

SPANISH LEARNING RESOURCES

www.fotopala.com

www.pimsleur.com - Everyone who knows me well knows that the Pimsleur program is my favorite language learning program. If you want to accelerate your progress in actually speaking Spanish, Pimsleur is the way to go.

www.rosettastone.com - Everybody knows about Rosetta Stone, the world's most popular language learning program. I own the program and have been through it 3 times ... it is helpful, but not my most favorite.

www.fluencz.com - This little company is unabashedly taking on Rosetta Stone, saying that they are BETTER than Rosetta Stone, and trying to take market share away. The Fluencz product is pretty pricey, like Rosetta Stone, but an interesting alternative. Rosetta Stone has been around a long time, and I would say that their complete suite as a whole is much more evolved than Fluencz. But I will say this about Fluencz, it has the best Spanish writing drills that I have ever found. Fluencz forces you to write and write and write, and I have found that it has greatly enhanced my ability to write in Spanish (including getting the correct accents on letters of the alphabet). I do not like the writing component of Rosetta Stone, and so I was thrilled to find the Fluencz program, and to get some very effective help with my Spanish writing. Another selling point for the Fluencz product is that there is an English speaking instructor that clarifies grammar, vocabulary, etc., in contrast to the Rosetta Stone total immersion system where nothing is explained in English.

<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/spe/index.html> - A very helpful site, free videos in Spanish for various levels (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced), and the videos are accompanied by a text translation. I have downloaded all of these videos to my iTunes and iPod/iPhone.

<http://www.learner.org/series/destinos/> - Destinos Spanish educational telenovela, very helpful and free to everyone. Go to this site and click on "Watch" at the top.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/> - This BBC site has videos that will help you learn Spanish.

<http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/index.php> - Award winning site that combines learning Spanish with culture.

<http://www.audiria.com/> - Audiria has free Spanish podcasts that cover a range of topics. NOTE: These podcasts are in Castilian, not Latin American Spanish.

<http://www.ver-taal.com/vocabulario.htm> - I do not know who produces this web site, or why ... all the material seems to be free, and you can watch video and do exercises. The site says that these are Spanish exercises for foreigners: vocabulary, grammar, listening exercises from the TV news reports, commercials, trailers and documentaries.

<http://conjuguemos.com> - A great site for practicing verb drills.

<http://www.fluentin3months.com/> - Benny is a polyglot, and I do not agree with some things he says (like his criticisms of the Pimsleur method), but it is a very popular blog and he does post helpful information, and he does seem to be very connected to the language learning community (and thus posts links regularly).

<http://www.lingq.com/> - Similar to Benny noted above, the guy who started Lingq has his own stuff to sell ... this site is also very popular.

<http://foreignlanguageexpertise.com/> - Speaking of polyglots, this guy has is fluent in DOZENS of languages, so you may want to try some of his techniques. I have tried his "shadowing" technique, and it is helpful.

<http://www.lexiophiles.com/> - This site polls language learners to learn what are the most popular language learning sites, and then publishes the lists. There are lots of links to good sites that are not mentioned in this email.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/latinmusicusa/#/en/cat/welcome> - This public service site is free, you can listen to various types of Latin American music and learn about the music. This link takes you to the English language site, but to read in Spanish click on the link at top left "Véalo en Español."

<http://iteslj.org/v/s/> - English/Spanish vocabulary quizzes.

<http://www.cml.bham.ac.uk/learner/general/spanish.shtml> - This site has several links, some of which are mentioned above. There is a lot of information here to sift through, if you have the time to review these sites, please let me know what sites that you found useful, and I will share your suggestions with others.

<http://web.mit.edu/fll/www/languages/Spanish.shtml> - Another site I have not yet figured out how to use, but this site is provided by MIT – and hey, they are smart people.

<http://translate.google.com/#> - I cheat with this site often.

<http://www.spanishdict.com/> - A nice site and dictionary, I also have the iPhone app for this site.

<http://dictionary.reverso.net/spanish-english/> - My preferred Spanish/English dictionary.

<http://users.ipfw.edu/jehle/VERBLIST.HTM> - In my opinion, hands down the best site for finding all of the conjugations of all the verbs, plus there is lots of other helpful information on this site.

www.lomastv.com – On the home page it states, "Learn Spanish by watching Spanish TV in an online video player designed for language learners." You can watch videos, see subtitles in both English and Spanish, and you even have the option to slow down or speed up the audio.

www.lacasarojas.com – This dude is a private instructor in Peru, and seems to have put together an extensive profile of resources for Spanish language learners. The only thing I know about this program is that I downloaded for free through iTunes 15 of this guy's podcasts, and they seem pretty good. However, on his web site you get the "premium" content for a fee.

Language learning communities:

- <http://www.livemocha.com/> - The world's largest language learning community.
- <http://www.busuu.com/> - Probably not as big as LiveMocha, but some people like this site a lot better.
- <http://www.hello-hello.com/> - Hello-Hello offers free Spanish lessons, plus opportunities to chat with learners and native speakers
- www.verbling.com – Verbling appears to be an easy way to find intercambio partners to practice conversation. I assume that all you need is a webcam to get started, and I think the site is free for now. I have also heard that Verbling has many more native Spanish speakers than English speakers, so all of us Gringos would have no problem finding partners.
- <http://www.lenguajero.com/> – A fledgling community.

<http://fotopala.com/> – Last but not least, our very own Fotopala site where you can extend your Spanish vocabulary by seeing images of various Spanish words. Hopefully somewhere down the road we will have thousands of words on this site.