

BIENVENIDOS

SEÑORA RIVERA

ESPAÑOL 2

ESPAÑOL 1 y 2 PARA HISPANO-HABLANTES

Who's learning Spanish these days?

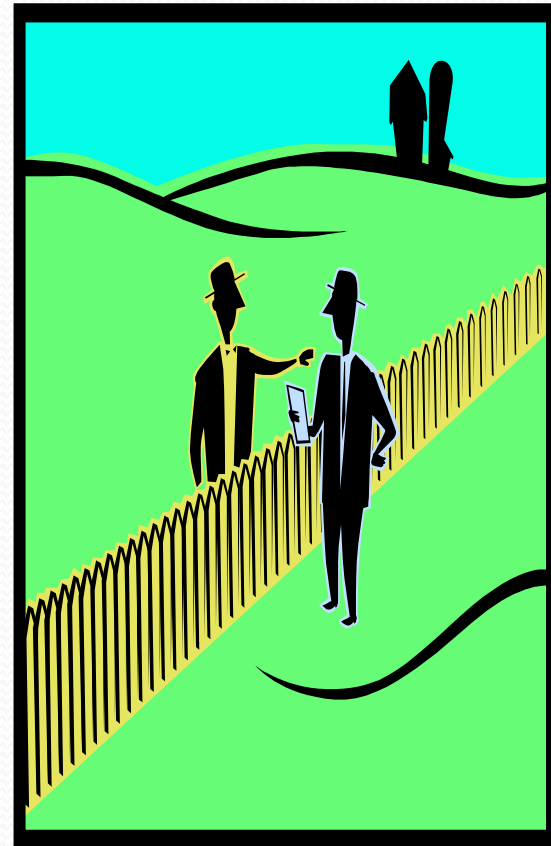
- For starters, residents of the United States, a bunch not known for conquering monolingualism, are studying Spanish in record numbers. Spanish, too, is becoming of greater importance in Europe, where it is often the foreign language of choice after English. And it's no wonder that Spanish is a popular second or third language: with some **400 million** speakers, it's one of most commonly spoken languages in the world (after English, Chinese and Hindustani), and according to some counts it has more native speakers than English does. It is an official language on four continents and is of historical importance elsewhere.

Better understanding of English

- Much of the vocabulary of English has Latin origins, much of which came to English by way of *French*. Since Spanish is also a Latin language, you will find, as you study Spanish, that you have a better understanding of your native vocabulary. Similarly, both Spanish and English share Indo-European roots, so their grammars are similar. There is perhaps no more effective way to learn English grammar than by studying the grammar of another language, for the study forces you to think about how your language is structured. It's not unusual, for example, to gain an understanding of English verbs' tenses and moods by learning how those verbs are used in Spanish.

Knowing your neighbors

- Not all that many years ago, the Spanish-speaking population of the United States was confined to the Mexican border states, Florida and New York City. But no more. Even in the Canadian border, there are Spanish-speaking people.



Travel

- Yes, it is perfectly possible to visit Mexico, Spain and even Ecuatorial Guinea without speaking a word of Spanish. But it isn't nearly half as much fun.



Cultural understanding

- While most of us can't hope to learn the languages of more than one or two cultures other than that of our own, those that we can learn help us to learn how other people learn and think. Spanish also offers a wealth of literature, both modern and traditional.



