

## Lesson 1 / Spanish Class Welcome

I've found that the fastest way to quickly learn Spanish is to **OWN YOUR WORDS**. And what's the best way to own your words? **Talk about yourself!**

If you're able to tell people in 4 or 5 sentences - **IN SPANISH** - why you're passionate about the language and what got you to this point, then you'll actually know how to speak Spanish way faster than any beginner!

So, the best and most important thing you can do for yourself, right now, is to sit down and write - **IN ENGLISH** - a short story about yourself and what made you want to learn Spanish. Here's mine:

["I took Spanish in High School, but I did not continue practicing it and, thus forgot everything, as you can imagine. One night I was in my car listening to a Spanish song that I really liked, but I didn't understand the lyrics. That very same night I told myself, "Greg, when you get home, you're going to begin to learn Spanish, and for real this time." And that's, exactly what I did."]

**Once you can tell your own short story in Spanish and know why you're saying the words you're saying - JUST IMAGINE HOW MUCH SPANISH YOU'LL KNOW!**

From that point on, your story will act like a magnet, naturally drawing so many other Spanish words into your vocabulary.

Course Goals

- By Week 4:

Be able to tell your 5 to 10 sentence personal story - **COMPLETELY IN SPANISH.**

- By Week 8:

Be able to tell what others are saying to you.

- By Week 12:

Guess what, you're no longer a beginner!!

## Spanish Vowel Pronunciation

Spanish is a phonetic language, in that the vowels directly relate to certain sounds and that they are always 'sounded out' the same way.

**a = always sounds like - "ah"**

**e = always sounds like - "eh"**

**i = always sounds like - "eee"**

**o = always sounds like - "oh"**

**u = always sounds like - "oo"**

Examples:

Computadora. . . . Com-pu-ta-do-ra    which means, COMPUTER

Yo entiendo. . . . Yo en-ti-en-do    which means, "I understand"

## The Infinitive (ORIGINAL) Form Of Verbs

Infinitive (original) forms of verbs are verbs which are ready for use but have not yet been conjugated. Think of them as fresh vegetables that you've bought and are sitting on your counter, waiting to be made into a salad.

**[See Chart]**

As you can see, the English translations of Spanish infinitives always have the word "to" in front of them.

As you can also see, all Spanish verbs end in either AR, ER or IR.

**[When you have two (2) verbs back-to-back, you leave the second one in its ORIGINAL form.]**

**\*\*\*\*\* To conjugate AR -ending Verbs: \*\*\*\*\***

When you're talking about yourself in the Present Tense, drop the -ar and replace it with o.

**So, if we take the word HABLAR (to speak),**

**I speak = Yo hablo.**

When you're talking about yourself in the Past Tense, drop the -ar and replace it with é.

So,

**I spoke = Yo hablé.**

When you're talking about yourself in the Future Tense, LEAVE THE INFINITIVE INTACT and add é to the end of it.

So,

**I will speak = Yo hablaré.**

**\*\*\*\*\* To conjugate ER -ending Verbs: \*\*\*\*\***

When you're talking about yourself in the Present Tense, drop the -er and replace it with o.

**So, if we take the word APRENDER (to learn),**

**I learn = Yo aprendo.**

When you're talking about yourself in the Past Tense, drop the -er and replace it with í.

So,

**I learned = Yo aprendí.**

When you're talking about yourself in the Future Tense, LEAVE THE INFINITIVE INTACT and add é to the end of it.

So,

**I will learn = Yo aprenderé**

**\*\*\*\*\* To conjugate IR -ending Verbs: \*\*\*\*\***

When you're talking about yourself in the Present Tense, drop the -ir and replace it with o.

**So, if we take the word VIVIR (to live),**

**I live = Yo vivo.**

When you're talking about yourself in the Past Tense, drop the -ir and replace it with í.

So,

**I lived = Yo viví.**

When you're talking about yourself in the Future Tense, LEAVE THE INFINITIVE INTACT and add é to the end of it.

So,

**I will live = Yo viviré**

## The Word "Estar" (To Be) And Its Uses

The 1st person conjugation of estar is ESTOY, which means "I am" and has two main things that can follow it:

1. An Adjective ie. happy, sad, tired, sick, free, etc. This is just a matter of you looking up and memorizing how to say various words on your own.
2. A Verb ie. talking, learning, living, etc.

**We'll be focusing on scenario 2. So, it's a matter of figuring out how to take the original verb and put an "ING" on the end of it.**

**To do that we use the Spanish endings, "ANDO" and "IENDO".**

Remember how all Spanish verbs end in either AR, ER or IR?

So, here are the rules:

**- For verbs ending in AR, to say you are doing that thing, drop the AR and add -ANDO.**

**So, for the HABLAR verb:**

**I am talking = Yo estoy hablando.**

**- For verbs ending in ER and IR, to say you are doing that thing, drop the ER or IR and add -IENDO.**

**So, for the APRENDER verb and the VIVIR verbs:**

**I am learning = Yo estoy aprendiendo**

and

**I am living = Yo estoy viviendo**

## **Homework:**

Your homework for the next class is to write a brief paragraph - IN ENGLISH - describing what initially sparked your passion for the Spanish language and what finally brought you to the point of taking this class. Example below:

["I took Spanish in High School, but I did not continue practicing it and, thus forgot everything, as you can imagine. One night I was in my car listening to a Spanish song that I really liked, but I didn't understand the lyrics. That very same night I told myself, "Greg, when you get home tonight, you're going to begin to learn Spanish, and for real this time." And that's, exactly what I did!"]

We'll review what we've already covered, plus start to break down some of the sentences in your paragraphs.