
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	- Lentas - 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 most Spanish speakers.
- It focuses on vocabulary.
- No slang or specific idioms.
- Spanish speakers share 90% of the vocabulary.
- 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.