

# Spanish Language Day



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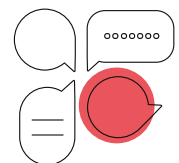
The 23rd of April is **Spanish Language Day** and as **one of the six official languages** of the United Nations, we've brought together some great facts and activities to help **inspire your learners**.

## Did you know...

There are **over**

**430 million**

native **Spanish speakers**.



**21 countries**

have Spanish as **their official language** including Spain, Mexico, Panama, Bolivia, Paraguay, Cuba and Ecuador to name just a few!

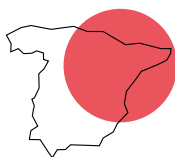
Spanish is the

**second most**

spoken language and

**second most**

studied language **in the world**.



**By 2050**, Spanish is predicted to become the

**world's largest language!**





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## Language

For over 200 years, the alphabet had 29 letters, but in 2012, Ch and LL were removed to bring it in line with the Latin alphabet.

- > Around **8%** of Spanish vocabulary is of Arabic origin.



While Spanish is a very phonetic language, several words have different meanings depending on which syllable is emphasised. 'La mama' means breast, but if the second syllable is emphasised (la mamá), it means mother! Gender can also change the meaning of words: 'el papa' means 'the Pope', but 'la papa' means potato!

### Did you know?

Text translated from English to Spanish is likely to increase by 15-20% in words as Spanish is more detailed, expressive and poetic.

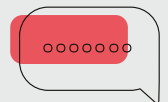
## Culture

The author of the famous novel 'Don Quixote de la Mancha', Miguel de Cervantes, was one of the most important figures of Spanish literature, so much so that the date for Spanish Language Day was chosen to pay tribute to him.

Filmmaker, Luis Buñuel - considered by some to be one of the most influential filmmakers of all time - is another important figure.

With Spanish spoken in so many countries, the number of novels, plays, films and theatre productions written or spoken in Spanish is vast.

### Famous Spanish speakers include:



- > Julio Iglesias
- > Antonio Banderas
- > Jennifer Lopez
- > Jack Black
- > Rafael Nadal
- > Chris Hemsworth
- > Tom Daley
- > Cristiano Ronaldo

## Did you know?

**Every year**, on the last Wednesday in August, Buñol hosts *La Tomatina* - **the world's largest tomato fight!**

**Over 150,000 kilos**

of **over-ripe tomatoes** are used in the **food fight** and thousands of locals and tourists take part.



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## Food

Spain is famous for its tortillas, gazpacho and paella (paella even has its own WhatsApp emoji!). However, there is so much more to Spanish cuisine with geography, history, climate and culture influencing recipes across the country.



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## Fiestas

While every region in Spain has its own annual holiday fiesta - arguably the most important holiday in the daily lives of Spanish people - some fiestas have become internationally famous with people from far and wide enjoying the Sevilla Fair, Fallas of Valencia and Fiesta de San Fermín.



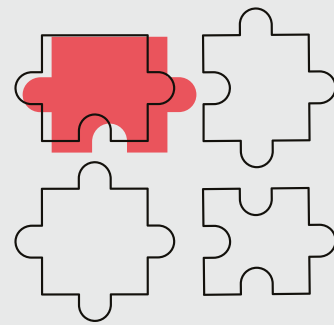
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# Key phrases

Can you **match these key phrases** to their English translations and **work out how to pronounce** each word?



## Activity 1

Phrase	English	Pronunciation
¿Dónde está la estación de metro más cercana?		
Por favor		
Sí		
Gracias		
No entiendo		
Lo siento		
Hola		
¿Cuánto cuesta esto?		
No entiendo		
Disculpe		



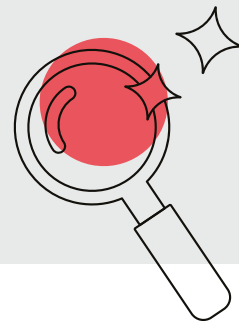
Please Yes Where is the nearest Metro? Sorry How much does this cost?

