

SPANISH

AN EXPANDING
UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE



MARCA
ESPAÑA

SPANISH

AN EXPANDING UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Spain's most universal assets are its language and culture. Today, more than 500 million people speak Spanish: it is the language with the second-largest number of native speakers in the world, and the second language of international communication. Moreover, it is the world's second most studied language (after English), with more than 40 million students in 90 countries.

It is the official or quasi-official language in 21 countries. Its vitality and strength are becoming clearer day by day, as the number of Spanish speakers is constantly increasing. According to Britannica World Data, by 2030 Spanish-speakers will comprise 7.5% of the world's population, far ahead of Russian (2.2%), French (1.4%) and German (1.2%). If current trends hold steady, within three or four generations, 10% of the planet's inhabitants will communicate in Spanish.

Moreover, by 2050, the United States will be the number-one Spanish-speaking country in the world. US Census Bureau estimates indicate that there will be 132.8 million Hispanics in the USA

in 2050, nearly triple the current 50 million. This would total 30% of the population, meaning that nearly one in three residents of the United States will be a Spanish speaker.

Spanish already has a high profile on the internet—being the third most-used language (7.8% of the total)—and in scientific circles.

Spanish culture is, undoubtedly, one of the richest in the world. There is a long list of internationally renowned Spaniards from the fields of literature, the fine arts, music, and cinema, as well as from the many countries where language is the means of expression. Spanish-speaking culture travels the globe, spreading its mixture of the traditional and the avant-garde, highlighting the genius and creativity of Spanish artists and authors.

In Spain, the rich heritage of the Spanish language is united with those of three other locally co-official languages: Catalan, Basque and Galician.

FIGURES



500

million people
speak Spanish

2nd

largest number of
native speakers
worldwide

21

countries in which
Spanish is an
official language

1st

country in the
world in number of
Spanish speakers:
Mexico

3rd

country in number
of Spanish
speakers: United
States

1st

language in terms
of projected growth

2nd

most studied
language in the
world

3rd

most used language
on the internet

Created in 1991, today Instituto Cervantes is present in more than 80 cities in 44 countries on six continents. • A public cultural institution, its mandate is to promote Spanish and Spain's locally co-official languages, and to disseminate the culture of all Spanish-speaking countries. • It maintains a reference portal on the Spanish language and culture in Spanish, the Cervantes Virtual Centre, and offers Spanish courses through its AVE Virtual Classroom. • The DELE is an official diploma accrediting the level of competence and proficiency in the Spanish language. It is internationally recognised and valid indefinitely.



