**CURIOSIDADES**

[**1 Tú y los demás Los apellidos**](#LosDemas)

[**2 La familia en casa ¿Dónde viven los españoles?**](#LaFamilia)

[**3 La rutina El menú del día**](#LaRutina)

[**4 El tiempo libre Los grandes del cine español**](#ElTiempoLibre)

[**5 La fiesta de cumpleaños Cumpleaños**](#LaFiesta)

[**6 En la ciudad El transporte público**](#EnLaCiudad)

[**7 Trabajo de verano El día laboral en España**](#Trabajo)

[**8 La historia de mi vida Don Quijote de la Mancha**](#LaHistoriaDeMiVida)

[**9 En el futuro Barcelona and Catalan**](#EnElFuturo)

[**10 Repaso El Corte Inglés**](#Repaso)

**1 Tú y los demás**

**Los apellidos**

In the Spanish-speaking world, people have two [surnames](http://surnames.behindthename.com/glossary/view/surname). The first surname, considered the primary surname, is inherited from the father's paternal surname, while the second is inherited from the mother's paternal surname. Women usually keep their names even if they marry.

For example, if Carmen Salguero Ramírez marries Miguel Alvarado Martínez, both will keep their surnames unchanged. If they have a child named Mónica, her full name will be Mónica Alvarado Salguero. The word ‘name’ in Spanish is **nombre** and the word ‘surname’ in Spanish is **apellido**.

In Spanish, there are many ways to address a person and they vary depending on the formality of the relationship, how many people you are talking to, and even what country you are in.

There are five ways to address people directly in Spanish:

• **tú** - singular and informal

• **usted (Ud.)** - singular and formal

• **vosotros** - plural and informal - used in Spain

• **ustedes (Uds.)** - plural and formal or informal

• **vos** - singular and formal or informal - used in Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and parts of Central America.

The verb endings will vary depending on what pronouns you decide to use. In this unit you will learn the endings for **tú** and in Unit 3 for **vosotros**. Ask your teacher if you need to learn the other forms now, otherwise these forms will be introduced in *Foundations Spanish 2*.

**2 La familia en casa**

**¿Dónde viven los españoles?**

According to a 2015 survey by the National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estadística - INE) on Spanish living arrangements, households consisting of couples are the most numerous in Spain. In a country of nearly 47 million people, over 10 million households are exclusively formed of couples. As for children, there are 3.94 million couples that do not have any children at all; 2.98 million couples have only one child; and 2.80 million couples have two children. The number of couples that live with three or more children is less than 590,000 - only 3.2% of Spanish households.

The majority of couples living together in Spain are married (86.3%) and sexually heterogeneous (99.3%). The number of homosexual couples living in the same household is 0.7%, and of these 56% of them are male couples and 44% female couples.

The percentage of couples where both members are of Spanish nationality is 86%. Couples formed by two non-Spanish nationals are 8.2% and where one of them has Spanish nationality but not the other is 5.8%.

In Spain there are over four and a half million people who live on their own. Half of these are over 65 years old and the majority widowed women; however, when we look at the population of under 65s that live on their own, the majority is single or divorced men.

Another interesting fact about Spaniards living arrangements is that one in every two young people between the ages of 25 and 29 is still living at home with their parents. However this number is significantly reduced between the ages of 30 and 34 with only one in five people within those ages still living at home with Mum and Dad.

See: <http://www.ine.es/prensa/np837.pdf> for more information (in Spanish).

**3 La rutina**

**El menú del día**

In Spanish cuisine, **tapas** are small hot or cold snacks eaten before a meal or combined to make a full meal. Tapas include **calamares** **fritos** (deep-fried calamari), **gambas** **al** **ajillo** (prawns cooked with olive oil and garlic), **chorizo**, **croquetas** **de** **jamón** **Serrano** (Spanish ham croquettes), **tortilla** **española** (Spanish omelette), **queso** **manchego** (Manchego cheese), **boquerones** **en** **vinagre** (anchovies in vinegar), **aceitunas** (olives), etc. The literal meaning of the word ‘**tapa’** is ‘cover’ or ‘lid’. There is a popular explanation that at some point in the past it became a habit to place a snack on top of a drink to protect it from fruit flies and that was the origin of the new meaning of **tapas**. Another popular explanation says that King Alfonso XIII stopped by a famous tavern in Cádiz where he ordered a cup of wine. The waiter covered the glass with a slice of cured ham before offering it to the king, to protect the wine from the beach sand, as Cádiz is a windy place. The king, after drinking the wine and eating the **tapa**, ordered another wine ‘with the cover’.

To save a bit of money in a restaurant, you can ask for the set menu, **menú del día**, a full meal at a fixed price.

