

# Transitioning to AS Level Spanish

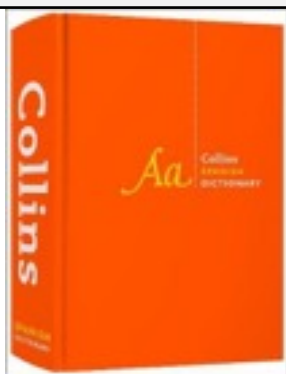


This is a guide for pupils to practice their language skills through the medium of Spanish for the purpose of transitioning to specific AS content with their teachers.

# Reference Recommendations

You have to a dictionary!

A good dictionary is essential whether you are keeping your language skills ticking over or learning new vocabulary, in a book format or on-line. These are just some of the ones that most teachers recommend, are user-friendly and will help you when you come to start your A-Level course properly. Get to know the way they work and how best to use them to help you!



## The Collins Spanish Dictionary

The world's leading Spanish to English and English to Spanish bilingual dictionary. This tenth edition has been revised to include wide-ranging coverage of contemporary Spanish and English, a wealth of examples and idioms and a clear layout. It contains extensive notes on language, grammar and culture to help users with typical translation issues, and covers both European and Latin American Spanish. The "Language in Use" supplement helps you communicate in natural, idiomatic Spanish.

## On-line dictionary

[www.linguee.com](http://www.linguee.com)

English Dictionary and Translation Search with 1,000,000,000 example sentences from human translators. Languages: English, German, French, Spanish.



Dictionary for German, French, Spanish...



Free online dictionaries - Spanish, French, Italian, German and more. Conjugations, audio pronunciations and forums for your questions.

## Movie Recommendations for Pleasure

Watching films in the Spanish language will really help with your listening skills and keep your knowledge of vocabulary and syntax on the boil. Don't worry if you don't know what is being said, that it goes really fast or that you may only know a few words of vocabulary. (That is what subtitles are for)! What you will be doing however, is training your ear to get used to the flow and rhythm of the language and getting used to different voices and Spanish accents! By the time you get to the AS course film selected by your teacher, you will be used to the medium and good to go!

	<p><b>Ocho Apellidos Vascos (The Spanish Affair)</b>  Year released: 2014  Rating: 15  Duration: 1h38m  Genre: Comedy  Synopsis:  An Andalucian man who has never left his native Seville falls in love with a Basque girl. Against his friends' advice, he follows her back to the Basque Country, where he is forced to impersonate a full-blooded Basque with eight truly Basque surnames.</p> <p>You catch watch this film on:</p> <p><b>Ocho Apellidos Vascos (The Spanish Affair 2)</b>  Year released: 2015  Rating: 15  Duration: 1h39m  Genre: Comedy  Synopsis:  After the events of <i>Ocho apellidos vascos</i>, Rafa learns that Amaia is dating a Catalan man. Her father, opposed to the idea, leaves the Basque Country for the first time in search of Rafa and to convince him to try and win back Amaia's heart.</p> <p>You can watch this film on</p>
	<p><b>El Laberinto del Fauno ( Pan's Labyrinth)</b>  Year released: 2006  Rating: 15  Duration: 1h59m  Genre: Fantasy/Horror  Synopsis:  Set in 1944, in a remote forest in Spain, the film follows Ophelia, the bookish stepdaughter of a sadistic army captain who has brought his troop of soldiers to flush out Maqui rebels. As Captain Vidal's brutality plays out in the real world, Ophelia is drawn more and more towards a magical world of fairies, fauns and fantasies.  You can watch this film on</p>



### **Nailed It! Spain and Mexico**

Year released: 2020  
Rating: PG  
Duration: 1 season, 6 episodes, 34m  
Genre: Food & Travel TV  
Synopsis:  
Home cooks try -- and inevitably fail -- to re-create spectacular confections on this comical competition show, all for a sweet 5,000 euros in Spain and 200,000 pesos in Mexico.

