
How to Learn Spanish Faster & Easier



What to Focus on... and How to Focus on it!

Learning Spanish: it's a skill like any other

We all have different things that we're good at.
Those might be:

- Math & Science
- Sports
- A musical instrument
- Programming
- Knitting or sewing
- Cooking
- Carpentry
- *Or anything else...*

The key to getting good at anything is to:

1. **Understand the fundamentals of that skill.**
2. **Studying / Practicing!**

Not the most exciting answer, but it's true.

But the journey of improvement can be VERY exciting.

The Fundamentals **Impacts of Spanish** (and any language)

There are 4 primary skills to learning Spanish (and most languages):

Reading

Writing

Listening

Speaking

Yes, there is studying grammar, verb tenses, vocabulary, and all that.

But that's just the set of rules which you apply to these 4 skills.

(and that's coming from me... a grammar nerd!)

How the 4 Primary Spanish Skills Work

- These 4 skills actually work in pairs!
 - **Reading & Writing** - Written Communication
 - **Speaking & Listening** - Verbal Communication
- Each pair consists of 2 types:
 - Inputs: Taking information into the brain (reading and listening)
 - Outputs: Broadcasting/conveying to others (writing & speaking)
- So each pair (written & verbal) consists of 1 input and 1 output skill.

How the 4 Primary Spanish Skills Work

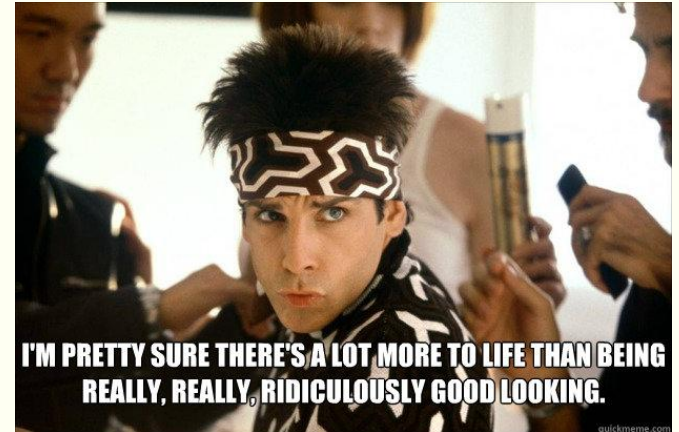
	Input Skill	Output Skill
Written Communication	Reading	Writing
Verbal Communication	Listening	Speaking

Ultimately, you need to be highly competent at all 4 skills to master it and become natively fluent in Spanish.

But...

Becoming Fluent in Spanish

- Do you need all 4 skills?
 - Many believe you need to become completely fluent in the language and therefore need to master all 4 skills.
 - Long term... Yes!
- But when starting out, consider a different approach.
- Many people learning Spanish have a specific goal in mind...
 - To be able to travel and talk with local Spanish speakers
 - Hold conversations naturally & effortlessly

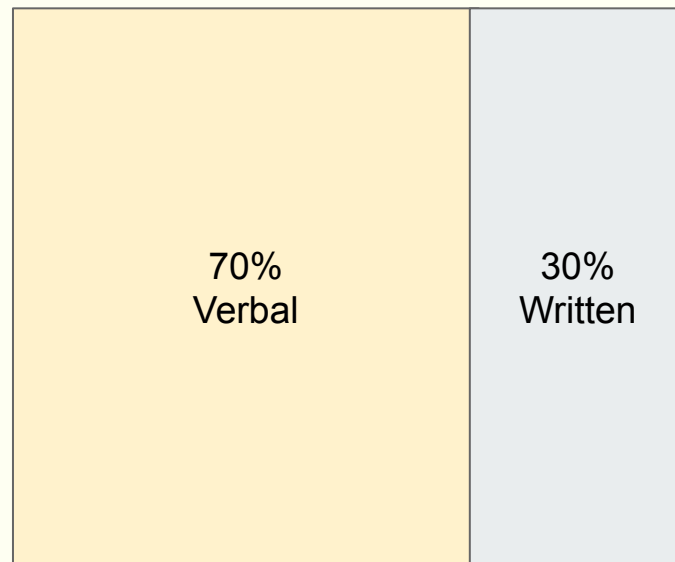


Goal-Based Fluency

- Often these goals mean you'll be able to develop 1 form of communication (e.g. listening and speaking skills) more than the other (e.g. your reading and writing skills)
 - or vice versa
- Doesn't mean that you don't want to be able to read a menu, brochure or be able to text message with other Spanish speakers.
- It simply means that your immediate goals are geared toward speaking and listening (or reading and writing).
- And so, your immediate goals are not solely important, but more important short-term.

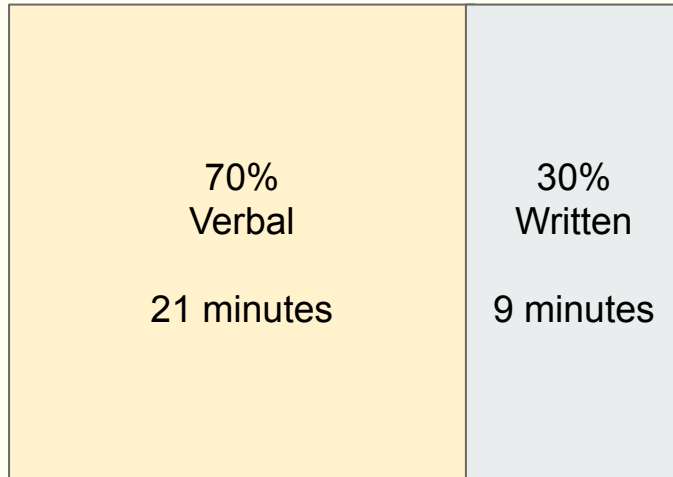
Focus on What Matters

- So while you should always be developing all 4 skills...
- I encourage you to focus on the pair of skills that will help you achieve your immediate Spanish goals.
- As shown in **Tip #7** of my *Spanish Hacks* resource, you could plan to do a 70/30 split with your study/practice time.
- Example: **Verbal is more important to you?**
Split your your time 70% verbal practice and 30% written.