Learning other languages

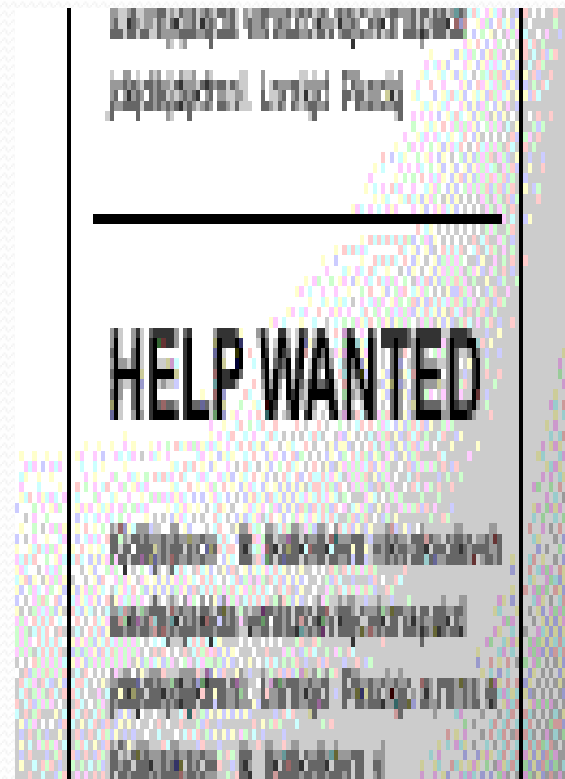
- If you can learn Spanish, you'll have a head start in learning the other Latin-based languages such as French and Italian. And it will even help you learn Russian and German, since they too have Indo-European roots and have some characteristics (such as gender and extensive conjugation) that are present in Spanish but not English. And I wouldn't be surprised if learning Spanish might even help you learn Japanese or any other non-Indo-European language, since intensive learning the structure of a language can give you a reference point for learning others.

It's easy

- Spanish is one of the easiest foreign languages to learn. Much of its vocabulary is similar to English's, and written Spanish is almost completely phonetic: Look at almost any Spanish word and you can tell how it is pronounced. And while mastering the grammar of Spanish can be a challenge, basic grammar is straightforward enough that you can have meaningful communication after only a few lessons.

Employment opportunities:

- If you're in the United States and work in one of the helping professions including medicine and education, you'll find your opportunities expand by knowing Spanish. And wherever you live, if you're in any occupation that involves international trade, communications or tourism, you'll similarly find opportunities to use your new language skills.



It's fun:

- Whether you enjoy talking, reading, or mastering challenges, you'll find all of them in learning Spanish. For many people, there's something inherently enjoyable about successfully speaking in another tongue. Perhaps that's one reason children sometimes speak in Pig Latin or devise secret codes of their own. Although learning a language can be work, the efforts pay off quickly when you finally get to use your skills.
- For many people, Spanish offers the most rewards with the least effort of any foreign language. It's never too late to begin learning.

Gain access to Spanish art, music, literature and films

- Have you ever wondered what it would be like to view a film in its original language instead of watching it in a dubbed version? Are you tired of being distracted from enjoying a film by the need to read the film's subtitles? Have you wondered if the translation of the film is accurate or if you are missing out on the details in the film? Becoming proficient in Spanish would greatly enhance your enjoyment of such Oscar-winning films as *Belle Epoque* (1993), *All About My Mother* (1999), and *The Sea Inside* (2004).
- In addition to deriving more enjoyment from films, a knowledge of Spanish would help gain access into the minds and times of the people responsible for some of the greatest literature in the Spanish-speaking world. Who hasn't heard of Miguel de Cervantes, whose novel, *Don Quixote* was not only groundbreaking in the 16th century when first published, but continues to fascinate and inspire current audiences?
- What about Spanish music and art? Most people would recognize Cuban singing-sensation, Gloria Estefan, and Spanish cubist painter Pablo Picasso is known worldwide for his modern-style of art that has influenced the artistic community around the globe. In recent years, film stars from Spain and Latin America such as Penelope Cruz, Antonio Banderas, and Salma Hayek have become recognized not just at home, but in Hollywood as well.

Why learn Spanish?

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- Better understanding of English
- Knowing your neighbors
- Travel
- Cultural Understanding
- Learning other languages
- It's easy
- Employment opportunities
- It's fun
- Gain access to Spanish art, music, literature and film

Most Spoken Language

- Mandarin
- Spanish
- English
- Hindu/Urdu
- Arabic
- Bengali
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Japanese



OFICIAL LANGUAGE

- México
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
- Panamá
- Cuba
- República Dominicana
- Puerto Rico*
- Venezuela
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Perú
- Bolivia
- Paraguay
- Uruguay
- Argentina
- Chile

Idioma Oficial

Europe

- España

Africa

- Guinea Ecuatorial*

It is spoken in...

- United States of América
- Filipinas
- Guyana
- Béliçe

Links

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- Ginnette.Rivera@marion.k12.fl.us
- www.classzone.com