*¡Niquelao!*

You can watch both series on :

### **El Ministerio del Tiempo (Ministry of Time)**


Year released: 2015-2020  
Rating: PG  
Duration: 3 season, 34 episodes, 1h  
Genre: Fantasy TV  
Synopsis:  
The Ministry of Time is the Spanish state's best kept secret. Its purpose is to protect the doors of time so that no one person from any era can change history for their own benefit. The series follows the newest members of the Ministry as they protect the Spain of today from threats in the past.

You can watch this series on :



	<p><b>Elite</b></p> <p>Year released: 2018-2020  Rating: 15  Duration: 3 season, 24 episodes, 50m  Genre: Teen Drama TV</p> <p>Synopsis:  <b>Three working class teenagers are offered scholarships to the most exclusive private school in Spain, but the clash of lifestyles leads to murder. The series investigates the mystery through a series of flashbacks and flash-forwards which leave the audience guessing at every turn, and it has been praised for the way it tackles many issues surrounding being a young person today.</b></p> <p>You can watch this series on:</p>
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## Developing Listening Skills

As with watching movies, listening to the radio or podcasts in Spanish will also help develop your listening skills and keep your knowledge of vocabulary and syntax sharp. Again, please don't worry if you don't know what is being said, that it goes really fast or that you may only know a few words of vocabulary. You are still training your ear to get used to the flow and rhythm of the language and getting used to different voices and Spanish accents! Do this daily and the AS course listening exercises will seem slower in comparison!! 😊



	<p>Sign up to <a href="http://www.lyricstraining.com">www.lyricstraining.com</a> and listen to Spanish music and complete the online gap fill activities.</p>
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	<p>Try out a podcast! The <i>HoyHablamos</i> podcast will take you through news, language and more, with daily episodes tackling almost anything you can think of. Plus, with over 800 episodes available, you're bound to find something that interests you. <a href="https://www.hoyhablamos.com">https://www.hoyhablamos.com</a></p>
	<p>LISTEN TO THE RADIO! <a href="https://play.cadenaser.com/">https://play.cadenaser.com/</a>  The great thing about listening to the radio is that you can listen and do something else at the same time. While there are other options available, Cadena SER has live radio and past programmes in its A La Carta section. Talk Radio, music, sport, comedy shows; there's something there to entertain you. Remember, this is real Spanish radio for the Spanish people so they will speak quickly – just try to pick out some words for fun - even if it is just the weather!</p>
	<p><b>Four reasons to learn a new language</b>  English is fast becoming the world's universal language, and instant translation technology is improving every year. So why bother learning a foreign language? Linguist and Columbia professor John McWhorter shares four alluring benefits of learning an unfamiliar tongue.</p>
	<p><b>Breaking the language barrier   Tim Doner   TEDxTeen</b>  Watch the video in which Tim Doner shared his experience of learning many languages to illuminate the objectives of learning languages and how to reach the goals.</p>

## Developing Reading Skills




When you are reading Spanish (article or book), you don't need to look up every word as it would take a long time to get through! Skimming and scanning the text to get the gist works just as well and will be far more pleasurable! Use the context, cognates, pictures and your literacy skills to work out what the article is about. Give yourself a target number of new words to add to your vocabulary list. Ideally you could also find a synonym or an antonym for the new words you learn. This way you would be doubling or even tripling your range of vocabulary! 😊

	<p>Habla is an online magazine offering a wide range of articles on a range of topics and themes across the Spanish-speaking world. Articles can be read by theme or even by level, with A2/B1 being around a GCSE level of understanding.</p> <p><a href="https://www.revistahabla.com/">https://www.revistahabla.com/</a></p>
	<p>Mary Glasgow publications publish 4 magazines for Spanish learners ranging from beginners (¿Qué tal) to GCSE (El Sol) Check with your language teachers if you have a code to access to the magazine online.</p> <p><a href="https://maryglasgowplus.com/">https://maryglasgowplus.com/</a></p>
	<p>While there are some limitations to ReadLang's free version, the option to be able to read an array of authentic texts in Spanish is hard to pass up. Curate your own library of texts at a difficulty comfortable for you, on topics which interest you most. With an inbuilt dictionary linked to WordReference, it almost feels like ReadLang is doing all the hard work for you.</p> <p><a href="https://readlang.com/">https://readlang.com/</a></p>
	<p>Why not have a go at reading a foreign language newspaper – El País is available in larger paper shops.</p> <p>El País also has its own website so you can read the paper online, and many articles come with an English version so you can do some side-by-side reading. You don't need to read it cover to cover, just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention on a topic that interests YOU.</p> <p><a href="https://elpais.com/">https://elpais.com/</a></p>

