

# Why Learn Spanish?



**Speak with your neighbor!** With some 430 million speakers worldwide, Spanish is the second-most spoken language both worldwide and in the U.S. (with 45 million speakers). Already the U.S. ranks third in Spanish-speaking population after Mexico and Colombia; by 2050, the U.S. Spanish-speaking population will top the world.



**Join the global workforce!** Today one-fifth of all U.S. foreign trade, at 22%, is with Latin America and the Caribbean, just behind China. Mexico alone is the third-largest U.S. trading partner, with bilateral imports and exports topping \$530 billion/year. Economies in countries like Peru, Panama and Argentina are growing stronger, and the need for Spanish speakers and cultural ambassadors to work for multinational companies and international organizations continues to rise.



**Strengthen your English!** Learning *los verbos irregulares* in Spanish will help you better understand the multiple irregularities in English grammar, and boost vocabulary as you learn how many English words stem from Latin roots.



**It's close to home, linguistically speaking!** Spanish and English share the same alphabet (give or take some diacritical marks) and thousands of cognates, both perfect (*actor, bar, café, director, enigma, hospital, taxi*) and imperfect (*admiración, delicioso, producto*).



**Learn other languages more easily!** Many basic grammatical patterns and tens of thousands of cognates are shared across the Latin-based "Romance languages." So learning Spanish will also help you with Italian, French, Portuguese and even Romanian.



**Feel the beat!** Latin rhythms have long powered American and global pop music, from *salsa* and *merengue* to Latin-influenced jazz, *música urbana* and Caribbean-Colombian ballads. Sing along in Spanish and you'll expand your musical world.



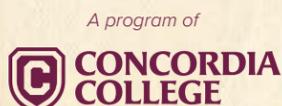
**Travel far and wide!** Use your Spanish to navigate the 22 Spanish-speaking countries, enjoying a deeper connection with fellow travelers and local hosts. Speaking with the locals over a *café cubano* in Havana, during an impromptu tango lesson in the streets of Buenos Aires, or arm-in-arm with your *amigos nuevos* as you *dar una vuelta* around the *Plaza Mayor* on Friday night in Salamanca. ¡Viva el español!



**Explore a truly global cuisine!** From the familiar *burritos* of Tex-Mex, to *moles* and *pozole* in Mexico, Venezuelan *arepas*, Peruvian *ceviche*, Argentinian *asados*, King-crab pies in Patagonia, the many *paellas* of Spain, Afro-Caribbean *mofongo* and beyond, enjoy it more when you can chat with the chef, or read the *receta* (recipe) yourself!



**Expand your entertainment!** Watch an intense *fútbol* match, listen to the latest hit by Nicky Jam or read the local news on one of the many Spanish-language media outlets, ranging from giant commercial broadcasting networks like *Univision* and *Telemundo* to local radio stations and major newspapers across the country.



#LivetheLanguage

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