

Spanish is the official language in 20 countries, mainly in the Americas. Belize and the United States of America are also Spanish-speaking countries, but it is not an official language. Spanish is the co-official language in the US State of New Mexico.

Spanish is the world's second-most <u>spoken native language</u> (after Mandarin Chinese) with 496 million native speakers. 595 million people speak Spanish in total, making it the world's fourth-most <u>spoken language</u> <u>overall</u> (after English, Mandarin Chinese, and Hindi). Spanish is also the second most spoken language in the United States, with over 42 million speakers.

The Spanish language is so widespread due to both colonialism and literary expansion; through war and through writing.

The Spanish language began to spread due to Christopher Columbus and Spanish explorers' expeditions to the New World (the Americas) between 1492 and 1504. The Spanish Empire became one of the biggest empires in the world, contributing to the Spanish language being one of the most spoken languages today. It reached its peak in the 17th and 18th centuries.

BENEFITS OF LEARNING SPANISH

Learning Spanish will enable you to understand and be understood by people across the Americas and Europe. There is a lot of scope to travel if you know Spanish, and travelling is always a richer and more rewarding experience when you understand the native language.

Knowing Spanish allows you to immerse yourself in a rich variety of cultures and allows you to explore and appreciate Spanish books, music, and cinema.

As well as looking great on your CV, knowing a second language boosts your job prospects, especially with such a widely spoken and significant language like Spanish. Learning Spanish will give you the opportunity to study abroad and work in a wide range of countries.



Studying Spanish is a stepping stone to learning other Romance languages, such as French, Italian, and Portuguese. There are similarities between these languages as they share Latin roots and have similar verb phrasing and sentence patterns.