

Benny's Pocket Spanish Phrasebook



A language hacking resource from
Fluent in 3 Months





There are tonnes of benefits in learning to speak the local language when you travel, even if you just learn a few phrases.

People really appreciate it when you speak to them in their own language, and there's a good chance you'll make memories you can treasure for life.

Plus, speaking Spanish is the best way to learn it. Even as a total beginner.

By learning a few basic Spanish phrases for travel, you can create lasting friendships all over the world. Making friends, enjoying the culture, and learning about the best spots only locals know - that's the real dream of travelling, isn't it?

There are plenty of Spanish phrasebooks that cover *hundreds* or even thousands of phrases, and it can quickly become overwhelming.

That's why I've focused on 50 of the most useful phrases for travelling to a Spanish speaking destination.

Let's get you prepared for your journey!

Benny Lewis

Founder and CEO, Fluent in 3 Months

The 5 Essential Phrases to Know When Traveling to a Spanish Speaking Country

These are the five phrases I would recommend you learn before arriving in a Spanish speaking destination:

1. ¿CUÁNTO CUESTA?	HOW MUCH IS IT?
2. ¿PUEDE HABLAR MÁS DESPACIO?	CAN YOU SPEAK MORE SLOWLY?
3. ¿DÓNDE ESTÁ ____?	WHERE IS ____?
4. ¿PUEDE AYUDARME?_	CAN YOU HELP ME?
5. ME GUSTARÍA _____	I WOULD LIKE _____

How to Say “Hello!” in Spanish

You can't start a conversation without knowing some Spanish greetings. So here are some common Spanish phrases to get started.

This is the most common greeting is **hola**, which means “hello”. You can use this one at any time of day, and it always sounds natural.

You can also try the following:

“Good Morning” in Spanish

To greet someone in the morning (**la mañana**), you say **buenos días**. During the afternoon (**la tarde**), you can switch to **buenas tardes** (“good afternoon”), which is also in the plural form.

“Nice to Meet You” in Spanish

When you're introduced to someone, you can say **mucho gusto**. It translates as “pleasure”, like “It's a pleasure”. But that's a bit formal in English, so a more accurate translation would be “Nice to meet you”.

“My Name is...” in Spanish

When you introduce yourself, you can start by saying **Me llamo** _____. My favourite conversation starter is **Hola, soy Benny** (“Hi, I’m Benny”). This second version is a more conversational way to say your name, but **_me llamo_** is more straightforward.

“What’s Your Name?” in Spanish

Once you’ve introduced yourself, you should ask what the other person’s name is (if they don’t beat you to it). To ask someone else’s name, you say **¿Cómo te llamas?**

“Have a Good Day” in Spanish

Say goodbye by saying **¡Tenga un buen día!** to wish someone well with the rest of their day. If it’s someone you’re close to, you can say it more casually: **que tengas un buen día.**

“See You Soon” in Spanish

If you’ve made plans to meet with someone again, throw in a friendlier phrase: **¡Hasta luego!**

“Goodbye” in Spanish

You can say **adiós** for “goodbye”, or **cuídate** to say “take care”.

Being Polite in Spanish as You Travel



Naturally, you want to make sure you can express yourself in a polite way so you don’t offend anyone. So memorize these important phrases to mind your manners.

“Please” in Spanish

When asking for something, make sure to include **por favor** to say “please”. It usually gets added on at the end of a sentence, much like in English.

“Thank You” in Spanish

Make sure to always say thank you! You can say **gracias**, or **muchas gracias** if you want to say “thank you very much”.

“You’re Welcome” in Spanish

If someone says thank you, you can reply with **de nada** which means “you’re welcome” or “no problem”. You could also use **mucho gusto** here to say “it was my pleasure”.

“Excuse Me” in Spanish

There are a few main ways to say this in Spanish, depending on how you use it. If you need a favour, you say **perdone**. And if you need to get by someone, you would say **perdón, disculpe** or **con permiso** (this is a bit more polite, like “pardon me”).

