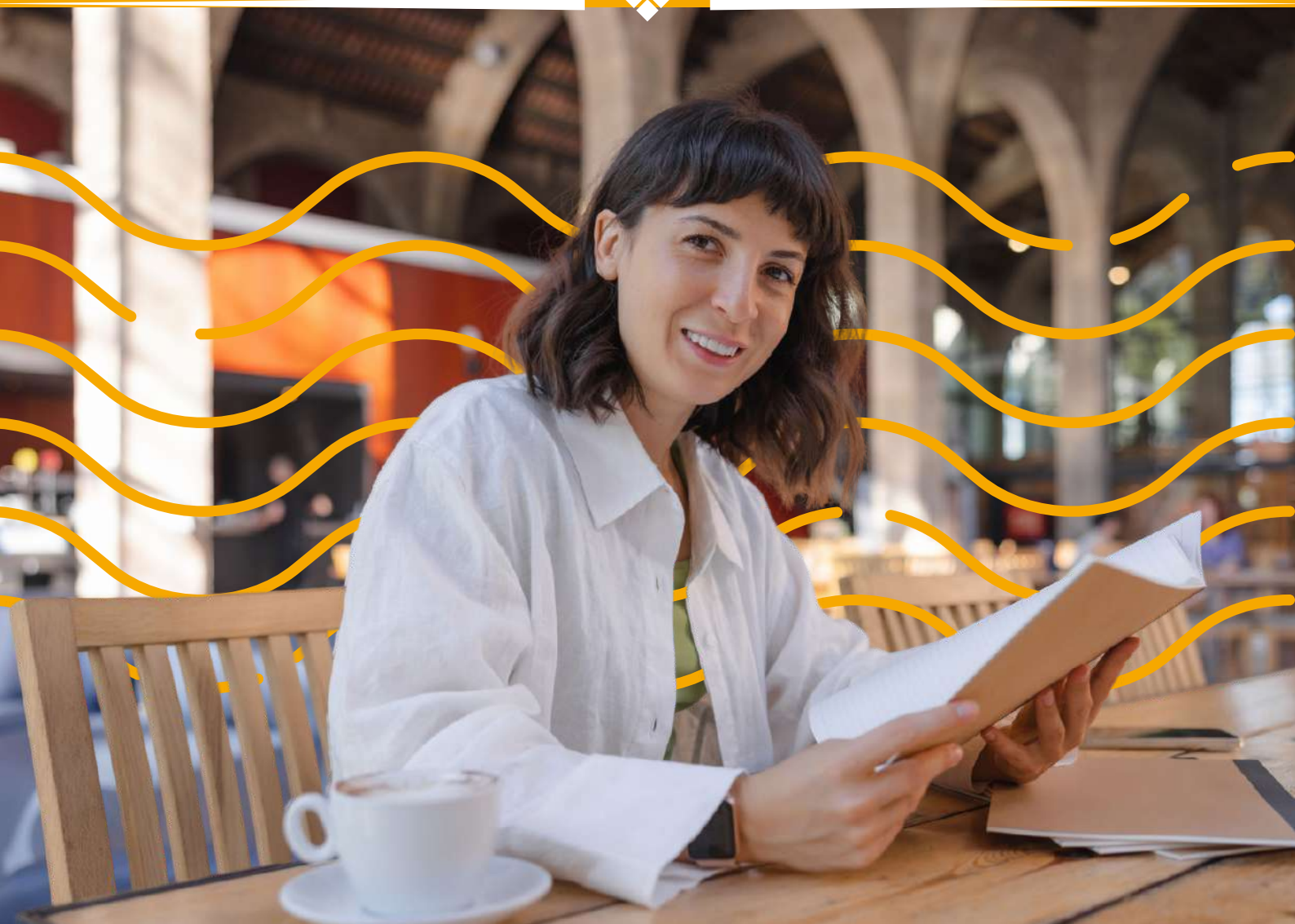




LAE MADRID
Spanish classes in Madrid

YOUR COMPLETE BEGINNER GUIDE TO LEARNING SPANISH IN MADRID



Your Complete Beginner Guide to Learning Spanish in Madrid

Start from zero. Build confidence. Find the learning routine that fits your life.

Starting Spanish from scratch can feel overwhelming, especially when you are already living in Madrid and hearing the language everywhere around you.

You might know a few words such as *hola*, *gracias* and *por favor*, but that does not necessarily mean you feel ready to have a conversation. You may have downloaded an app, watched a few videos or tried to learn vocabulary on your own, only to realise that understanding real Spanish in a café, shop or conversation feels completely different.

That is normal.

Every confident Spanish speaker started somewhere, and your first goal is not fluency. Your first goal is to build a strong foundation, develop a learning routine and begin using the Spanish you know.

At **LAE Madrid**, we work with students from all over the world, including complete beginners who are starting Spanish from zero. Some students want to dedicate a large part of their week to learning. Others are planning to study in Spain for a longer period. Many are already working or studying in Madrid and need a course that fits around an established routine.

There is no single correct way to begin.

The right approach is the one that gives you enough structure, practice and support to keep progressing.

This guide will help you understand what complete beginners should focus on first, how to use Madrid as part of your learning, how to create a realistic study routine and which type of Spanish course may suit you best.

1. What Does Being a Complete Beginner Actually Mean?

Being a complete beginner simply means that you have little or no previous knowledge of Spanish.

You might recognise a few words or phrases, but you have not yet built the foundations you need to communicate independently.