## Developing your Grammar


Part of your skill set is of course developing your knowledge of the Spanish language. There are some fun on-line grammar sites that can help you keep your grammar going during your transition time.

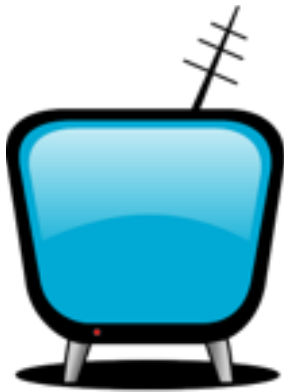


	<p>BBC Bitesize have grammar sections under each examination board. These have clear explanations and some exercises to remind you of key grammatical points. Further practice can then be had on the websites below. <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zchv87h">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zchv87h</a></p>
	<p>This a very helpful online grammar practice website. You are able to choose the tense you want to revise, read the explanations and complete the exercises. You can do these as often as you like, and it gives you a percentage. <a href="http://www.languagesonline.org.uk">www.languagesonline.org.uk</a></p>
	<p>This website is free after 4pm. It has a really helpful A level section where you are able to watch news video clips, find theme related vocabulary and do listening and reading comprehensions as well as grammar exercises. <a href="http://oye.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html">http://oye.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html</a></p>
	<p>This website offers free practice of almost any grammar concept you can think of from GCSE into A-Level in the form of verb drills and games. Set up an account to save your progress and see your improvements as you practice, or dip in and out of the site as a guest. <a href="https://conjugemos.com">https://conjugemos.com</a></p>

# Developing knowledge through your research skills

Your research skills will come into the fore as this is an ideal opportunity to get to know about Spanish and Spanish-speaking countries, for example, the regional culture and heritage in Spanish-speaking countries and communities. Choose a region of Spain, or one of the other twenty countries in the Hispanic world and compile a fact-file or start a presentation for your fellow students. You can do this research both in English or Spanish. As this is part of the course of study, the more customs and traditions that you are able to refer to and the richer your knowledge, the better! Your teachers will probably refer you to information and websites, as it is easy to get overwhelmed, however, below are some ideas to get you started.

	<p>BBC has a wealth of information. This link will take you through to a profile on Spanish. <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17941641">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17941641</a></p>
	<p>Through this link and the associated dropdown menus, students can explore the history, geography and culture of Spain in one place as provided by <i>La Moncloa</i>, the Spanish government.</p> <p><a href="https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/espana/historyandculture/Paginas/index.aspx">https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/espana/historyandculture/Paginas/index.aspx</a></p>



Documentaries

There are tens of useful documentaries about Spain, in English and in Spanish, to be found around the internet. You can usually find a topic that interests you, whether it's politics, history of art or gastronomy.

Some documentaries are particularly useful to students understanding of A-Level topics:

**The Invention of Spain:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b01nk276>

**Facing Franco's Crime, The Silence of Others:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000bynq>

**Two Catalonias,** *available on Netflix.*

## Keeping it Fresh...

It is important to keep the knowledge you have gained at GCSE fresh in your mind ready to start your A levels in September.

Why not spend some time looking over some past papers and using the mark schemes to assess how well you've done?



Spanish GCSE - Past Papers and Marking Schemes:

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/spanish-gcse#tab\\_pastpapers](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/spanish-gcse#tab_pastpapers)