

A dialect is a particular form of a language which is unique to a specific region or social group.

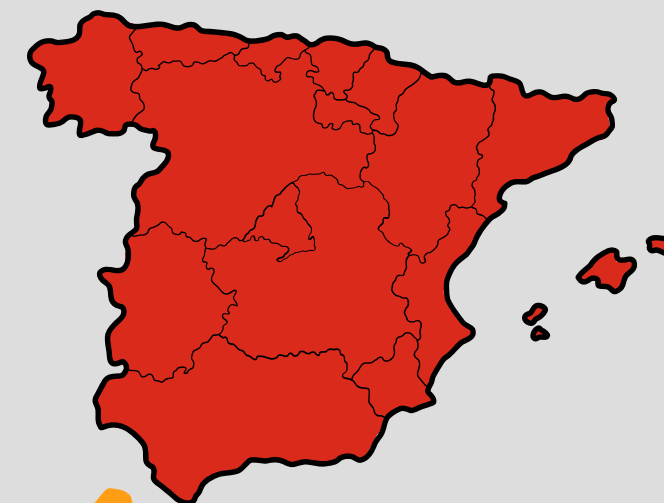


Spanish-speaking countries around the world

Caribbean Spanish

This dialect is spoken in Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and along the East Coast of Mexico and Central America. Words are often abbreviated, and the final consonant of a word is often dropped.

SPANISH GRAMMAR, ESPECIALLY IN WRITING, IS PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL ACROSS SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, SO THE DIFFERENCES EXIST MAINLY IN THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE.



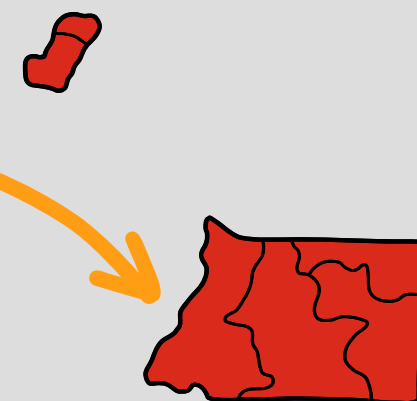
The languages of Spain

Spanish is spoken by the majority of the population in Spain, but other prominent languages and dialects include Catalan, Galician, Valencian, Basque, Asturian, Aragonese, and Aranese.

SPANISH IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN 20 COUNTRIES, MAINLY IN THE AMERICAS.

Equatoguinean Spanish

Equatoguinean Spanish is the dialect of Equatorial Guinea, and the only official Spanish speaking in Africa. It incorporates some vocabulary and pronunciation patterns from native Guineans.



Rioplatense Spanish

This dialect is spoken in the River Basin region, called 'La Plata River Basin', between Argentina and Uruguay, as well as in both countries. Its pronunciation is influenced by Italian, due to the influx of Italian immigrants to this region during the 19th century, particularly to Buenos Aires.

BELIZE AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ARE ALSO COUNTRIES WHERE SPANISH IS A SIGNIFICANT LANGUAGE, BUT IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE. SPANISH IS THE CO-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN THE US STATE OF NEW MEXICO!

Latin American Spanish

This is the dialect of mainland urban Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and the majority of Central and South American countries. The differences between Spanish and Latin American Spanish are similar to the differences between British English and American English. There are also differences in how Spanish is pronounced among people in Latin American countries.



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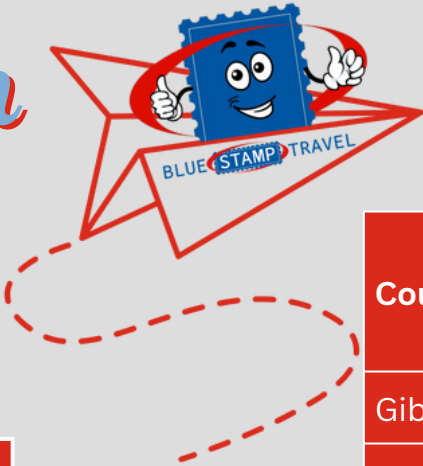


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Countries and territories where Spanish is the official language



North America

Country	Population	Percentage of Population that speak Spanish
Mexico	131,230,255	99.20%
Guatemala	17,357,886	86.40%
Cuba	11,181,595	99.80%
Dominican Republic	10,621,938	99.60%
Honduras	9,526,440	98.70%
Nicaragua	6,595,674	97.10%
El Salvador	6,330,947	99.70%
Costa Rica	5,262,374	99.30%
Panama	4,278,500	91.90%

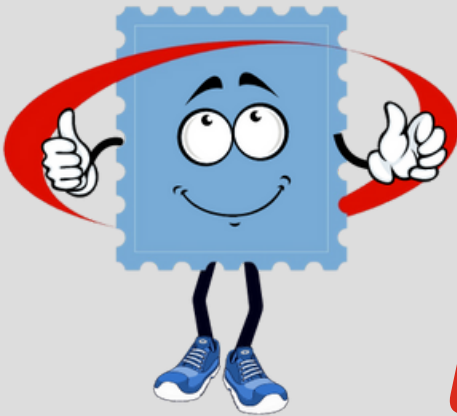
South America

Country	Population	Percentage of Population that speak Spanish
Colombia	52,156,254	99.20%
Argentina	46,654,581	99.40%
Perú	33,470,569	86.60%
Venezuela	32,605,423	98.80%
Chile	19,828,563	99.30%
Ecuador	18,350,000	98.10%
Bolivia	12,006,031	87.90%
Paraguay	7,453,695	87%
Uruguay	3,543,026	98.40%

Country	Continent	Population	Percentage of Population that speak Spanish
Gibraltar	Europe	34,003	77.30%
Belize	North America	441,471	62.80%
United States	North America	333,287,557	17%
France	Europe	68,042,591	14%
Italy	Europe	58,853,482	11%
Portugal	Europe	10,467,366	10%
United Kingdom	Europe	68,138,484	6%
Sweden	Europe	10,540,886	6%
Canada	North America	39,858,480	5%
Romania	Europe	19,051,562	5%
Netherlands	Europe	17,916,200	5%
Belgium	Europe	11,697,557	5%
Luxembourg	Europe	660,809	5%
Morocco	Africa	37,984,655	4.50%
Brazil	South America	216,422,446	4%
Germany	Europe	84,432,670	4%
Austria	Europe	9,027,999	4%
Denmark	Europe	5,935,619	4%
Ireland	Europe	7,052,314	4%
Philippines	Asia	109,035,343	3%
Finland	Europe	5,614,571	3%
Slovenia	Europe	2,116,972	3%

Other

Country	Continent	Population	Percentage of Population that speak Spanish
Spain	Europe	48,345,223	99.50%
Equatorial Guinea	Africa	1,505,588	87.70%



Countries and territories where Spanish is significant, but not official