

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 allow you 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.

SPANISH FACT SHEET COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

USING THE FACT SHEET AS A GUIDE, ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!



Can you name a Spanish explorer who embarked on the expeditions to the New World between 1492 and 1504?

- Name a benefit of studying or working abroad?
- Which area of the globe used to be called the New World?



State 2 good reasons to learn Spanish?





SPANISH FACT SHEET COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

- Where in the world are most of the Spanishspeaking countries situated?
 - The Americas. (1 mark)
- 2 How many people speak Spanish as their native/first language?

496 million. (1 mark)

3 Where does Spanish rank in the list of most <u>spoken</u> language overall?

4th (1 mark)

How many people speak Spanish in the United States of America?

Over 42 million. (1 mark)

 Is Spanish the official language of the United States of America? (1 mark)



Why is the Spanish language so widespread?

Due to colonialism/literary expansion. (1 mark for either)

Can you name a Spanish explorer who embarked on the expeditions to the New World between 1492 and 1504?

Christopher Columbus. (1 mark)

• Which area of the globe used to be called the New World?

8 Why is it beneficial to know the native language when travelling to a country?

Because it will be a richer and more rewarding experience. (1 mark)

9 Name 3 languages you could learn more easily if you know Spanish.

French, Italian, & Portuguese. (1 mark for each)

• What are these types of languages called?

Romance languages. (1 mark)

Name a similarity between Spanish, Italian and Portugese.

They share Latin roots/have similar verb phrasing and sentence patterns. (1 mark for either)

11 Can you think of a reason how speaking Spanish could boost your job prospects? (1 mark)

OPEN QUESTION, NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. THEY CAN USE INFORMATION FROM THE SHEET OR CREATE THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE.

Name a benefit of studying or working abroad? (1 mark)

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The Americas. (1 mark)

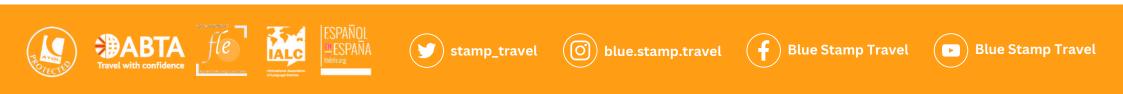
When did the Spanish Empire reach its peak?

In the 17th and 18th centuries. (1 mark)

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State 2 good reasons to learn Spanish? (1 mark for each)

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19 TOTAL MARKS