# Which Type of Spanish Should You Learn?



# **There's More than 1 Type of Spanish...?**

#### There are many types of Spanish:

- Andalusian Spanish
- Canarian Spanish
- Castúo
- Murcian
- Mexican Spanish
- Belizean Spanish
- Honduran Spanish
- Rioplatense Spanish
- and many more...

But, there are 2 main types to know about...

- 1. Castilian Spanish
- 2. Latin American Spanish

## How the Type of Spanish Impacts What You Should Learn

Pronunciation

Vocabulary

**Subject Pronouns & Conjugations** 

Tenses

More on these later...

# **Castilian Spanish**

- # of Native Speakers: 50+ million people
  - Approx. 45 million in Spain
- Best suited for Europe
- Has its own dialects and variations

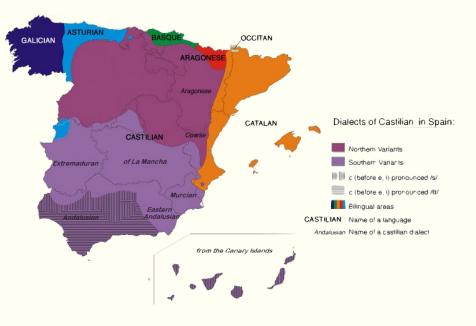


Image Source: Wikipedia

# **Latin American Spanish**

- # of Native Speakers: Over 440 million people
- Many different countries/regions
  - a. Various strains and dialects of Latin American Spanish
- Top 5 Countries make up over 60% of Latin American speakers
  - a. Mexico: 124 M
  - b. Colombia: 50 M
  - c. Argentina: 45 M
  - d. Venezuela: 32 M
  - e. Peru: 29 M
- Many Tourist Destinations
  - a. Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, etc.



Image Source: Wikipedia

## **Castilian vs Latin American Spanish**

	Pronunciation	Vocabulary	Subject Pronouns & Conjugations	Tenses	# Speakers	Used In
Latin American Spanish	- No distinction	- Lentes - Pluma - Estacionarse - Tipo	- Ustedes - Vos (Río Platense)	- Preterite is dominant	+440 Million	North America Central Am. Caribbean South America
Castilian Spanish	- Different sounds for 'c' and 'z'	- Gafas - Bolígrafo - Aparcar - Tío	- Vosotros - Tú	- Present perfect is dominant	~50 Million	Spain Europe

# **Ok, So Which Should I Learn?**

- Identify your learning goals and needs.
- Choose the type of Spanish that better serves your goals.
- If you foresee yourself interacting in a specific Spanish-speaking country, focus on their dialect.
- Learn Standard Spanish if you need to interact with speakers around the world.



# **Introducing: Standard Spanish**

- Standard or Neutral Spanish is a type of Spanish that uses words and expressions that are common for a <u>most Spanish speakers</u>.
- It focuses on vocabulary.
- No slang or specific idioms.
- Spanish speakers <u>share 90% of the vocabulary</u>.
- All Spanish speakers are able to speak standard Spanish.
- There is Standard Latin American Spanish & Standard Castilian Spanish.
  - Removing slang and idioms improves your chances of communicating with other speakers.



Tower of Babel - Image Source: Wikipedia

# **Benefits of Standard Spanish**

- Ability to understand and speak to other Spanish speakers.
- Solid foundations to focus on a specific dialect.
- Acquisition of vocabulary you can use in formal contexts.
- Less conjugations and pronouns to deal with.
- Not having to learn the nuances of slang.

# What if you decide to learn a Spanish dialect instead?

Don't worry! Aside from informal terms, you'll be able to communicate.

#### Standard Spanish in action:

- News & newspapers
- Dubbed movies
- Most Spanish learning blogs

## Thanks! Next Steps...

- 1. Establish your learning goals (where/how you want to use Spanish).
- 2. Identify the type of Spanish you need.
- 3. Move on to the next video.