

For Student and Teacher

Course Components

Workbooks A and B

Audio Files

Vocabulary Word Card Packet

Teacher's Guide

Procedures

Do each assignment.

Score your work using the answer key.

Correct any answers you had wrong.

Re-score.

When it's time for a self check, study until you are ready for it;
then have your teacher initial it before you do it.

Score the self check. Your score must be 80% or more
before you can go on to the next assignment.

If you score less than 80%, ask your teacher for instructions.

SPEEDY SPANISH I Book A (Units 1-3)

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The Spanish Alphabet

Letter	Name	Pronunciation
A a	a	ah
B b	be	beh
C c	ce	seh
D d	de	deh
E e	e	eh
F f	efe	eh-feh
G g	ge	heh
H h	ache	ah-cheh
I i	i	ee
J j	jota	ho-ta
K k	ka	kah
L l	ele	eh-leh
M m	eme	eh-meh
N n	ene	eh-neh
Ñ ñ	eñe	ehn-yeh
O o	o	o
P p	pe	peh
Q q	cu	koo
R r	ere	eh-reh
S s	ese	eh-seh
T t	te	teh
U u	u	oo
V v	ve	veh
X x	equis	eh-kees
Y y	ye	yeh
Z z	zeta	seh-tah

Pronunciation

Fortunately, Spanish pronunciation and spelling is easier than English, because the letter sounds are much more consistent, and every word is usually spelled as it is pronounced. The following tips will help you understand some of the differences in Spanish and English letter sounds and usage.

- The *b* and the *v* are often pronounced the same way, but they are stronger at the beginning of a word, as in *burro* (donkey) and *vaca* (cow), and softer in the middle, as after *n* and *m*.
- The *c* before *i* and *e* is pronounced like *s*, as in *cinco* (five) and *centavo* (cent). In all other words, it is like the English *c*, but softer. Avoid making a puff of air when saying the *c* in Spanish. *Ch* used to be a Spanish letter, but is now considered a letter combination. It has the same sound as *ch* in English.
- The letter *s* is similar to the English *s* but a little softer. Avoid a hissing *s* sound, common in English. It helps to keep the tongue forward, just touching the teeth.
- The Spanish *d* is also softer than in English, and is similar to the English “th” in “the” and “that.” Keep your tongue forward, barely touching the back of your front teeth.
- The *g*, before *e* and *i*, sounds like a strongly aspirated *h* (as the *ch* in the German words *Bach*, *nacht*, *buch*). Try saying the English word *huge*, with your tongue nearly tight against the roof of your mouth to pronounce the *h*, and you will come close to the correct sound. Before the letters *a*, *o*, *u*, or a consonant, *g* sounds the same as the *g* in English.
- The letter *h* is always silent.
- The *j* is pronounced as a strongly aspirated *h*, just like the *g* in Spanish before *e* and *i*.
- The *ll* (double L) in Latin American Spanish sounds like the *y* in yes.
- The *ñ* (eñe) is pronounced as the *ni* in *onion*.
- The *q* is always followed by a silent *u* and is pronounced as the letter *k*.
- The *r* has a slight rolling sound, a slight trill, as the tongue touches the hard palate (the roof of the mouth where it meets the gums). Though it is a little difficult, learn this sound as soon as you can.
- The double *rr* is strongly trilled, as the tongue vibrates against the hard palate. This is much harder to learn than the single *r*, but with perseverance you can do it. Many people find it helpful to practice over and over saying the word *ferrocarril* which means “railroad.”
- The letter *t* is like the English *t* but with the tip of the tongue touching the upper teeth, producing a slightly softer sound than in English, almost like a hard *d*.
- The *u* is not pronounced after *g* or *q* when followed by *e* or *i*, as in *guía* (guide).
- The *w* is used rarely, and only for words coming from other languages. It is called *doble-u* or *doble-v* (double u or double v).
- The *x* sometimes sounds like the English *x* and at other times like the Spanish *j*, as in *México* (pronounced *Mé-jico*, with the tongue almost touching the roof of the mouth.) When the *x* occurs at the beginning of a word, it sounds similar to *z*.
- The *y* sounds like the English *y* before a vowel. It is pronounced as the Spanish *i* (ee) when alone or at the end of a word.
- The *z* is usually like the *s* in English, but in Spain it is like the *th* in thin.