EL INSTITUTO

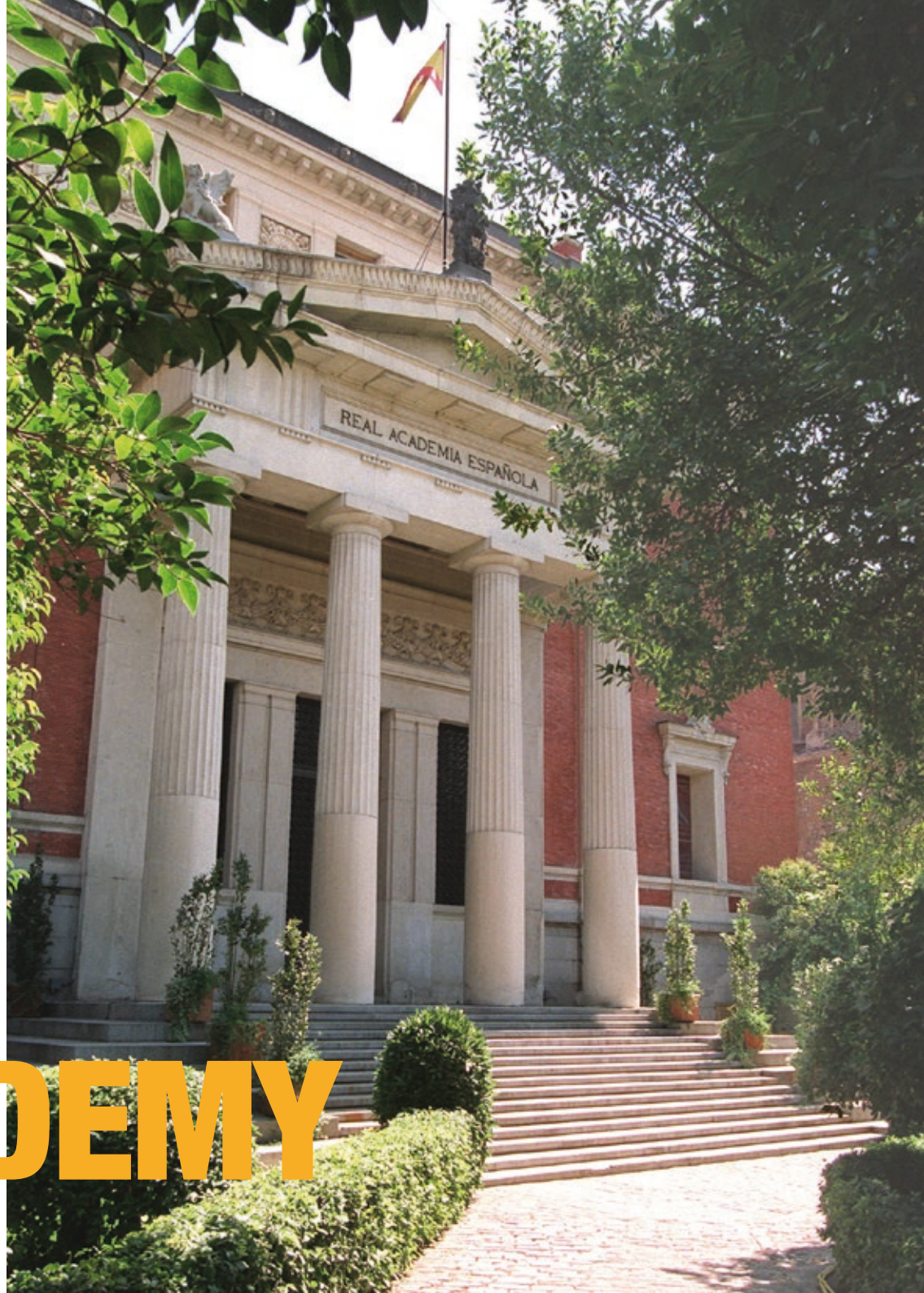
CERVANTES

The Royal Academy of the Spanish Language is responsible for overseeing the language, its standards, its evolution, and adaptation. • It recently celebrated its 300th anniversary. • The RAE, along with the 22 academies of the other Spanish-speaking countries, constitutes the Association of Academies of the Spanish Language (ASALE). • Its work has been published in a number of volumes on grammar, spelling, and lexicography, such as the Ortografía de la Lengua Española, Diccionario Panhispánico de Dudas, Nueva gramática de la lengua española and the Diccionario de la Lengua Española.

THE ROYAL

ACADEMY

**OF THE SPANISH
LANGUAGE (RAE)**



THE INTERNET



Spanish is the third most used language on the internet: 8% of more than 2.1 billion users, after English and Mandarin. • Between 2000 and 2012, its use has grown by more than 810% (+ 1,200% in Latin America), compared with 301% for English. • The growth potential of Spanish-speaking users continues to be very high, since internet penetration is still low in Latin America (39.5% of the population, versus more than 72% in the EU).

STUDYING

SPANISH IS TRENDY



It is the second most studied language in the world: nearly 20 million people around the globe. • In the United States alone, 6 million people are studying Spanish today. • In the last 10 years, registered students studying Spanish increased 13-fold. And demand is still rising.

Spanish is in the world's top five in terms of number of speakers, number of countries where it is official, and expanse of territory over which it is spoken—all factors giving it great economic weight. • Tourism, culture and trade are the areas where language has the highest economic value. • Language tourism generates more than 500 million euros every year. The number of language tourists grew 140% over the last decade. • Spanish, a key factor in cultural industries: literature, theatre, film, music, mass media, science and research, education and publishing (4th in the world).



SPANISH, AN ECONOMIC ASSET

SPANISH, A LANGUAGE FOR

SCIENCE



Today, Spanish is an essential instrument for disseminating scientific findings. • Although far from the top in international science rankings, scientific and technical Spanish is becoming more and more important worldwide. • Spain ranks tenth internationally in terms of scientific production.

SPAIN

RICH

LANGUAGE HERITAGE

In Spain, three other languages are spoken, in addition to Castilian Spanish: Basque, Galician and Catalan.

- The first text written in Catalan dates from the 12th century. In the 19th century, the language underwent a period of recovery and expansion (Renaixença).
- Basque is one of the oldest languages in Europe. Since 1979, with the approval of Euskera Batua (Standardised Basque), its use has expanded greatly.
- Galician was born in the 13th century, with the Cantigas de Santa María by Alphonse X, known as the Wise. The 19th century saw its Rexurdimento, or literary resurgence.





Since its creation in 1901, 11 authors writing in Spanish have received the Nobel Prize for Literature:

- José Echegaray (1904, Spanish)
- Jacinto Benavente (1922, Spanish)
- Gabriela Mistral (1945, Chilean)
- Juan Ramón Jiménez (1956, Spanish)
- Miguel Ángel Asturias (1967, Guatemalan)
- Pablo Neruda (1971, Chilean)
- Vicente Aleixandre (1977, Spanish)
- Gabriel García Márquez (1982, Colombian)
- Camilo José Cela (1989, Spanish)
- Octavio Paz (1990, Mexican)
- Mario Vargas Llosa (2010, Peruvian and Spanish)

NOBEL

PRIZES IN SPANISH

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