



## La transición al español para el año 12.



# How to prepare for Spanish at A Level

You have a few weeks in which to really prepare for your A Level in Spanish. The leap from GCSE to A Level is significant. This booklet contains links to a huge range of media, most of which is available for free online as well as tasks to complete before the start of term. We do not expect you to understand everything, it is still very early. The aim is to keep you listening and reading some Spanish, little and often...and do things you enjoy!

## Watch...

The news. Click on [www.rtve.es/Noticias](http://www.rtve.es/Noticias) and then click on Telediario en 4 to watch four minute version of the news. Alternatively you can watch the entire news show which lasts 50 minutes.

### MOVIES (watch with subtitles/ some are available on Netflix)

- Volver (Pedro Almodóvar, 2006)
- Ocho Apellidos Vascos (Emilio Martínez-Lázaro, 2014)
- El Laberinto del Fauno (Guillermo del Toro, 2006)
- Abel (Diego Luna, 2010)
- Roma (Alfonso Cuarón, 2018)

### TV shows (watch with subtitles/ some are available on Netflix)

- La casa de papel (Money Heist)
- Las chicas del cable (Cable Girls)
- El día menos pensado (The Least Expected Day)

# Read...

Keep your own vocabulary book for new expressions you come across. This will seem difficult at first but remember, we do not expect you to understand everything.

## NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

El País has its own website <http://www.elpais.com/> so that you can read the paper online. You do not have to read the paper cover to cover, just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention.

Same with <http://www.elmundo.es/>

<http://www.20minutos.es/> Also try <http://www.20minutos.tv/> This is the TV Channel for this newspaper.

## Websites

Switch to Spanish browsers such as and <http://es.yahoo.com/> or [www.yahoo.es](http://www.yahoo.es) as well as [www.google.es](http://www.google.es). This way, you will read Spanish every time you log on and it will become part of your everyday activity.

Look at the [www.bbc.com/mundo](http://www.bbc.com/mundo) for BBC reporting in Spanish. Click on Videos for clips and reports in Spanish.

Go to [www.donbalon.com](http://www.donbalon.com) for football website and related articles.

Go to [www.hola.com](http://www.hola.com) for a Spanish celebrity gossip magazine (note that some content requires subscription). This also has short clips in Spanish.

# Listen...

Try listening to Spanish music:

- **Lyricstraining**: a free app to listen to music and work out the lyrics ([www.lyricstraining.com](http://www.lyricstraining.com))
- **Teachvid**: create a free account to listen to videos and do activities. (<https://www.teachvid.com>)

Some Spanish speaking artists you might want to look up:

Shakira

Rosalía

Luis Fonsi

Calle 13

J. Balvin

Aitana

Miki Núñez

Julieta Venegas

Listen to Spanish speakers talking about lots of topics at:

<https://www.audio-lingua.eu/spip.php?article4039&lang=en>

You can search by topic and level to find something you are interested in.

## Join Twitter...

We recommend you to follow these. They will help you pick up the language even when just browsing. You could also follow some of the Spanish artists above.

@Spain - The official Twitter for tourism in Spain

@spanishlanguage – Official Twitter account for Transparent Language Spanish.

@muyinteresante – Revista de ciencia, historia, tecnología, salud, psicología, innovación y curiosidades. A Spanish news organisation that tweets in Spanish only. Great for practicing your reading skills.

## On-line dictionary

A good on-line dictionary is: <http://www.spanishdict.com/>

TIP When you look up a verb, click the Conjugation tab to see how the verb is conjugated in EVERY tense.

### **TOP TIP: Don't look up every word you are not sure of when reading an article/ book**

Yes... you read that right. When you are reading articles etc, try not to look up every word as it will take you forever. Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context or the article, cognates and common sense to figure out what the article is saying. Pick out a couple of words that you like the look of, that you feel may be real hurdles to getting the idea of the text, look them up carefully and add them to your vocab booklet. The aim at this stage is to get the gist of the article, not be able to translate it completely. Translation is a whole different ball game and you will learn it soon enough.

You will be surprised how much more enjoyable reading will be if you really pay attention to this tip.

# Links to Grammar Practice Exercises .

- **Languagesonline:** The Grammar Revision resources on [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) are great as you can then select what 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. Another useful tactic is to translate the examples and exercises into English to ensure you understand the meaning of each tense.



Either choose to practice your grammar or work through some of the AS Resources.

- **Conjuguemos:** a great website for practicing your verb conjugations. Find it here: <https://conjuguemos.com/>

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