



FREE OR ALMOST FREE SPANISH PODCASTS

*You'll need iphone PODCAST or Android Playstore - Google Suite app or other app to locate these podcasts like Podbean on your smart phone or computer to access these podcasts. To access this list online with hotlinks go to my website:

www.learnspanishfasthoy.com

Most people will tell you that the best way to keep up your Spanish is to use it. That's certainly ideal, and conversation will improve your fluency in speaking. However, there's nothing that will affect your proficiency like getting language into your head. I've said that you must fill your piggybank before you can make a withdrawal © This means as much exposure to listening and reading as you can possibly get!

Language acquisition proceeds best when the input is not just comprehensible, but really interesting, even compelling; so interesting that you forget you are listening to or reading another language. – Stephen Krashen

And lucky for all you Spanish learners out there, there are many excellent, compelling options for listening now, thanks to the rise of Spanish podcasts. For those of us who are non-native speakers, podcasts are a perfect solution for getting quality input.

The Best Spanish Podcasts for Free

1. RadioAmbulante

Levels: Intermediate to Advanced

RADIO A AMBULANTE:

Produced by NPR, the stories in this podcast are compelling with top-quality production. Topics include currents events and cultural themes, with a special emphasis on Latin America, Spain, and the U.S. You can search episodes by theme and country.

I recommend this podcast for learners who can converse comfortably in Spanish, but need to keep up their skills or are teaching advanced classes. Transcripts in Spanish and English are included.

2. SpanishPodcast.net

Levels: Intermediate to Advanced



Going to the <u>Listado de episodios</u> is the easiest way to start navigating this extensive site. All of the episodes can be listened to on the site, and include a transcript.

Although the site offers "Spanish 101 lessons", they are really grammar lessons in Spanish and would be very difficult for beginners on their own. There are a ton of videos on YouTube as well. The only cost for the site is if you want to purchase their audiobooks.

3. Spanish Obsessed

Levels: Beginner to Advanced



Lisa and Rob co-host this podcast, which has dozens of well-produced episodes. Even the very first levels are conversation-based, and all episodes include transcripts. Rob is a learner and Lisa is native speaker (from Colombia, which tends to be an easier accent for beginners in my opinion). They have a nice pace and a relaxed way about chatting together.

Translations, exercises and downloads are for purchase, but once you sign up you get access to the podcasts.

4. **DuoLingo** *MY PERSONAL FAVORITE

Level: Intermediate



I LOVE that DuoLingo decided to focus on stories for their new podcast. It's a little different, in that it switches back and forth between Spanish and English. I am not sure what to think about that, might be too much English for my taste but...but I appreciate the compelling nature of the Spanish, lots of different native speakers, and it's not a translation back and forth. The speed and language are great for intermediate learners. Transcripts included!

5. Español Automático

Levels: Intermediate to Advanced



Another excellent option from Spanish native speakers, this one features podcasts centered on themes or certain grammar structures. This is a good one for learners who speak and understand, but want to refine their skills or fine-tune weak spots.

Here's a link to see all the podcasts at a glance (easier than navigating from the home page).

6. Notes in Spanish

Levels: Beginner to Advanced



A good podcast for grammar. A mix of Spanish and English, *Notes in Spanish* focuses functional language you hear "on the street." This is not straight immersion-style, but rather teaches important, every day phrases at the beginning, with pauses so you can repeat the after the speakers. *At the beginner level, there is more explanation than conversation*. As you move up, it becomes more natural conversation. You'll find that Ben and Marina, the hosts, are very

relaxed and assuring. Ben is a learner, and Marina is a native speaker. You will want to listen to this podcast in order, as each episode refers to previous episodes. Once you get to the iTunes stores, it's VERY easy to go from episode to episode, which I like, and the website is easy to navigate.

7. Discover Spanish

Levels: Beginner Intermediate



Discover Spanish is an organized podcast that moves through introductory phrases in well-paced 15-minute chunks. The main structure is a presentation of new phrases with some explanation and then a chance to repeat them several times. Learners who like concise lessons and the chance to try out speaking as they listen will enjoy this podcast.

I think this podcast would work best for beginners who are also using apps or books to learn Spanish, and want an extra audio component to reinforce what they've been reading and learning.

8. Profedele

Levels: Intermediate to Advanced



This is another new Podcast, with 12 episodes so far. Each episode focused on a different topic. If you teach by unit, these are helpful as you can probably find something to align with what you're studying.

Each podcast comes with a transcript in Spanish, and can be streamed on YouTube or Cloudstream.

9. Españolistos

Levels: Intermediate to Advanced



Nate and Andrea are a married couple who produce this conversational-style podcast. Nate is a non-native speaker, and Andrea is a native speaker with a Latin American accent. Her accent

is clear and accessible to learners. They cover a variety of interesting topics and will help Spanish learners keep up their fluency and listening skills.

10. The Unlimited Spanish

Levels: Intermediate to Advanced



Oscar is the host for this Spanish podcast, a native speaker from Spain who speaks with a clear, steady accent. He alternates between a conversational, story-telling style and vignettes of information about the Spanish language and culture.

This is an impressive and extensive collection of almost 150 podcasts for improving your listening skills. Most episodes include a transcript and lesson outline on the website.

