

Spanish for your commute



Thirty useful phrases for everyday moments. Each line gives the English meaning, neutral Latin American Spanish and a simple pronunciation cue. The cues are approximate, not a substitute for listening to a speaker.

In the car, safety comes first. Download and read this guide before driving or after parking. Never read a page, tap a device or practise an unfamiliar line while driving. If you have a safe, hands-free audio reading, listen and repeat a phrase only when traffic and attention allow. This PDF has no audio.

01 Say hello

Hello.	Hola. OH-lah
Good morning.	Buenos días. BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs
Good afternoon.	Buenas tardes. BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs
Good evening / good night.	Buenas noches. BWEH-nahs NOH-chehs
How are you? (informal)	¿Cómo estás? KOH-moh ehs-TAHS

02 Be polite

My name is ...	Me llamo ... meh YAH-moh
Nice to meet you.	Mucho gusto. MOO-choh GOOS-toh
Please.	Por favor. por fah-VOR
Thank you.	Gracias. GRAH-syahs
You're welcome.	De nada. deh NAH-dah

Out in the world

Choose one situation and say the useful phrases aloud before you leave. The spellings below are only cues for English speakers and vary by accent.

03 At a café

I would like a coffee, please.

Quisiera un café, por favor.

kee-SYEH-rah oon kah-FEH por fah-VOR

Do you have milk? (polite)

¿Tiene leche?

TYEH-neh LEH-cheh

To go, please.

Para llevar, por favor.

PAH-rah yeh-VAR por fah-VOR

The bill, please.

La cuenta, por favor.

lah KWEHN-tah por fah-VOR

Can I pay by card?

¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta?

PWEH-doh pah-GAR kohn tar-HEH-tah

04 Find your way

Where is the station?

¿Dónde está la estación?

DOHN-deh ehs-TAH lah ehs-tah-SYOHN

How do I get to the city centre?

¿Cómo llego al centro?

KOH-moh YEH-goh ahl SEHN-troh

Is it far?

¿Está lejos?

ehs-TAH LEH-hohs

To the right.

A la derecha.

ah lah deh-REH-chah

To the left.

A la izquierda.

ah lah ees-KYEHR-dah

Pronunciation varies across regions. In most Latin American accents, the c in gracias sounds like s, and the j in tarjeta sounds like an English h.

One phrase at a time

Try these in a calm setting before using them in a conversation. Speak slowly and leave room for the other person to reply.

05 Start a conversation

I'm visiting.	Estoy de visita. ehs-TOY deh vee-SEE-tah
I'm from Canada.	Soy de Canadá. SOY deh kah-nah-DAH
What do you recommend? (polite)	¿Qué me recomienda? KEH meh reh-koh-MYEHN-dah
What a lovely place.	Qué bonito lugar. KEH boh-NEE-toh loo-GAR
Do you speak English? (polite)	¿Habla inglés? AH-blah een-GLEHS

06 Ask for help

I need help.	Necesito ayuda. neh-seh-SEE-toh ah-YOO-dah
I don't understand.	No entiendo. noh ehn-TYEHN-doh
Can you repeat that, please? (polite)	¿Puede repetirlo, por favor? PWEH-deh reh-peh-TEER-loh por fah-VOR
More slowly, please.	Más despacio, por favor. MAHS dehs-PAH-syoh por fah-VOR
Where is the bathroom?	¿Dónde está el baño? DOHN-deh ehs-TAH ehl BAH-nyoh

A practical next step: Pick one phrase from this page, read it when parked and try saying it aloud from memory later. For structured Spanish conversation practice, see our independent course guide: getlanguageleap.com/speak/. The free phrase guide stands on its own.