Where is the toilet? Thank you Excuse me Hello I don't understand



# Word search

Work out the translations of the following words and **find them in the grid** below:



## Activity 2

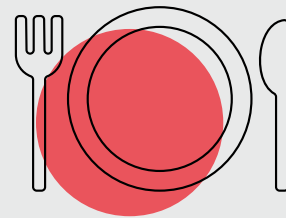
- Bull fighting*
- Fiesta*
- Football*
- Mexico*
- Novelists*
- Film*
- Flamenco Dancing*
- Music*
- Paella*

A	I	É	E	B	J	F	S	P	F	T	B	Ú	M
Q	Z	C	V	A	X	Í	U	G	Ú	D	W	L	E
C	O	R	R	I	D	A	D	E	T	O	R	O	S
É	C	Ú	N	L	K	O	É	T	B	F	Y	Í	O
B	Y	T	P	E	A	D	M	H	O	V	M	D	P
L	F	É	R	F	T	Ú	F	B	L	W	É	S	A
Í	I	X	E	L	M	C	J	L	I	B	X	L	E
A	E	U	H	A	Ú	O	D	É	O	E	I	U	L
D	S	F	L	M	Ú	S	I	C	A		C	G	L
A	T	Ú	B	E	N	I	Y	X	N	F	O	R	A
N	A	V	Í	N	O	V	E	L	I	S	T	A	S
S	C	O	Í	C	É	P	E	L	Í	C	U	L	A
É	W	T	E	A	K	A	M	Ú	H	C	G	B	J



# Regional food

Spain is known for having one of the most **vibrant culinary scenes in the world**, each with its own **unique regional foods**. Can you **match the food** with some of the **regions** below?



## Activity 3

### Region

- Catalonia
- Madrid
- Andalusia
- Galicia
- Majorca
- Madrid
- Aragon
- Castilla & Leon
- Extremadura
- Valenica

### Food

- Gambas pil pil
- Galician Caldó
- Ensaimados
- Jamón de Teruel
- Migas
- Crema Catalana
- Sopa de Ajo
- Cocida Madrileño
- Paella
- Cocido

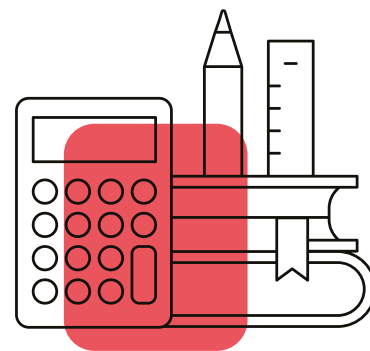


## Other activities

### Activity 4

#### Did you know?

We've shared just some amazing facts about the Spanish language, but there are many more! Challenge yourself to find five other Spanish language facts and present them in a colourful poster for all your class to see.



### Activity 5



#### Connecting cultures

Pick two countries that speak Spanish and explore the similarities and differences in language, history and celebrations. Create an interactive presentation that brings the languages or cultures to life.



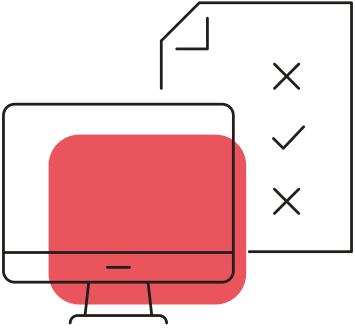
# Answers

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## Activity 2: Word search

Bull fighting, Fiesta, Football, Tomatoes, Mexico, Novelists, Film, Flamenco Dancing, Music, Paella

A	I	É	E	B	J	F	S	P	F	T	B	Ú	M
Q	T	O	M	A	T	E	S	G	Ú	D	W	L	E
C	O	R	R	I	D	A	D	E	T	O	R	O	S
É	C	Ú	N	L	K	O	É	T	B	F	Y	Í	O
B	Y	T	P	E	A	D	M	H	O	V	M	D	P
L	F	É	R	F	T	Ú	F	B	L	W	É	S	A
Í	I	X	E	L	M	C	J	L	I	B	X	L	E
A	E	U	H	A	Ú	O	D	É	O	E	I	U	L
D	S	F	L	M	Ú	S	I	C	A	K	C	G	L
A	T	Ú	B	E	N	I	Y	X	N	F	O	R	A
N	A	V	Í	N	O	V	E	L	I	S	T	A	S
S	C	O	Í	C	É	P	E	L	Í	C	U	L	A
É	W	T	E	A	K	A	M	Ú	H	C	G	B	J



## Activity 3: Regional food

- Catalonia - Crema Catalana
- Madrid - Cocida Madrileño
- Andalusia - Gambas pil pil
- Valencia - Paella
- Galicia - Galician caldó
- Majorca - Ensaimados
- Madrid - Cocido
- Aragon - Jamón de Teruel
- Castilla & Leon - Sopa de Ajo
- Extremadura - Migas