Accented Syllables

The rules for accented syllables in words are as follows:

1. When a word ends in a vowel, *n*, or *s*, the next to last syllable is accented.
2. When a word ends in a consonant that is neither *n*, nor *s*, the last syllable is accented.
3. If a word does not follow these rules, it needs an accent mark (tilde) on the accented syllable.
4. An accent mark is used on some words to differentiate between two words that are spelled the same but have different meanings.

Spanish Vowels and Consonants

Each of the five vowels has only one sound: *ah*, *eh*, *ee*, *o*, *oo*. They are pronounced distinctly, never slurred, and shorter than English speakers tend to say them. Most Spanish consonants do not change sounds, and many are pronounced the same way we do in English. One thing to remember, though, is that in general, consonants in Spanish are pronounced more softly than in English.

Spanish Masculine and Feminine Words

A noun is the name of a person, place, thing or state. All Spanish nouns have gender; that is, they are either masculine or feminine; even words referring to things.

- Many Spanish nouns end in either the letter *o* or *a*. The *o* words are usually masculine, and the *a* are feminine. There are common exceptions, like *la mano* (the hand) and *el día* (the day).
- Nouns usually have in front of them the little words *el* or *la* (the) or the words *un* or *una* (a, an). These are called “articles”. Masculine nouns usually use the article *el*, or *un*, and feminine nouns use *la* and *una*. Examples: *el libro* (the book), *la casa* (the house), *un libro* (a book), *una casa* (a house). The words *un* and *una* are also used to mean “one.”
- The plural forms of these articles are *los*, *las*, *unos*, *unas*. *Los libros* (the books), *las casas* (the houses), *unos libros* (some books), etc.
- When writing nouns in plural, this rule helps: if the word ends with a consonant, add *es* but if it ends with a *z*, change the *z* to a *c* before adding *es*. Examples: *el pez* (the fish), *los peces* (the fish). If the word ends with a vowel, add only *s*: *el perro* (the dog), *los perros* (the dogs).
- Some Spanish nouns do not end in *o* or *a*, so the gender must be learned, and it is best to learn right away the correct article that goes with it: *el diente* (the tooth), *la carne* (the meat), *el pan* (the bread).
- Some words have the opposite gender articles in order to make the pronunciation sound more pleasing to the ear, like *el agua*, rather than *la agua*. But the plural form sounds nice: *las aguas*.

Adjectives

Adjectives are descriptive words. Like the articles, they must agree with the nouns in gender and number. *El hombre rico, los hombres ricos* (the rich man, the rich men). *La bicicleta grande, las bicicletas grandes* (the big bicycle, the big bicycles).

The Spanish adjective normally comes after the noun when it describes color, shape, size, degree, nationality or religion. But other adjectives, like those that show a quality or essential characteristic, go in front of the noun, for example: *este libro* (this book), *mi libro* (my book), *el primer libro* (the first book), *la blanca nieve* (the white snow), *una buena mujer* (a good woman), *el blanco lirio* (the white lily).

Spanish Verbs

Spanish verbs have a large number of endings which differ according to subject, tense, and mood. All the infinitive verbs end with the letters *-ar*, *-er*, or *-ir*.

Learning Spanish verbs can feel overwhelming, but don't lose heart. Be patient and persevere and sooner or later you will become familiar with them.

- Two important verbs are *ser* and *estar*. They are used a lot, and both mean "to be." Some of the forms these verbs take are, for *ser*: *soy, eres, es, somos, son, era, etc.* For *estar*: *estoy, estás, está, estamos, están, estuvo, etc.*
- *Ser* makes statements about the permanent or essential nature of a person or thing.
- *Estar* is used for the temporary state or condition of a person or thing, but also for location, for example: *Belén está en Israel* (Bethlehem is in Israel).
- *Él es un hombre* or *él es hombre* (he is a man) uses the verb *ser*.
- *María es muy alta* (Mary is very tall) uses *ser*.
- *Ella está en casa* (she is at home) uses *estar*.
- *Nosotros estamos cansados* (we are tired) uses *estar*.