“I’m Sorry” in Spanish

If you did something wrong or need to apologise for something, say **lo siento**. As in English, you can also use **disculpe** (“excuse me”) for an apology in some situations.

Chit Chat Phrases in Spanish



Now it’s time to start diving into useful Spanish phrases for conversation!

“How Are You?” in Spanish

There are several ways to ask how someone is doing, but the most common and direct translation is **¿Cómo estás?** or **¿Cómo está usted?** (which is more polite). If someone asks you this question, you can reply **bien** for “I’m well” or **así así** for “so-so”. Follow with **¿Y tú?** (“And you?”) to keep the conversation going.

“What’s Up?” in Spanish

For a more casual greeting, you can use the expression **¿Qué tal?** You’ll hear this one quite a bit, as it’s more natural in everyday conversation - like “what’s up” or “how’s it going?” When someone says this to you, you can answer the same way as above: **bien** (or **muy bien**, meaning “very well”).

“What Are Your Hobbies?” in Spanish

Start getting to know others by asking what they like to do in their spare time. You can ask **¿Cuáles son tus aficiones?** for “What are your hobbies?” **Un hobby** and **un pasatiempo** are other common ways to say “hobby”. You can also ask **¿Qué haces para divertirte?** which means “What do you like to do for fun?”

“I Like...” and “I Don’t Like...” in Spanish

You asked them about their interests, and now they’ve asked you. So how do you express what you like? You say **me gusta** (“I like”) or **no me gusta** (“I don’t like”). For instance, **me gusta viajar** (“I like to travel”) or **No me gusta la pizza** (“I don’t like pizza”). Just kidding with that last one - who doesn’t like pizza?

“Where Are You From?” in Spanish

Another small talk question that helps to keep the chit-chat going. You can ask someone where they’re from by saying **¿De dónde eres?**

Talking About the Weather in Spanish

Weather talk isn’t exactly what you would think of when learning Spanish phrases for travel. However, it’s always handy to know a few words or phrases about the weather, as it’s universal small talk.

The word for “weather” is **el clima** or **el tiempo**, and you can say things like **¡Buen clima hoy!** (“Nice weather today!”). Or, the opposite: **El mal tiempo hoy, eh** (“Bad weather today, huh”).

Other phrases you can use are **hace calor hoy** (“It’s hot today”) and **hace frío hoy** (“It’s cold today”).

Out on the Town & Getting Around: Key Spanish Phrases for Tourists

When you’re travelling, it helps to know how to express yourself when you’re out to eat, shopping, or trying to find your way around!

“I Would Like...” in Spanish

If you want to ask for something, use **me gustaría...** as the basic Spanish stem to get started. A few common things you might ask for: food, drinks, or to buy something.

If you want to ask for something to eat, say **me gustaría comer...** For something to drink, you say **me gustaría beber...** And to say what you would like to buy, you say **me gustaría comprar...**

Add the word for what you're trying to get at the end, like **Me gustaría comprar un periódico** ("I would like to buy a newspaper").

To make it even easier, you could always point to what you want and say **esto** for "this." So in that last example, you could hand the cashier the newspaper you want to buy and say **Me gustaría comprar esto** ("I'd like to buy this").

“Can I See a Menu, Please?” in Spanish

If you're out to eat and trying to figure out what you want to ask for, you can first ask to see the menu. **Un menú, por favor** ("A menu, please") will do the trick.

Related Learning: [Spanish Food Vocabulary: A Guide to Spanish Cuisine and Spanish Eating Culture – with Lots of Spanish Vocab](#)

“Check/Bill, Please” in Spanish

When you're finished with your meal, you'll need to ask for the check/bill. You can ask for it by saying **La cuenta, por favor**.

“Cheers” in Spanish

Of course, you need to know how to toast at happy hour! Whenever you meet with someone over drinks, say ¡**Salud!** for "Cheers!"

“How Much Does it Cost?” in Spanish

When you're out shopping, you'll likely want to know how much everything is. To ask the price, say **¿Cuánto cuesta eso?** which is "How much does it cost?"

