



SPAIN

“The devil knows more due to being old than from being the devil.”

Spanish proverb

1. Spain Discussion

1. What is Spain famous for?
2. What is the capital of Spain? What do you know about that city? Which other important cities or places in Spain do you know about?
3. Have you ever visited Spain? If so, what did you do? If not, where would you like to visit? What would you do there?
4. Would you like to live in Spain? Why or why not? Where is the best place to live in Spain?
5. What do you know about the culture of Spain? Why do Spanish people have siestas in the afternoon? Would you like it if your country had siestas?
6. What do you think about Spanish food? Have you ever tried it? What are the best dishes?
7. What do you know about the music of Spain? How about TV shows or films? What are the best TV shows, films or music? What about Spanish works of art?
8. Which sports is Spain known for? What sports is Spain good at?

2. Spanish People

- **Hernán Cortés** – Born in the village of Medellín in Extremadura in 1485, Cortes is a controversial figure in Spanish history due to the fact that it was his expedition as a conquistador that led to the fall of the Aztec Empire and therefore the first phase of Spanish colonisation of the Americas. He was instrumental in converting indigenous peoples of Mexico to Christianity during which he was accused of violence and brutality towards the local population.
- **Miguel De Cervantes** – Born in Alcalá de Henares in the Community of Madrid in 1547, Cervantes is often described as the greatest Spanish writer of all time. His most famous work, *Don Quixote*, is considered the first modern novel and is one of the most translated books in the world. After he was charged with injuring a man during a duel, Cervantes left Madrid for Rome and then Naples where he served in the royal fleet of the Crown of Aragon, participating in the Battle of Lepanto.
- **Antoni Gaudi** – Born in the Catalan town of Reus (although this is disputed by the tourist board of neighbouring Riudoms) in 1852, Gaudi is most famous for designing the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona whose construction began in 1882 and still hasn't been completed today due to all the siestas the workmen keep taking. Gaudi developed a unique style of architecture characterised by the use of vibrant multi-colours, mosaic tiles and stained glass.
- **Pablo Picasso** – Born in the city of Malaga in southern Spain in 1881, Picasso is one of the most famous modern artists in history. Art experts describe Picasso's style as analytic and synthetic cubism with influences of surrealism. To non-art experts, his style may be described as faces with their features in the wrong place. His most famous painting, *Guernica*, portrays the tragic events of the Nazi bombing of the Basque village of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.
- **Salvador Dalí** – Born in the Catalan town of Figueres in 1904, Dalí is another of the most famous modern artists in history. Dalí is synonymous with surrealism; he is the man with the funny moustache who painted the melting clocks and the elephants with long legs. In addition to painting, Dalí also made films and sculptures, and wrote fiction and poetry, all of which was characterised by the recurring themes of subconsciousness, sexuality, religion, science and his relationships.
- **Rafael Nadal** – Born on the Balearic Island of Mallorca in 1986, Nadal is one of the most successful tennis players in history, having racked up a total of 22 Majors and 10 Grand Slams. Nadal first burst onto the scene at the French Open in 2005 which he also won, and since then, he has never been outside of the top 10 of the ATP rankings throughout his career. In addition to his philanthropic work in his native Mallorca, Nadal also has an asteroid named after him.

The people of Spain speaking activity

1. Which of these people did you already know about?
2. Which of these people had the most impressive achievements?
3. Who are some other important Spanish people, past or present, that you know about? Why are they important?
4. Do you know about any famous actors, artists or sports stars from Spain?
5. What do you think about people from Spain? Have you ever met any? How were they? (If you are from Spain, how would you describe the people from your country?)
6. What are some stereotypes of Spanish people?

3. Video: Spanish History

You are going to watch a video by History of Spain called "A brief history of Spain."

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-spain/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. In the pre-Roman period, Spain was divided amongst whom?
a) religions b) empires c) tribes
2. When did the Romans arrive in Spain?
a) 208 BC b) 218 BC c) 280 BC
3. Where did the Visigoths invade from?
a) the south b) the east c) the north
4. The Visigoths made which religion the official religion of the Spanish peninsula?
a) Islam b) Christianity c) Judaism

Sentence completion

5. The Mosque in Cordoba and the Alhambra in Granada are two impressive _____ built by the Muslims.
6. In 1212, the Muslims were defeated by the Christians in a decisive _____.
7. When Isabella of Castille and Ferdinand of Aragon got married, they unified both _____.
8. Spanish dominions were _____ across the Americas by conquerors like Hernán Cortes and Francisco Pizarro.

Short answer

9. When was Philip II crowned king of Portugal?
10. When did the British defeat Spain in the Battle of Trafalgar?
11. Spain lost its last colonies after a war with which country?
12. When did General Franco die allowing Spain to transition to democracy?

4. Spain Conversation Questions

1. What do you think are the main differences between Spain and your country? (If you are from Spain, which countries are most similar and different to yours?)
2. Do you know any Spanish words or sayings? Which Spanish words are used in English?
3. What did Spain give to the world?
4. What are some important events from Spain's history? Should the Spanish Empire be something to be proud of, or something to be ashamed of? Why?
5. What do you think about the practice of bullfighting? Should it be banned, or should this cultural tradition be respected?
6. How important is Spain in the world? How important will Spain be in the future?
7. What do you know about the government or politics of Spain? (If you are from Spain, what do you think about your government?) Why do some regions of Spain want independence? What do you think about this?
8. What kind of relationship with Spain does your country have? (If you are from Spain, which countries does Spain have good and bad relations with?)

5. Spain Writing Task

Write about your opinion of Spain. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What Spain is most famous for.
- Some important events in Spain's history.
- What you know about the culture of Spain and its people.