

# SPANISH FLUENCY

## BLUEPRINT

**A step-by-step  
study plan to  
10X your Spanish Fluency**

Many moons ago, I was a girl with zero prior experience with any language other than English. I was a teen, past the supposed ideal “window of opportunity” for language-learning. I didn’t live in a foreign country. I was still living in my good-old Kentucky home. I had no native foreign language speaking family. I was also homeschooled and had no contact with a language teacher. Needless to say, if I hoped to learn another language, the odds were a bit stacked against me!

But I had a strong desire to learn Spanish. So I began. I was lost in the beginning and not sure if it would ever really happen. But after a few months, I had no problem holding down a conversation and I was soon frequently mistaken for a native speaker. My vocabulary expanded rapidly. I spoke with proper grammar most of the time, even though I hadn’t studied much grammar. A few years later I began a career as a Spanish/English medical interpreter, which led to many other opportunities in the field of language. How did this all come to be?

Well, I was fortunate enough to stumble upon a few essential language-learning principles (although I didn’t realize it at the time). Without a doubt, the *way* in which I studied wasn’t very common. As I became interested in other languages over time, I realized that these study methods continued to work. So I put everything together in a simple system.

I am happy to share that with you today. It’s powerful because it covers all areas of language acquisition using just one piece of material at a time that *you* select. It helps to improve listening, speaking, reading, writing, pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. When combined with speaking practice with real people, this study method will truly take your fluency to the next level. I continue to incorporate this plan into my routine to this day to learn languages.

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## HOW TO USE THE MASTER LANGUAGE STUDY (MLS) METHOD




Select a piece of "comprehensible input." It should be at a level where you're able to follow along (with effort), but you don't understand all of the words. You will also need the Spanish transcript. Having access to an English translation, if possible, will be helpful as well. However, it is not essential.




I recommend podcasts with transcripts or audiobooks with the ebook/physical book. If you find an audio that you enjoy with no transcript, you can have your own transcript created by a translator. You could even use a song with printed lyrics. Beginners may enjoy the short clips that come along with a Spanish audio course. What you choose will depend on your level and preferences.



If the audio is long, work with small sections at a time.



This study plan is not designed to be completed in one day. Take your time and work on a bit per day.



You may prefer to do some of the steps in a different order. This is generally fine. However, I will recommend that Step 1 remain in its place as it's your one chance to work on listening without the interference of text.

## STEPS IN THE MLS METHOD

In Steps 1 and 2, you are working on listening comprehension and training your ear to recognize the sounds of the language. In Step 2, you are working on your reading comprehension (with the added benefit of additional listening practice).

### 1. LISTEN IN SPANISH WITH NO TRANSCRIPT.

Begin with a small chunk of your audio/text at a time. I recommend no more than 3-5 minutes (less if you're a beginner). Listen to the audio without any transcript. Do this several times. Observe how much you understand by yourself and see if you can form an overall picture in your mind of what's going on.

### 2. LISTEN AGAIN WHILE READING ALONG (SILENTLY) WITH THE SPANISH TRANSCRIPT.

You'll now likely be able to understand more because you may notice some cognates (words that are spelled the same or similar in both languages and share the same meaning). You may have missed these when listening because while these words look the same, they may not sound the same at all. You may also notice words that you know, but did not understand initially, due to connected, fast, or slurred speech.

In Steps 3 - 5 you will work on your vocabulary and noticing grammar patterns/sentence structure

### 3. NOTE SOME KEY VOCABULARY WORDS/PHRASES THAT ARE UNFAMILIAR.

Highlight or write down just a few of the words that you do not know with some context (such as within a short phrase). Don't write down all of the unknown words. Choose those that come up frequently in the text or words that you notice are crucial to your understanding of an entire sentence or paragraph. If any of the grammar patterns stand out to you, make a note of that as well (however most of the grammar will be picked up naturally through exposure and repetition).

## 4. LEARN THE DEFINITIONS OF YOUR NEW VOCABULARY.

How you do this will vary depending on what material you're working with. You may do any of the following:

- Start looking at the English translation, if one is available, and comparing the texts
- Look up the words in a dictionary
- If you're working with an audio course, now is the time to listen to the breakdown of the information.

**\*\*\*Don't forget to notice and congratulate yourself on what you understood correctly on your own!\*\*\***

## 5. STUDY YOUR NEW VOCABULARY/SENTENCE STRUCTURES.

You can do this in a variety of ways.

- Flashcards with a spaced repetition system
- Sight translation - Look at the English text only. Orally interpret sentence-by-sentence from English to Spanish out loud.
- Sentence substitutions - Restructure sentences and create different versions of the same sentences, simply substituting with different vocabulary words that you have learned. For example, if your sentence says in Spanish **“Amelia llega al aeropuerto y compra boletos,”** (Amelia arrives at the airport and buys tickets), you can change that to **“Amelia llega a la tienda y compra galletas.”** (Amelia arrives at the store and buys cookies). Have fun practicing in this way and write a few down!
- You can even try having conversations that include your new vocabulary with yourself or a speaking partner.

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In step 6, you will work on your reading and pronunciation, thereby preparing yourself for speaking.

## 6. READ OUT LOUD.

Here are a few different ways to read out loud.

- While following along with the text, listen and repeat small portions of the audio at a time.
- Use the “shadowing” method. Listen while you speak out loud, trying to keep up with the pace of the reader. You can do this first without and then with the text.
- Read the text on your own out loud.

In step 7, you will work on your writing skills, which will not only help you to spell, but also to get a deeper understanding of the language, resulting in an increased ability to think in the language.

## 7. WRITE A PORTION OF THE TEXT.

Here are a few different ways to write in order of increasing difficulty:

- Copy a portion of the text.
- Write a dictation using a portion of the text. This means listening and writing what you hear. Then check your work.
- Do translations. This will be similar to the “sight translation” mentioned earlier, but now you will *write* down a translation from English to Spanish and check your work.

In steps 8-10, you will work on reviewing and retaining what you’ve learned.

## 8. LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AGAIN.

After you’ve studied your material, listen again. You’ll be amazed at how much more you understand!

## 9. REPEAT AND REVIEW

Repeat study steps 3-7 as you continue to choose additional sets of vocabulary to extract. Review your vocabulary frequently with your flashcards or other chosen vocabulary learning method.

## 10. USE IT!

Use what you've learned. Do your best to add your new vocabulary into your conversations and/or continue to review your flashcards for maximum retention.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES



FOR SPANISH RESOURCES, SUCH AS COURSES, BOOKS, SONGS, AND PODCASTS, [CHECK OUT THIS PAGE OF MY WEBSITE!](#)

Above all, enjoy every step of the way during your language learning process! I am so happy that you've invited me to be a part of your journey!

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!


FOLLOW ME FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING TIPS,  
TOOLS, AND INSPIRATION!

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