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Spanish Level 1: Learn To Speak And Understand Spanish With Pimsleur Language Programs



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Synopsis

The PimsleurÃƒâ Ã Â® Method: the easiest, fastest way to learn a new language. Completely portable, easily downloadable, and lots of fun. You'll be speaking and understanding in no time flat! Spanish Level 1 includes 15 hours of spoken language practice and one hour of reading instruction in thirty 30-minute lessons. In the first 10 lessons, you'll cover the basics: saying hello, asking for or giving information or preferences, scheduling a meal or a meeting, asking for or giving basic directions, and much more. You'll be able to handle minimum courtesy requirements, understand much of what you hear, and be understood at a beginning level but with near-native pronunciation skills. In the next 10 lessons, you'll build on what you've learned. Expand your menu, increase your scheduling abilities from general to specific, start to deal with currency and exchanging money, refine your conversations, and add over a hundred new vocabulary items. You'll understand more of what you hear and be able to really participate with speech that is smoother and more confident. In the final 10 lessons of level 1, you'll be speaking and understanding at an intermediate level. In this phase, more and more directions are given in the target language, which moves your learning to a whole new plane. You can talk about your immediate family, go on a car trip, and ask for and understand directions. Lessons include shopping, visiting friends, going to a restaurant, plans for the evening, and traveling with children. You'll be able to speak comfortably about things that happened in the past and make plans for the future. Reading lessons are included at the end of lesson 30 to provide you with an introduction to reading the Spanish alphabet. These 15 lessons, which total about one hour, are designed to teach you to sound out words with Spanish pronunciation and accent. A reading booklet to be used with the audio lessons is also included in PDF format.

Book Information

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Reference

Customer Reviews

I have "put off" learning Spanish for years due to a funny reason; I learned Portuguese, at least enough "street" Brazilian Portuguese to get by on a visit to my cousins in South America. After a month, I was able to yammer acceptably and read enough to get by. However, Portuguese is similar enough but different enough than Spanish that I always found it difficult to remember Spanish words because I'd get the Portuguese mixed up with it-- the "little Portuguese words" would get mixed up. Por, para, mas, mais, hoy, hoje, you see the problem.Finally, enough! Time to learn Spanish. The neighbors speak it, friends speak Spanish at home and from time to time, it's useful to know a few sentences. I'm always happy with the Pimsleur method --the way they go back and bring up older material to refresh your memory and the method to have you think "out loud" to figure out new ways of putting the words together works for me. As the sections get more advanced, the speed of the speakers increases subtly, and the instructions are given in Spanish, not English, so you get used to hearing the Spanish spoken to you.By the end of 30 lessons, you really don't know much more than getting around, making arrangements, setting appointments, telling time, counting money and asking simple questions. But it's enough for convenience for a vacation. To really be fluent, you need much more than this, plus practice (with a native speaker and preferably in country) and also a book on Spanish idioms, because Spanish is a language (like French) with curious phrases such as "he has no grandmother" that really mean "he's a boor" and not the literal meaning you'd think. And Spanish requires the niceties and polite little phrases that grease social interaction, more than you'd suspect. But for a start, these thirty lessons are fun and you'll be able to watch La Copa Mundial Futbol which is EVER so much better on the Spanish-language sports cable station. GOOOOOOOOOOOLLLLLLLLLLLLL!

Love this series! After a few months of listening and speaking during my commute, I can communicate better in Spanish than after years of studying. The Pimsleur sequential, recursive method really is effective. Phase I goes at just the right pace for me to listen, repeat, and learn. It's pricey, but I've found it much more helpful than the cheaper or free language audio methods out there. Compared to Rosetta Stone, the emphasis is on speaking and listening, forcing me to learn by trusting my ears rather than eyes. AND I can learn it in my car. Thank you!

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