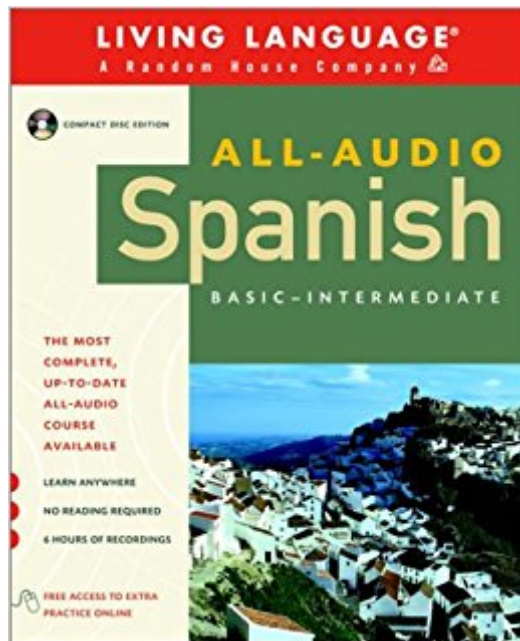




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# All-Audio Spanish: Compact Disc Program (All-Audio Courses)



## Synopsis

Speak Spanish Fluently with the Most Complete, Up-to-date All-Audio Course Available **LEARN SPANISH ON THE GO**? **LEARN ANYWHERE** If you have trouble finding time to fit in language lessons, All-Audio Spanish is the perfect solution. Developed by the experts at Living Language<sup>®</sup>, this program is designed for people on the move. You can learn Spanish as you drive, work around the house, or exercise at the gym. **SHORT, EASY-TO-FOLLOW LESSONS**? **NO READING REQUIRED** An English-speaking narrator guides you through 35 short lessons? **just listen and repeat** after native Spanish speakers. **VOCABULARY**? **GRAMMAR**? **DIALOGUES**? **CULTURE** Begin with vocabulary and grammar basics before hearing a lively dialogue that includes the most current Spanish idioms and usage. Interactive exercises reinforce what you've learned. You'll also learn some intriguing facts about Spanish customs and culture. **HANDY LISTENER'S GUIDE** No reading required, but our newly expanded 112-page listener's guide is a handy visual reference for spelling and text of all the dialogues. The guide also provides a brief grammar summary and a glossary of grammatical terms. Includes: 6 compact discs 1 Listener's guide

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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**VOCABULARY?GRAMMAR?DIALOGUES?CULTURE** Begin with vocabulary and grammar basics before hearing a lively dialogue that includes the most current Spanish idioms and usage.

Interactive exercises reinforce what you've learned. You'll also learn some intriguing facts about Spanish customs and culture. **HANDY LISTENER'S GUIDE** No reading required, but our newly expanded 112-page listener's guide is a handy visual reference for spelling and text of all the dialogues. The guide also provides a brief grammar summary and a glossary of grammatical terms. Includes: 6 compact discs Listener's guide

I had taken the French and Italian courses in this series earlier; so it was natural that when I wanted to obtain some basic Spanish skills I turned to the same series in order to keep with a familiar format. I find this series especially useful because it is strong and logical in its presentation of grammar and the most important words up front, in particular the verbs "to be," "to be able to," "to speak," "to say," "to have," "to make," and "to go," as well as necessary common words such as "here," "there," "this," "that"...well, the list goes on, but you get the idea: these may not be the very first words you need, but they are the basic building blocks of the language. As in almost every language the most frequently used and basic verbs are the most irregular; and I like it that this course introduces the regular conjugations almost simultaneously with presenting these most important of exceptions. Like most such courses, it starts with how to greet someone and then proceeds to other situations. I found Pimsleur somewhat more practical with respect to dealing with being a beginner to the language. It spends quite a bit of time, at the very beginning, to teach one to say he does or does not speak Spanish, or does or does not understand what someone is saying to him. All-Audio Spanish is deficient in this respect. I suppose that All-Audio Spanish prefers to take the optimistic view that after taking their course there will be no question as to whether one does or does not speak Spanish well! I have encountered other courses that take the not unreasonable position that the best way to teach a language is purely by rote since that's the way all of us learn our native language; but that doesn't work very well for me. I like to have some way of connecting the new information with things that I already know, and grammar is a sort of common glue that holds things together for me; and All-Audio Spanish provides this. Spanish courses, by the way,