In Spain and Latin America, breakfast is generally light. Lunch is the main meal, eaten in the early afternoon (normally between 2 and 3pm). Dinner is a smaller meal, usually eaten late (8 pm or even up to 10.00 pm in Spain).

**4 El tiempo libre**

**Los grandes del cine español**

An innovative way of introducing yourself to Spanish culture is by watching Spanish films. Spanish cinema has achieved a well-deserved international recognition for its quality and richness. The great filmmaker **Luis Buñuel** was the first whose films had real influence in Europe and America, followed by **Pedro Almodóvar** in the 80s. Spanish cinema has also seen international success over the years with films by directors such as **Luis Garcia Berlanga**, **Carlos Saura**, **José Luis Garci**, **Julio Médem**, **Alejandro Amenábar**, **Isabel Coixet** or **Iciar Bollain**, among many others. The actresses **Carmen Maura**, **Ángela Molina**, **Victoria Abril**, **Maribel Verdú** and, especially, **Penélope Cruz** and the actors **Fernando Rey**, **Francisco Rabal**, **Fernando Fernán Gómez**, **Sergi López**, **Javier Bardem** and **Antonio Banderas** have obtained significant recognition outside Spain. Why don’t you look at the work of some of these great personalities of Spanish cinema, both directors and actors and actresses? Enjoy your movies!

<http://www.cineario.com/mejores_100_peliculas_del_cine_espanol>

<http://www.elblogdecineespanol.com/>

<http://www.blogdecine.com/tag/cine-espanol>

<http://www.mecd.gob.es/mecd/cultura-mecd/areas-cultura/cine/industria-cine/estrenos/proximos-estrenos-cine-espanol.html>

**5 La fiesta de cumpleaños**

**Cumpleaños**

In Spain a birthday is celebrated by inviting friends for a party or dinner or drinks, and it is usually the birthday person who pays for it. Generally the guests will bring a present, but birthday cards are not much of a tradition. A Spanish custom is to pull on the ears of the birthday person as many times as that person is years old. For example if someone is 21 then he or she would be pulled on the ears 21 times! Apart from their birthday Spanish people celebrate other special personal days each year. They celebrate their name day or Saint’s Day. For example, on the 16th July, all the girls and women in Spain whose name is Carmen will have a special celebration with presents, similar to a birthday ‘do’.

**6 En la ciudad**

**El transporte público**

Most of the major cities in Spain have excellent local transport. Madrid and Barcelona have extensive bus and metro systems, and other major cities also benefit from generally efficient and reliable public transport. By European standards, prices are relatively cheap.

Bus: Cities and provincial capitals all have reasonable bus networks. Regular buses run from about 6am to shortly before midnight. In the big cities there is a night bus service. In Madrid they are known as **búhos** (owls) and in Barcelona more prosaically as **nitbusos** (night buses).

Metro: Madrid has the country´s most extensive metro network. Barcelona has a reasonable system. Valencia, Zaragoza, Bilbao and Seville also have limited but useful metro systems.

Taxi: You can find taxi stops at train and bus stations, or you can telephone for radio taxis. Taxis will also stop if you hail them in the street – look for the green light and/or the **libre** sign on the passenger side of the windscreen.

Trams: Trams were stripped out of Spanish cities decades ago, but they're making a timid comeback in some cities. Barcelona has a couple of new suburban tram services in addition to its tourist **Tramvia** **Blau** run to Tibidabo. Valencia has some useful trams to the beach, while various limited lines also run in Seville, Bilbao, Murcia and, most recently, Zaragoza.

UberX: The Uber application was banned in Spain in 2014 when a judge ruled that the company did not comply with laws and represented unfair competition to the taxi industry. However, an adapted version of this application UberX has relaunched in April 2016. The new version of the app, currently only available in Madrid, operates with professionally licensed drivers. Uber’s Southern Europe director, claims that prices will be around 30% less than for a standard taxi ride.

See also:<https://www.tmb.cat/es/transporte-barcelona>; <https://www.metromadrid.es/es/index.html>; <http://www.emtmadrid.es/Home>

**7 Trabajo de verano**

**El día laboral en España**

Traditionally, a Spanish working day was divided into two parts, the morning from 10am - 2pm and then the afternoon from 4pm - 7pm. However, office hours in Spain are increasingly becoming more like those found in most other countries; with businesses operating between 9am and 4pm and long lunches and siestas becoming more and more uncommon. People now sleep the siesta on weekends, when they can, otherwise the siesta has become an occurrence from the past when due to the heat, especially in the south of Spain, it was difficult to go out between 2 and 4 pm. Now air conditioning is everywhere and this has changed many things. Despite the stereotypes, the Spanish also have less vacation than their other European counterparts. The majority of people in Spain take their annual leave in August, so during this month many businesses adapt their working hours to a **jornada intensive** (intensive working day) from 8am to 3pm.

