

Spanish AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

About 400 million people speak Spanish as their native language.

Spanish is growing more rapidly than other languages -- Britannica World Data estimates that by 2030 Spanish will be spoken by 7,5% of the world population; by 2050 the number of Hispanics in the USA is projected to reach to about 132 million people, which, at that point, will be approximately one third of the total American population.

Spanish is the official language of 21 countries.

Spanish is one of six official languages in the United Nations and in the EU.

Spanish is one of the top languages in communication and on the Internet.

Spanish can also open the gateway to communication with many millions of people who speak other romance languages.



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Tune into Spanish



Spanish AN ATTRACTIVE LANGUAGE

In the first stages, Spanish is easy to learn because

- Its pronunciation is quite simple.
- There is an almost direct correspondence between spoken and written forms -- this makes spelling and pronunciation easier.
- A basic level of communication can be achieved fairly rapidly.

It is easy to find opportunities to practise Spanish.

Spain is the first tourist destination for British holiday makers.

More than 14 million UK tourists visit Spain every year. Spanish opens up a whole dimension of holiday opportunities abroad.

Spanish A LANGUAGE FOR BUSINESS

The 2009 CBI skills survey revealed that 74% of employers want to employ people with conversational skills in a foreign language.

Spanish opens up opportunities for political cooperation and trade and investment in Spain and in 19 Latin American countries.

The number of learners of Spanish in an emerging economy as that of Brazil was multiplied by 5 in the last 5 years.

Spanish A LANGUAGE FOR CULTURAL ENJOYMENT

Languages help us build friendships with people across the globe, and understand and experience different cultures in a way that enriches our own lives, too.

Spanish offers the key to the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Spain and Latin America.

Spanish and Latin American cultures include painters such as Goya, Picasso or Diego Rivera and writers as Cervantes, Lorca, García Márquez or Vargas Llosa. Flamenco, salsa, Plácido Domingo and Shakira are all part of Spanish and Latin American musical heritage.

Spanish speaking countries are also leaders in sports such as football, tennis or Formula 1 motor racing as it is shown in the successes of the Spanish team in the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Nadal or Fernando Alonso. Films in Spanish include those of Almodóvar, Guillermo del Toro or Amenábar and stars like Penélope Cruz, Salma Hayek or Javier Bardem.

Spanish A LANGUAGE FOR EDUCATION

The growing popularity of Spanish means that wherever you live you are likely to find a course that suits your needs.

In British schools, Spanish is the only language which has kept a constant growth for the last ten years. A high percentage of universities in Britain offer degrees in Spanish and/or courses of Spanish as a foreign language. With 33,176 European students in 2009, Spain receives the highest number of Erasmus students in Europe.

For self-study, there is a large selection of books, and audiovisual materials for learning Spanish, as well as on-line courses.

Spain is only a couple of hours away by plane allowing for a variety of links and exchange programmes.

If you want to study Spanish in Spain, there are many different options: quality courses adapted to all requirements, University and post-graduate studies, paid internships, living with families as an au-pair or working...

The Consejería de Educación through its offices in London, Manchester and Edinburgh offers in-service training, resources and publications in support of the teaching of Spanish.