have a special problem. Even though all languages have dialects, this is a particularly significant issue in Spanish because there is such a huge population of Spanish speakers in the Western Hemisphere, whose version of Spanish varies from that in Spain itself; and it is hard or impossible to ascertain what constitutes \*standard\* Spanish, when the majority of Spanish speakers in the world do not reside in Spain. (Of course the same thing is true of English vis a vis England, which is why many of us have to turn on subtitles when watching a movie in Cockney or Scottish English.) Many audio courses available in the U. S. naturally have a bias toward Latin-American Spanish. This course does point out the differences between Spanish as spoken in the various countries, although it has not clearly stated its bias. For better or worse, it is more consistent than those I have heard from Pimsleur and Learning...Like Crazy, both of these latter courses throwing in a number of variations in pronunciation without being clear as to where they came from. It is hard enough to learn a new language without having to grapple with the fact that a course does not present a single pronunciation as standard; so while it may not prepare one as well for the variety of pronunciations one is likely to encounter, All-Audio Spanish does have the virtue of consistency. My reason for taking Spanish is because of an upcoming trip there as a tourist, and I suppose it could be argued that maybe a Berlitz course is best under these circumstances, but then Berlitz courses are not available in all-audio versions as far as I am aware. Thus, I run into some frustrations using All-Audio Spanish as preparation for a trip. For example, I have no use whatever for a chapter on buying appliances; most vocabulary in that chapter is useless to me; but I still have to go through the chapter in order to pick up important grammatical information, and perhaps the addition of an important verb or two among all the words for dishwasher, dryer, etc. All-audio courses are essential for those of us who find that the majority of time that we can devote to learning a language is while driving; but let no one be deceived: one cannot learn a language based on audio alone. Even ignoring the fact that it prepares one miserably for understanding written Spanish, it makes it harder to learn vocabulary. When you can see the words, the relationship to words in English or other Romance languages you might happen to know is immediately apparent and a great learning aid. It is widely accepted that the more senses one can involve in learning something, the better. This places an all-audio course at almost as much of a disadvantage as a book, the latter being a purely visual experience and devoid of pronunciation by native speakers. Now, All-Audio Spanish does go a long way toward compensating for this inherent disadvantage by having an accompanying booklet that shows almost all the vocabulary. I advise everyone to try to find the time to review these along with the audio. Finally, I'll address the issue of pacing. I have tried out a Pimsleur Spanish course, and it proceeded very slowly with lots of repetition. With the Pimsleur, one can actually learn at the

rate that the audio delivers it. All-Audio Spanish, on the other hand after the first couple of lessons, proceeds much too fast for that. I have to repeat each chapter several times, and/or stop and back up frequently just to try to understand what is being spoken (in Spanish), and then several more times to get the amount of repetition necessary to learn the material. However, as advantageous as Pimsleur's approach is, it is *\*very\** expensive because it takes so many discs to get one through even the most basic of materials. So for purely economic reasons, I find All-Audio Spanish more feasible. There are many ways to go about learning a language, and the various factors of pacing, expense, the purpose for learning the language, and individual learning styles all mean that no one course is going to be appropriate for everyone. I've listed a number of "cons

This is perfect for someone with a little bit of background in Spanish. I had some college Spanish 20 years ago, & these CDs jog my memory of what I used to know while teaching me some new words and grammatical principles. Each lesson is very short, perfect for getting in 5-10 minutes while driving. It varies the material also, which I like. E.g., there will be a few new vocabulary words, a short dialog to listen to in Spanish, the same dialog broken down line by line in English and Spanish, an explanation and examples of something like comparing A to B in Spanish, a few questions to answer in Spanish with pauses and then the correct answers, and the conjugation of 1-3 verbs. The voices are very clear. I can't tell what Spanish accent they're using, but it's not the lisping sort used in Spain. Occasionally they'll state that the norm for, e.g., answering the phone, is such-and-such in Spain, something else in Mexico, and something else in Puerto Rico. This is all very helpful. Overall, I'm learning and not getting bored with it.

I found this course, which I bought used to be in excellent condition. It was chock full of Spanish words and phrases. My only criticism is that the recorded lessons don't allow sufficient time for response before the recorded speaker responds.

I am happy , very good quality and price in particular ,my best choice

The CD's have been very helpful. I listen to them in the car as I am sitting in traffic.

Its ok if you want to just review and remember the basic words you learn from formal classes. If you want to become real fluent probably not the top choice but for the price is ok.

I DID NOT RECEIVE ANY CASSETTES OR ANYTHING, JUST THE BOOK! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THAT, IF THERE IS "NO READING REQUIRED" ?! I AM VERY DISSATISFIED.

This is a really comprehensive CD set - 6 cd's that take you from the basics to almost an intermediate level. Native speakers, clear concise dialogue, interesting cultural facts, VERB CONJUGATIONS (!) and enough time for you to listen and repeat after the prompts (escucha et responde!)- I was pleasantly surprised! There is a little book with this set, although it does not cover all the 'dialogues' or lessons, it gives you just enough of the right information to see you through the next lesson. I have already recommended this to several friends! Just got through the 1st cd and I already feel more confident speaking!!

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