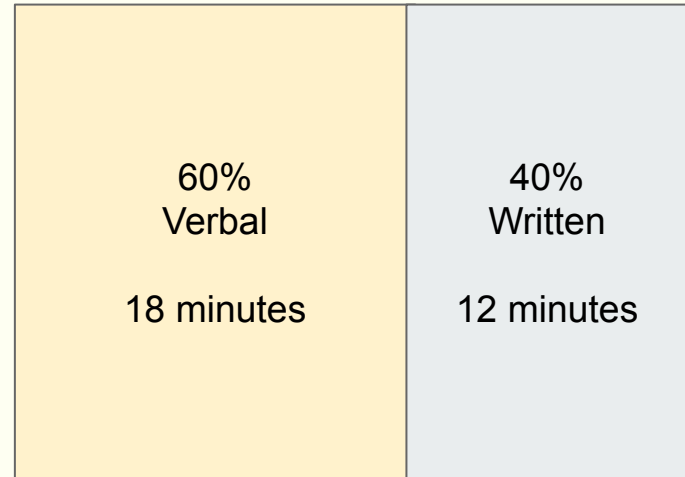


Focus on 2/4 Skills which Matter Now

2 scenarios, with 30 minutes per day of study/practice, optimizing for speaking & listening as short-term goal:



That's more than 2x time spent on immediate goal.



That's still 50% more time spent on verbal communication!

Balancing the Other 2 Skills

- Again, many will want to become strong in all 4 long term.
- But if you focus more on the short term goal, you're more likely to stay engaged, see progress and stick with it.
- The “long term” won't matter if you don't do things today (short term) and grow from there.
- As you progress toward achieving your initial goal, you'll naturally notice deficits in the lagging skills. Your impulse will be to balance these out.
- THEN you can re-assess and re-calibrate your focus.

Summary: What & How to Focus

What to Focus on:

- Define your short-term goals
- Make it singular if they conflict -> which is most important (now)
- Which skills do you need most?
 - Reading and writing?
 - Or Speaking and listening?

How to Focus on it:

- Develop a plan for focusing on 2/4 skills
- What Spanish studying materials/resources will support those objectives?
- How will you spend your time? (e.g. 70/30, 80/20, 60/40, etc.)

How to Approach Learning Spanish

- Get Familiar with the Path to Learning the Language
- Many topics!
- Another way to reduce discouragement & improve engagement is to know what you need to learn and how much effort to put into each topic.
- Understanding the “peaks and valleys” of learning Spanish.
- Not all parts of learning the language are equal.
 - Some can be learned in a day.
 - Others take (much) more time.

The Complete Spanish Learner's Roadmaps

Full Step-by-Step Guided Curriculum for:

Beginner | **Intermediate** | **Advanced**



Beginner's Roadmap for Spanish

Tricky Topics:

- Reflexive verbs
- Stem-changing verbs
- Preterite and Imperfect
- Impersonal 'se'
- Verb 'gustar'
- 'Ser' vs 'estar'



Intermediate Roadmap for Spanish

Tricky Topics:

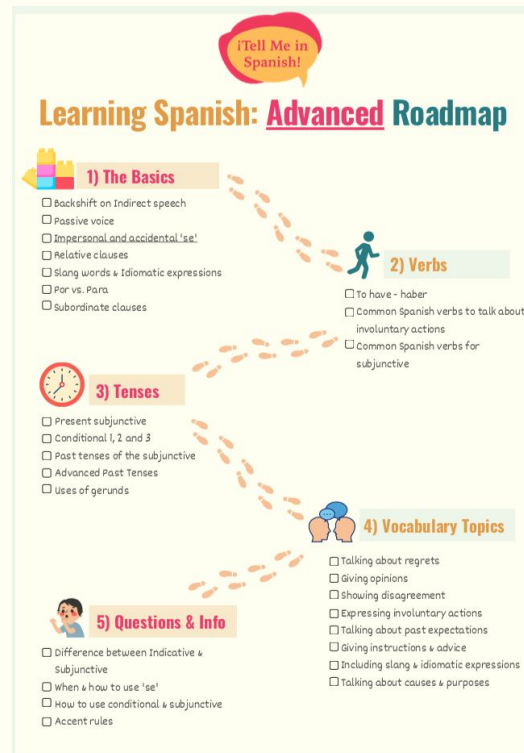
- Direct and indirect object pronouns
- Indirect speech
- Present subjunctive
- Past tenses
- Relative pronouns



Advanced Roadmap for Spanish

Tricky Topics:

- Accidental 'se'
- Por vs para
- Imperfect subjunctive
- Conditional & subjunctive (if sentences)



Resources for Learning Spanish

There are SO many learning resources for Spanish available today!

Exchange Programs

Friends & Penpals

Blogs & Forums

YouTube

Textbooks

Apps

Podcasts

Online Courses &
Programs

The list goes on and on...

Feel free to check out my recommended Spanish resources: www.tellmeinspanish.com/resources/