Punctuation

English uses the verbs *do, does, have*, etc. at the beginning of a question, as well as a question mark at the end. By these we know our tone must rise when reading a question sentence aloud. Spanish sentences do not use *do* or *does* to indicate a question.

The added upside down exclamation mark or question mark indicates to the reader to use voice inflection when reading. To avoid confusion when speaking, we change our intonation. When writing, we add punctuation to know from the very beginning that it is a question.





Unit 1

1



Vocabulary

Begin your audio at Vocabulary 1 and repeat the words.
Replay the soundtrack until you can say the words easily.

the	el, la, los, las	what	qué
is	es, está	where	dónde
yes	sí	how	cómo
and	y	this	esto, este, esta
in	en	that	eso, ese, esa
of	de	a, an	un, una

Grammar Notes

There are two verbs for “is” in Spanish. One is *estar* and tells how you feel or where you are. Spanish conjugates verbs, or changes the end, depending who the subject is. As you read today, you might see *estoy, estás, está, estamos, or están*. These are the different forms or conjugations of the verb “to be.”

The next “is” verb is *ser*. This one is used to say who you are, where you were born, what your occupation is, and things of a more permanent nature. Its conjugations in the present are *soy, eres, es, somos, and son*.

Qué with an accent, as used in this lesson, is translated as “what.” Without an accent it can be “that” or “which/who.” Look at the sentence it’s used in and its translation to determine which way to use the unaccented *que*.



Practice

Begin your audio at Practice 1 and repeat the sentences.

Replay the soundtrack until you can say the sentences easily.

What is this?

¿Qué es esto?

It is a book.

Es un libro.

Where is the book?

¿Dónde está el libro?

Is it on the table?

¿Está en la mesa?

Yes sir, it is on the table.

Sí señor, está en la mesa.

The book and the table are in the house.

El libro y la mesa están en la casa.

How are you?

¿Cómo está usted?



Match

Draw a line from the English word to the correct Spanish word.

the

y

what

cómo

is

en

where

eso, ése, ésa

yes

de

how

un, una

and

sí

this

esto, éste, ésta

in

el, la, los, las

that

qué

of

es, está

a, an

dónde





Memorize

Turn your audio to Memorize 1. Memorize and sing. // means sing twice.

En el principio creó Dios los cielos y la tierra. Génesis 1:1

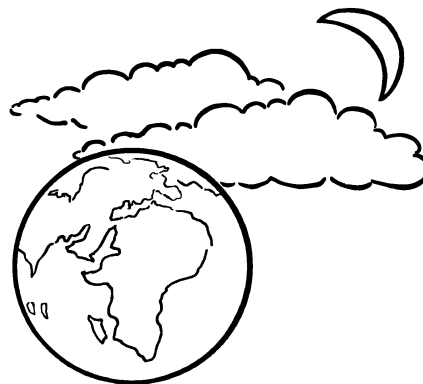
In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:1

// Está aquí, está aquí, A-le-lu-ya, mi Señor está aquí. //

// *He is here. He is here. Hallelujah, my Lord is here.* //

Do the Bible word match.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| _____ heaven | a. aquí |
| _____ beginning | b. Señor |
| _____ here | c. tierra |
| _____ earth | d. cielo |
| _____ Lord | e. principio |





Review

Cut out the vocabulary cards for Lesson 1. Practice the words from Unit 1 until you can say them all correctly. Save the cards for future review.

Optional Spelling Review

Write the correct Spanish word for each English word. Try to spell each word correctly.

what _____

yes _____

how _____

where _____

is _____

of _____

a, an _____

and _____

this _____

in _____

that _____

the _____

