster
25 Learning Techniques of
Accelerated Learning Masters

Introduction: Why You Can Learn 300% Faster... Starting Today!

You are a beautiful learning machine.

However you feel about learning new skills and subject at this moment, know that your brain and body has evolved over millions of years to be the greatest skill and knowledge acquisition tool on the planet. It's the simple truth.

But like with any supercomputer, without a manual we have no idea how to use it properly. It's the same with the human mind and body. For most of human history, we have not made optimal use of our capacity to learn. We haven't known how.

Also, unfortunately the way things are taught at school often creates negative feelings in many of us related to learning new things. We also develop beliefs that we can't learn certain things, and other such nonsense.

Today, we live in very exciting times. The sciences of learning have skyrocketed our understanding of how to use our own minds, and how to learn with incredible speed. Many different fields are contributing to this area of knowledge, combining and making great leaps forward every year, even every month.

This book collects together and delivers 25 of the most powerful learning concepts and techniques in a simple, easy to follow format. Any one of these techniques has the capacity to have you learning much faster, and when used together these techniques will easily increase your learning speed by 300% and more. Perhaps much more.

Collected here are the simplified lessons of chess masters like Josh Waitzkin, world memory champions like Dominic O'Brien, speed-learning gurus like Tim Ferriss and Joel Canfield, and Neuro Linguistic Programming masters like Tony Robbins and Richard Bandler plus, plenty of other techniques used by the world's top performers and fastest learners. All delivered in a simplified step-by-step way that will allow you to mimic their success, starting right away.

How to use this book

The ideal way to process these lessons is to skim through the book once quickly. Get an overall feel for the content. Then read through it a second time slowly. Make notes on how you might make practical application of any of the techniques.

Then pick out one or two techniques or mindsets that seem most compelling, exciting and realistic to you. Immediately – today – turn to a skill or subject you are learning and begin to make practical application of the techniques. Nothing beats instant action.

Over time return to the book and begin to experiment and apply more and more of these techniques. Play around with them, have fun with it. Remember, you were born to learn. Learning should be fun!

In the first section, you will learn the 8 overall strategies and mindsets of the world's fastest learners. Including how to build deep, lasting excitement and motivation for learning, how to create the ideal learning environment, and how to love the process of learning once more, even in moments of failure and frustration. How to power on through and smash through your learning goals.

In the next section, you will discover the 10 most advanced techniques on the planet for rapid skill acquisition. Including how the world's fastest learners reach world-class standards in 6 months, how to break down any subject or skill to identify its most essential components, and how to use this to seemingly perform miracles in progression. And also how you can use NLP modelling to quickly understand a specific skill and replicate it as well as a pro.

In the third section, you will learn 9 powerful and practical memory techniques used by world memory champions. Including how your brain stores any fact permanently, with easy recall. How to learn vast quantities of academic facts permanently and rapidly, how to remember names, 'to do' lists, and numbers easily, and how to learn speeches and presentations to deliver without notes. And as a final treat, how to build memory palaces for truly epic heights of knowledge storage.

My friend, I am excited for you!

In the very first chapter, we'll talk about how to embrace the mindset of Michael Jordan to begin learning seriously fast.

Chapter One: Develop a Nurturing Mindset for Incremental Progress

“My greatest skill was being teachable,” – Michael Jordan

Even before you take your first step in learning anything, you must make sure that you have the correct understanding of what you are as a learning entity. You must develop and nurture healthy, flexible, liberated mindset.

People view themselves as one of two things. Either as complete already, with smartness that is ingrained, already determined, a part of who you are. Or as a constantly evolving person, who has no fixed level of smartness. It just grows or fades depending on what actions and work you do.

Chess prodigy, martial arts champion and speed-learning specialist Josh Waitkin defines these two ways of thinking as...

Read the Rest of *Learning 300% Faster: 25 Learning techniques of Accelerated Learning Masters*

[Click Here to Download!](#)