

EASY WAYS TO PRACTICE SPANISH

When learning a language, a student will first understand, later be able to read and write and then finally be able to speak the language.

Much of learning a language depends upon the student's natural ability and how often they apply what they've learned outside the classroom. Spanish is a "use it or lose it" type of activity.

You must practice to learn and retain it!

- Use words, then phrases, then complete sentences
- Use verbal answers as well as written answers when applicable
- Look up Spanish vocabulary and write it on the game cards (*Use a sharpie or label*)
- Call out the numbers and colors in Spanish
- Label game parts, cards, boards, etc. in Spanish
- Look up the Spanish words in a dictionary, using a tablet, phone or computer and write them with a Sharpie marker or print a label. This helps you learn and remember when you look up the translations and use them over and over again during a game.

With Sidewalk Chalk

- Practice writing pictures and saying them in Spanish, saying the colors in Spanish, or have older kids write words in Spanish.
- Draw simple shapes/pictures and have kids tell you what they are in Spanish. (shapes like circle, triangle, square, star, etc.)
- Older students can draw detailed pictures and describe them in Spanish. Even if you're not sure if it's correct, let them utilize their bilingual skills to practice speaking.
- Have them do it with a friend and correct each other's Spanish.

Other Ways to Practice

- Watch movies (*Hulu, Netflix or cable*) in Spanish. Just change the audio setting to “Spanish” and you can listen to most TV and movies in the Spanish language (*not subtitles*).
- When driving around, listen to music in Spanish. This helps you start to decipher words and phrases and helps you listen to the various accents of Spanish speakers.
- Big stores often times have aisles and items labeled in both languages. Read the Spanish translation together. This grows your vocabulary.
- Shop at the Hispanic grocery stores — you can learn a ton about their culture, foods and language by visiting the store.

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