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# SPANISH

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A Creative and Proven Approach

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Margarita Madrigal

With Original Illustrations by  
A n d y W a r h o l



MADRIGAL'S  
MAGIC KEY TO  
SPANISH

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*And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche.*

—CHAUCER

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## Preface

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*A*t this moment you know several thousand Spanish words even if you have never seen or heard a Spanish word before. You are not aware of these words simply because they have not been pointed out to you. In this book I'm going to show you how easy it is to learn Spanish by showing you how much you already know. For instance, have you ever seen these Spanish words before?

popular	radio	actor
capital	conductor	ideal
animal	probable	flexible
hotel	cable	central

Can you recognize any of these words?

Atlántico	restaurante	optimista
Pacífico	importante	dentista
dramático	presidente	artista
constructive	permanente	confusión
atractivo	medicina	invitaeión

If you can recognize even a few of these words, the Spanish language is yours for the taking.

It is encouraging to know that you can identify thousands upon thousands of Spanish words at sight. But it is really exciting to discover that with a few hints you yourself can form these words and that you can start out on your venture of learning Spanish with a large, ready-

made vocabulary. When you study this method you will find that you will not only have the ability to recognize words, but that it will actually be within your power to convert English words into Spanish words.

Furthermore, you will learn what to do with these words. You will feel the thrill of starting right out forming sentences from the very first lesson. You will learn to think in Spanish and you will know the beauty and rhythm of spoken Spanish. When you finish this course you will be able to go to a Spanish-speaking country and talk to the people and understand them.

From the time man first began to learn foreign tongues down to the present time, language methods have relied on memory and not on the pupil's powers of creation. Now the process is reversed. This book will teach you to create. The very first lesson will prove to you that you can create at least one hundred times more material than you could possibly memorize in the same given time. Furthermore, the process of creation is exciting, whereas mechanical memorizing is tremendously boring. Also consider that you are apt to forget a word that you memorize mechanically. But a word that you create stays with you forever.

The motto of this book, if such there be, is "And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche" (Chaucer). From my own experience I know that what is not gladly learned is not learned at all. It is the essence of this method to make learning Spanish a pleasure for you. I have tried to guide you lovingly through the language. Every means of making it easy for you has been incorporated into this book. Thousands of questions that have been asked by former students have made it possible for me to anticipate your questions and to answer them.

Do you believe that you cannot learn a foreign tongue?

Did you study languages in school and fail to learn to speak them?

Do you know a great many Spanish words that you cannot put into sentences?

Were you ever bored in a language class?

Have you thought that learning a new language involved so much work that it couldn't fit into your schedule?

If you can answer "yes" to any of the questions above, this method is for you.

This book will teach you to:

1. Speak Spanish
2. Read Spanish
3. Write in Spanish
4. Think in Spanish

This is not an empty promise. The method has proved successful with more than a quarter of a million people in the span of a few years. Not one student who has started this method has failed. Some went more slowly than others, but in the end every student learned more Spanish for every hour that he spent with the book than he had thought possible in his fondest dreams.

This method, which has worked with so many students, will work with you. Turn to Lesson I and prove this to yourself right now.

## Pronunciation Key

- A** The letter A is always pronounced “ah” as in “Ah, Sweet Mystery.”
- E** The letter E is always pronounced “E” as in *bet, test, bless*.
- I** The letter I is always pronounced “EE” as in *greet, beet*.
- O** The letter O is always pronounced “O” as in obey (but without the slightest trace of a U sound. It is a clean, distinct O sound).
- U** The letter U is always pronounced “OO” as in *cool, pool*.
- B**
1. The letter B is pronounced “B” as in *bit*.
  2. However, when a letter B appears between vowels it is pronounced very softly. In fact, the B between vowels is so soft that your lips hardly touch when you pronounce it. Try pronouncing the word “abundancia” with a very, very soft B.
- C**
1. The C before A, O, U is hard as the C in *can*.
  2. The C before E or I is soft as the C in *cent*.
- CC** is pronounced “X.” “Acción” is pronounced “axion.”
- CH** As in child.
- D**
1. The letter D is pronounced “D” as in “do.”
  2. When the D is the last letter of a word or when it appears between vowels, it is pronounced as the softest TH imaginable. Say the English word “the” several times making the TH very, very soft; then say “*ciudad*,” pronouncing both D’s with the same soft TH.
- G**
1. The G before A, O, U is hard as in *get*.

2. The G before E or I is pronounced H as in *hen*. “General” is pronounced “heneral.”

**H** The H is always silent in Spanish. “Hotel” is pronounced “otel.”

**J** The J is pronounced “H” as in *hen*.

**L** The L is pronounced “L” as in *let*.

**LL** The LL is pronounced “Y” as in *yes*.  
“Caballo” is pronounced “cabayo”; “llevo” is pronounced “yevo.”

**ñ** The ñ is pronounced “NY.” “Cabaña” is pronounced “cabanya” and “señor” is “senyor.”

**R** The R is slightly trilled except when it is the first letter in a word, in which case it is strongly trilled.

**RR** Always strongly trilled.

**T** The T is always pronounced as the “TT” in *attractive*. “Patio” (pattio), “simpático” (simpático).

**Y** 1. The letter Y is pronounced “Y” as in *yet*.  
2. However, when the letter Y stands alone it is pronounced “EE” as in *beet*. “Y” means “and” in Spanish.

**Z** The Z is pronounced “S” as in *sent*.

**QUE** is pronounced “KE” as in *kept*.

**QUI** is pronounced “KEE” as in *keen, keep*.

**GUE** is pronounced “GUE” as in *guest*.

**GUI** is pronounced “GEE” as in *geese*.

The rest of the letters are pronounced as they are in English, with only very slight variations.

In some parts of Spain the C before E or I is pronounced “TH,” and the Z is always pronounced “TH.”

# Contents

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## **Preface**

### **1. Lección Número Uno**

Words that are identical in Spanish and English. How to convert English words into Spanish words. How to form sentences. Lists of words that are similar or identical in Spanish and English. How to form Spanish words from English words that end in “al,” “ble,” “ic,” “ent,” and “ant.” Basic differences in spelling between Spanish and English.

### **2. Lección Número Dos**

How to form Spanish words from English words that end in “ist,” “ous,” and “ion.” The use of these words in sentences.

### **3. Lección Número Tres**

How to convert nouns that end in “ion” into verbs. How to form questions.

## 4. Lección Número Cuatro

How to form Spanish words from English words that end in “ty.”  
Conversation using “tomé” (*I took*) and “tomó” (*you took*).

## 5. Lección Número Cinco

How to form Spanish words from English words that end in “ry”  
and “em.” Conversation using “visité” (*I visited*) and “invité” (*I invited*).

## 6. Lección Número Seis

A simple way of converting English verbs into Spanish verbs.  
How to use these verbs in sentences.

## 7. Lección Número Siete

Conversation using “hablé” (*I spoke, talked*). How to form Spanish words from English words that end in “ce” and “cy.”

## 8. Lección Número Ocho

An easy way to convert Spanish nouns you know into verbs. How to form questions in the past tense.

## 9. Lección Número Nueve

How to greet people. Conversation using “¿Cómo está?” (*How are? How is?*).