11. The Extra Chunky Spanish

Levels: Beginners to Intermediate



The Extra Chunky Spanish is an innovative new podcast and different from the others in this post. A mix of Spanish and English, each episode examines a song in Spanish. The panel discusses the background of the song, spends time discussing the lyrics, and also dives into culture. The website includes extensive materials you can read or download for continued study and exposure to language in context.

Partially Free Spanish Podcasts

It's hard to find podcasts for true novices. Your best bet might be following a channel on YouTube like Dreaming Spanish, which you can slow down (when you click on the settings button in the lower right corner) and where you'll still have some visuals. But here are my best suggestions for those who've learned some but are still getting started.

1. News in Slow Spanish

Levels: Beginner to Advanced



(Though beginner levels are technically offered, they seem to be grammar modules primarily in English– keep that in mind.)

When they call this one "News in Slow Spanish," they actually mean it: the speakers are clear, slow, and enunciated. I like the option of speakers from Spain or Latin America, and each episode

has the transcript below. More difficult parts are bolded, and hovering over those phrases shows a translation. With the basic, free access, you can still listen to current news clips. The transcripts, grammar, quizzes, and a few more features include higher subscription costs.

2. Coffee Break Spanish

Levels: Beginner to Intermediate - Advanced



Coffee Break Spanish produces high-quality podcasts, beginning with lessons for novices and more conversational as the levels move up. The site is a little tricky to navigate, and it helps just to go to iTunes or the Android version, to access all the free podcasts in one place.

3. Podcasts in Spanish

Levels: Intermediate - Advanced



It was unclear on the site what the levels meant, but Level 1 already seemed to be intermediate. If you want worksheets and transcripts you have to pay, but all of the audio is free. There are a TON of audio files here.

4. Spanish Pod 101

Levels: Beginner - Advanced



Although Spanish Pod 101 offers an extensive library of free podcasts, it's also a little hard to navigate and is mixed with podcasts promoting their site. This podcast stands out from others because many lessons include video and subtitles, which many learners will definitely enjoy. If you can figure out how to find what you want to listen to, you'll find an extensive array of listens from native speakers, on a variety of topics. Worth an explore!

The Best Spanish Podcasts for Kids

There aren't many Spanish podcasts for kids yet, but here's what I've found so far!

1. La estación azul de niños

Levels: Intermediate to Advanced

La estación azul de niños is a family radio show created for children 3 and up. The episodes center on children's literature, conversation, play, music and imagination.

2. Tres Cuentos

Levels: Advanced



Tres Cuentos is a wonderfully-produced podcast for kids that narrates traditional tales from all across Latin America. The Spanish version is definitely best for advanced Spanish speakers/listeners, but get this: it's bilingual, so intermediate listeners could always listen first in English and then practice with the Spanish version!

3. Allegro Mágico

Levels: Advanced



Allegro Mágico is a beautiful podcast in Spanish that introduces kids to classical music. Each episode is designed to expose children to famous classical pieces and tell the story behind them. The creator is a native speaker from Mexico who wanted to have something to play in the background while her children played or rode around in the car. This one is perfect for families to listen to together, and best for bilingual kids.

4. Cuentos Infantiles

Levels: Intermediate - Advanced



Here you and your kids can listen to classic fairy tales and folk tales in Spanish. Each brief episode features a short telling of a famous story, which creator Andrés Escobar García recorded for his son "and anyone else who would like to listen."

5. Cuentos a la luz de la luna on Apple Podcasts

Levels: Advanced



Cuentos a la Luz de la Luna features dozens of retellings of fairy tales for kids, updated with modern language.

6. Cuentos Aventuras

Levels: Advanced



This is a huge site with over 80 stories, fables, and jokes for kids to listen to in Spanish (so far). It includes everything from classic Aesop's fables to Beatrix Potter to fairy tales and biographies.

7. Cuentos Infantiles y Para Todas Las Edades

Levels: Advanced



Cuentos infantiles y para todas las edades also features mostly classic tales, mixed in with new stories as well.

More Spanish Listening Resources

Here I've collected resources that aren't podcasts, but still are helpful to know about!

1. Spanish Proficiency Exercises

Levels: Beginner to Advanced



Totally free, this is a very organized site with clips of native speakers addressing specific topics. Each topics will have a variety of speakers with different accents, answering the same questions. Includes transcripts in both English and Spanish.

2. Practica Español

Levels: Beginner to Advanced



Wow. This site is new to me, but it is incredible. It contains some Spanish lessons and a huge database of news articles. When you click on "Noticias," you can choose levels A, B, or C to only see articles and audio that fit what level you need. This is one of the few

sites I've seen that truly has novice-level reading and audio based on actual news topics, not just explanations or grammar. Additionally, most articles have a real news clip in Spanish, with comprehension questions, and then related some grammar and vocabulary in context. Definitely bookmark this one!

3. Spanish Listening

Level: Beginner to Advanced



These video archives of native speakers are really easy to search: grammar, level, topic, or country.

4. Curiosamente

Level: Advanced



Created by native speakers, for native speakers, this is a YouTube channel that explores fascinating questions like "Why is the sky blue?" and "Why do we have Deja Vú?