**8 La historia de mi vida**

**Don Quijote de la Mancha**

**Don Quixote de la Mancha** is considered one of the great literary works of Spanish and universal literature, as well as one of the most translated. It's the first literary work that can be classified as a ‘modern novel’, and it influenced the rest of the narrative to come. *Don Quixote* is a must read for anyone who wants to study Spanish, since it's the best Spanish book ever written.

Other literary works in Spanish that are worth mentioning for their insights not only into Hispanic traditions and norms, but some issues central to humanity itself — like time, love, mortality, passion and personal identity include: **Cien años de soledad** by Gabriel García Márquez, **El capitán Alatriste** by Arturo Pérez Reverte, **Rayuela** by Julio Cortázar, **La****mujer****habitada** by Gioconda Belli, **Pedro****Páramo** by Juan Rulfo, **La****sombra****del****viento** by Carlos Ruiz Zafón, **La****casa****de****los****espíritus** by Isabel Allende, **Los detectives salvajes** by Roberto Bolaño, **Veinte poemas de amor y una canción****desesperada** by Pablo Neruda, **Corazón****tan****blanco** by Javier Marías, **Los****soldados****de Salamina** by Javier Cercas, **La familia de Pascual Duarte** by Camilo José Cela, **Santa Evita** by Tomás Eloy Martínez, **Bartleby y compañía** by Enrique Vila-Matas, **Los santos inocentes** by Miguel Delibes, **El amor en los tiempos del cólera** by Gabriel García Márquez, **Nada** by Carmen LaForet, **Ficciones** by Jorge Luis Borjes, **Como agua para chocolate** by Laura Esquivel, **Mañana en la batalla piensa en mí** by Javier Marías, **Inés del alma mía**by Isabel Allende and **La fiesta del Chivo** by Mario Vargas Llosa.

Spanish and Latin American Literature Nobel Prize winners:

1904 Jose Echegaray (Spain)

1922 Jacinto Benavente (Spain)

1945 Gabriela Mistral (Chile)

1956 Juan Ramon Jimenez (Spain)

1967 Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemala)

1971 Pablo Neruda (Chile)

1977 Vicente Aleixandre (Spain)

1982 Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia)

1989 Camilo Jose Cela (Spain)

1990 Octavio Paz (Mexico)

2010 Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru)

<http://www.donquijote.org/culture/spain/literature/>

<http://theculturetrip.com/europe/spain/articles/the-voice-of-spain-10-of-the-best-contemporary-spanish-authors/>

<http://www.onlinecollegecourses.com/2011/09/01/50-great-hispanic-novels-every-student-should-read/>

**9 En el futuro**

**Barcelona and Catalan**

Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, in the North East of Spain, with a population of just over 1.5 million, is one of the most cosmopolitan and dynamic cities in the country. This is quite evident to the many tourists that visit this city every year to delight in its Mediterranean climate, wonderful gastronomy, old history and great architecture, with Romanic, gothic and Renaissance examples dotted around the city, although what makes Barcelona unique architecturally has been built during the last 100 years. Barcelona has been centre for modernism with great contemporary artists, such as **Gaudi**, who have provided the city with a creative and exciting flavour.

Knowing at least the basics of Spanish will make your life easier in Barcelona, as all Spaniards speak it. However, do keep in mind that it isn’t the only language spoken there. Some people in Barcelona prefer to speak Catalan, the local language, rather than Spanish. Signs there don’t point to **la playa** (the beach); instead, it’s **la platja**. Milky coffee isn’t **café con leche**, it’s **café amb llet**. And a street isn’t a **calle** – it’s a **carrer**.

For things to do and see in Barcelona click the following links:

<http://www.viajarabarcelona.org/>

<http://www.barcelonaturisme.com/wv3/es/>

<https://www.civitatis.com/actividades/espana/barcelona/?aid=100>

**10 Repaso**

**El Corte Inglés**

**El Corte Inglés** (English: The English Cut as in tailor’s cut) is the biggest department store group in Europe and ranks fourth worldwide. It was founded by Ramón Areces and Cesar Rodriguez in 1934. They bought a tailor shop located in **calle Preciados** (one of the most central streets in Madrid), and made it into a limited company. From that **El Corte Inglés** kept on growing. These days, stores tend to be very large in size and offer a wide range of products: music, movies, electronics, furniture, hardware, books, clothes, groceries, gourmet food, cars and real estate. **El Corte Inglés’** flagship store is located in Madrid. The complex encompasses several buildings and carries the most comprehensive collection of designers of any large store in Spain.

<http://www.elcorteingles.es/>