Your Spanish starting point

Original practice for adult beginners and returning learners. No timer or pass mark. Use the pages to find a useful next step, not to assign yourself an official level.

Your goal: travel / everyday conversation / connecting with people / returning to study / other: _____

What can you already do? Introduce yourself / understand familiar words / order food / ask a question / describe your day. Mark each: not yet, with help, or independently.

Say or write what you can: 1. Greet someone. 2. Say your name. 3. Say where you are from. 4. Ask for a coffee politely. 5. Ask the price. 6. Say you do not understand.

First useful phrases: Hola. Me llamo ___. Soy de ___. Vivo en ___. Quisiera un café, por favor. ¿Cuánto cuesta? No entiendo. ¿Puede repetir, por favor?

How to practise: read the phrase; cover it; say it from memory; use it in a short exchange. Mistakes are information about what to practise next.

Language variety: examples mainly use broadly understood Latin American Spanish. Ibrahim can explain Uruguayan usage such as vos and ustedes. Other varieties are valid; this workbook is not an exam syllabus.

Meet someone: conocernos

Read aloud: Ana: Hola, ¿cómo te llamas? Luis: Me llamo Luis. ¿Y tú? Ana: Me llamo Ana. Soy de Australia y vivo en Brisbane. Luis: Mucho gusto. Soy de Uruguay.

1. Match: Hola / Mucho gusto / Me llamo / Vivo en. Meanings: I live in / Hello / My name is / Nice to meet you.

2. Complete: Me _____ Ana. Soy _____ Australia. Vivo _____ Brisbane.

3. Translate: My name is Sam. I am from Australia. I live in Brisbane.

4. Write a question to ask someone their name.

5. Replace the names and places in the dialogue with your own information.

6. Speaking: introduce yourself, then ask your tutor two questions.

Sounds and useful words

Five vowels: a, e, i, o, u. Practise in casa, mesa, sí, no, uno. The vowels are relatively stable; listen to a speaker rather than relying on English spelling.

Things to notice: h is normally silent (hola); ñ differs from n (año / ano); r and rr can change meaning (pero / perro). Pronunciation of ll and y varies across regions, including Uruguay.

Stress: an accent mark shows the stressed vowel in words such as café. Without a written accent, words ending in a vowel, n or s usually stress the next-to-last syllable; other endings usually stress the last. These are starting rules, not all exceptions.

Numbers 0-10: cero, uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho, nueve, diez.

Practice: 1. Circle the written accent in café. 2. Say hola without pronouncing an English h. 3. Write the Spanish words for 2, 5 and 8. 4. Read aloud: una mesa, dos cafés, tres libros. 5. Ask your tutor to model pero and perro.

Personal word bank: write five words you will actually use this week, with one short sentence for each.

Optional listening: ask your tutor to say three numbers from 0 to 10; write what you hear and check together. No audio recording is supplied with this workbook.

At a café: en una cafetería

Read: Cliente: Buenos días. Quisiera un café con leche y un agua, por favor. Camarera: Claro. ¿Algo más? Cliente: No, gracias. ¿Cuánto cuesta? Camarera: Son seis euros. Cliente: Gracias. The euro price is a fictional travel example.

1. What two drinks does the customer order?

2. Translate: I would like a tea, please. (tea = té)

3. Complete: ¿Cuánto _____? The missing word means costs.

4. Match: sin leche / con leche / la cuenta / por favor. Meanings: please / the bill / without milk / with milk.

5. Change the order to two coffees and one tea.

6. Role-play: order, ask one follow-up question and ask for the bill. Swap roles.

Everyday sentences

Useful patterns: Yo soy de Uruguay. Yo estoy en Brisbane. Yo tengo un libro. Yo hablo español. These are examples to learn in context; ser and estar cannot be reduced to a single permanent/temporary rule.

1. Choose: Yo (soy / estoy) de Australia.

2. Choose: Yo (soy / estoy) en casa.

3. Complete with tener: Yo _____ dos libros.

4. Complete with hablar: Yo _____ español.

5. Change to the negative: Hablo francés.

6. Ask: Where do you live? Use tú.

7. Complete: Me gusta el café. Me _____ los libros.

8. Write three true sentences about yourself using the patterns.

Getting around and making plans

Read: El museo está cerca de la estación. Abre a las diez. Marta va al museo el sábado con Pablo. They are planning a fictional outing.

1. Where is the museum?

2. What time does it open?

3. What day are Marta and Pablo going?

4. Translate: Where is the station? (station = estación)

5. Complete: Voy _____ estudiar español. Use the future intention pattern ir a + infinitive.

6. Write a polite request to repeat something.

7. Role-play: ask for a place, a time and a price. Ask for clarification once.

8. Make a small plan for this week: Voy a _____ el _____.

Answer key: first conversations

Page 1: possible answers

Hola. Me llamo [name]. Soy de [country]. Quisiera un café, por favor. ¿Cuánto cuesta? No entiendo. Many natural alternatives are valid.

Page 2: Meet someone

1. Hola = Hello; Mucho gusto = Nice to meet you; Me llamo = My name is; Vivo en = I live in.
2. llamo; de; en.
3. Me llamo Sam. Soy de Australia. Vivo en Brisbane.
4. ¿Cómo te llamas? Formal alternative: ¿Cómo se llama?
5-6. Personal answers; check that the greeting, name, origin and questions communicate the intended meaning.

Page 3: Sounds

1. The accent is on é in café.
2. The h in hola is silent.
3. dos, cinco, ocho.
4-5. Oral tasks: ask for feedback on vowels and the distinction between r and rr. Regional pronunciation differences are valid.

Page 4: At a café

1. A coffee with milk and water.
2. Quisiera un té, por favor.
3. cuesta.
4. sin leche = without milk; con leche = with milk; la cuenta = the bill; por favor = please.
5. Quisiera dos cafés y un té, por favor.
6. Possible closing: La cuenta, por favor. Other polite forms such as ¿Me trae la cuenta, por favor? are also valid.

Answer key and next steps

Page 5: Everyday sentences

1. soy.
2. estoy.
3. tengo.
4. hablo.
5. No hablo francés.
6. ¿Dónde vives? Uruguayan voseo: ¿Dónde vivís?
7. gustan: Me gustan los libros. The verb agrees with the thing liked.
8. Personal answers. Example: Soy de Australia. Estoy en Brisbane. Tengo un libro.

Page 6: Getting around

1. Cerca de la estación / near the station.
2. A las diez / at ten.
3. El sábado / Saturday.
4. ¿Dónde está la estación?
5. a: Voy a estudiar español.
6. ¿Puede repetir, por favor? (formal) or ¿Puedes repetir, por favor? (informal tú).

7-8. Personal speaking and writing answers; use the place, time and intention patterns.

Your five-minute practice plan

Day 1: say your introduction three times without reading.
Day 2: practise five useful words in sentences.
Day 3: order a drink and ask the price.
Day 4: ask where a place is and request repetition.
Day 5: explain one plan using Voy a + infinitive.

Bring to your next lesson: one phrase you can use independently; one sentence you want to improve; one situation you want to rehearse.