“Do You Have...” in Spanish

To ask if someone has something you need, you can say **¿Tienes...?** followed by the word for what you need. Are you at the hotel and in need of toiletries, like toilet paper? Ask the receptionist **¿Tienes papel higiénico?**

“I Need...” in Spanish

Or, you could say "I need" to express what you're looking for. You say **necesito...** and then whatever word you need. Like in the last example, you could say **Necesito papel higiénico** ("I need toilet paper").

“I Want...” and “I Don't Want...” in Spanish

If you remember those [old Taco Bell commercials with the little Chihuahua](#), you probably already know this one: **Yo quiero Taco Bell**. Any time you want something, you can say **yo quiero** and any time you don't want something, you say **yo no quiero**.

“Where is...” in Spanish

When you’re travelling, it’s easy to get a bit lost or unsure of where things are located. You can use the phrase **¿Dónde está...?** to ask for directions or where something is. Some basic Spanish sentences that may be helpful:

- **¿Dónde puedo encontrar un taxi?** (“Where can I find a taxi?”)
- **¿Dónde hay un banco?** (“Where is a bank?”)
- **¿Dónde está ____ hotel?** (“Where is (your hotel’s name) hotel?”)
- **¿Dónde está el baño?** (“Where is the bathroom?”)

Direction Words in Spanish

If you’re going to ask where something is located, it’s helpful to know the words to understand the answer. Here are some basic direction words you should know:

- **Izquierda** (“Left”)
- **Derecha** (“Right”)
- **Siga recto** (“Go straight ahead”)
- **Gire** (“Turn”)
- **Aquí** (“Here”)
- **Allí** (“There”)
- **Adelante** (“Up ahead”)
- **Deténgase aquí** (“Stop here”)

“What Time Is It?” in Spanish

Don’t have a watch? Ask someone for the time by saying **¿Qué hora tienes?** You can also ask more casually with **¿Qué hora es?**

“What Is This?” in Spanish

One of the most useful basic Spanish phrases you can know when learning the language: **¿Qué es esto?**

Anytime you don’t know the word for something, you can ask by saying “What is this?” Then you can keep expanding your Spanish vocab!

Ask the Important Questions



To really find your way around or continue a conversation, you need to know how to ask questions. From asking about a person to trying to understand what someone is saying, these words are crucial to communication, learning, and building your Spanish sentences.

The 5 W's in Spanish

Who, what, when, where, why. If you know these words, you can get the answers you need.

- **¿Quién...?** (“Who”)
- **¿Qué...?** (“What”)
- **¿Cuándo...?** (“When?”)
- **¿Dónde...?** (“Where?”)
- **¿Por qué...?** (“Why?”)

“How” in Spanish

To ask “how,” you say **¿Cómo...?** And to ask how many, you ask **¿Cuántos?** Plus, if you need to know which things, you can ask **¿Cuál?** means “Which?”

“Can You Help Me?” in Spanish

If you're in need of help while out, you can ask **¿Puede ayudarme?** This is a good one to remember, too, because if you're lost or you're shopping and have a question, you can get their attention with **Disculpe. ¿Puede ayudarme?**

For an emergency, shout **¡Auxilio!** (“Help!”)

“Can You Say That Again?” in Spanish

When you're starting out learning a language, it's hard to keep up with native speakers sometimes. If you didn't catch what they said, you can ask **¿Puede repetirlo, por favor?** (“Can you say that again, please?”).

If you still can't understand, try asking them to say it slowly by asking **¿Puedes hablar más despacio?** (“Can you speak more slowly?”)

If all else fails, you can ask **¿Hablas inglés?** (“Do you speak English?”)

Speak. Experience. Enjoy. Use the Spanish Travel Phrases You Know



Now you're ready for your travels and prepared to start having some basic Spanish conversations! The locals will appreciate your efforts, and you'll have a more meaningful cultural experience.

Want the inner confidence of knowing you can handle real conversations in Spanish?

Then join us in the [Fluent in 3 Months Bootcamp](#). You'll have a 15-minute conversation in Spanish after just 90 days of learning.