A genuine complete beginner course should not assume that you already understand Spanish grammar or can follow a normal conversation. Your teacher should introduce language gradually, help you understand how it works and give you opportunities to practise it before expecting you to use it independently.

At the beginning, progress can sometimes feel small. You may learn how to introduce yourself, order a coffee or explain where you live.

Those are not insignificant achievements.

If you arrived in Madrid unable to say anything and can suddenly order lunch, ask a question or understand a simple reply, you are already doing something in Spanish that you could not do before.

That is progress.

2. What Should You Learn First?

When you start Spanish, it is tempting to try to learn everything.

You do not need to.

A strong beginner programme should focus first on the language and structures that allow you to communicate in everyday situations.

Start with useful communication

During your first stages of Spanish, you should begin learning how to introduce yourself, ask basic questions, understand numbers and prices, talk about your daily routine, order food and drinks, express simple preferences and ask for information.

These are the kinds of skills that make Spanish immediately useful in Madrid.

For example:

Me llamo Alex.

My name is Alex.

Soy de Canadá.

I am from Canada.

Vivo en Madrid.

I live in Madrid.

Quiero un café con leche, por favor.

I would like a coffee with milk, please.

¿Cuánto cuesta?

How much does it cost?

¿Dónde está el metro?

Where is the metro?

Spanish becomes much easier to remember when you can connect it to something you actually need to do.

3. Build Your Grammar Around Real Life

Grammar matters, but beginner grammar should help you communicate rather than make you feel as though you are memorising an enormous collection of rules.

You will gradually start working with fundamental structures such as present-tense verbs, gender and agreement, articles, question forms and common verbs such as *ser*, *estar*, *tener*, *ir*, *hacer* and *gustar*.

The important thing is what you can do with them.

When you learn *ser*, you can begin talking about yourself:

Soy profesor.

When you learn *estar*, you can describe how you feel:

Estoy cansado.

When you learn *hay*, you can describe your neighbourhood:

En mi barrio hay muchos restaurantes.

When you learn *gustar*, you can express preferences:

Me gusta Madrid.

Grammar starts making sense when it becomes part of a real message.

At LAE Madrid, this connection between academic learning and communication is central to how we teach Spanish.

4. Start Speaking Before You Feel Ready

One of the biggest mistakes beginners make is waiting until they feel confident enough to speak.

Confidence usually comes after speaking, not before it.

Your first conversations do not need to be sophisticated. They may only last a few seconds.

The important thing is getting used to producing Spanish in real time.

Try starting with simple challenges.

Order your coffee in Spanish.

Say hello to someone in your building.

Ask a shop assistant a simple question.

Introduce yourself to another student.

Ask for directions, even if you already know where you are going.

Each interaction trains your brain to retrieve Spanish rather than simply recognise it.

Over time, the pause between thinking and speaking becomes shorter.

5. Use Madrid as Part of Your Spanish Course

One of the biggest advantages of learning Spanish in Madrid is that your practice does not have to finish when your lesson ends.

Madrid can become an extension of your classroom.

If you have just learned vocabulary for food, go to a market and see what you recognise.

If you have studied directions, practise asking someone how to get somewhere.

If you have learned numbers, listen for prices when you are shopping.

If you have studied introductions, talk to someone new.

You do not need to create enormous language challenges for yourself. Small, repeated interactions are often more valuable.

The city also gives you constant listening practice. Spanish is around you on the metro, in cafés, in shops and in conversations happening beside you.

At first, much of it may sound extremely fast. Over time, individual words start becoming recognisable. Then you begin hearing familiar expressions. Eventually, you realise that you have understood an entire exchange without translating everything in your head.

That is one of the most satisfying parts of learning through immersion.

6. Do Not Measure Progress Only Through Tests

CEFR levels such as A1 and A2 are useful because they provide academic structure and help you understand how your Spanish is developing.

However, tests and levels are not the only signs of progress.

Ask yourself what you can actually do now that you could not do before.

Can you introduce yourself without rehearsing?

Can you order in a restaurant confidently?

Can you understand a simple question from a waiter?

Can you explain what you did yesterday?

Can you follow part of a conversation on the metro?

Can you ask a follow-up question rather than only answering one?

These small achievements show that Spanish is gradually becoming something you can use.

At LAE Madrid, we like celebrating these moments because progress is not always dramatic. Sometimes it is simply realising that something which once felt difficult now feels normal.

7. Create a Beginner Study Routine You Can Maintain

Consistency is one of the most important parts of learning any language.

You do not necessarily need to study for hours every evening. What matters is having regular contact with Spanish.

A useful beginner routine might combine formal lessons with short periods of review, listening and real-world practice.

For example, you could spend 10 to 15 minutes reviewing vocabulary, listen to Spanish while travelling to work, attend your scheduled class and then give yourself one small Spanish challenge during the week.

The key is avoiding the cycle where you study intensely for a few days and then stop completely.

A realistic routine is much more useful than an ambitious routine you cannot maintain.

8. Learn Phrases, Not Just Individual Words

Vocabulary is easier to use when you learn it inside a useful expression.

Instead of learning:

cuenta = bill

learn:

La cuenta, por favor.

Instead of only learning:

recomendar = recommend

learn:

¿Qué me recomienda?

Instead of memorising:

buscar = look for

learn:

Estoy buscando un piso.

You are no longer learning an isolated word. You are learning a piece of language that is ready to use.

This is particularly useful for complete beginners because it allows you to communicate before you understand every grammar rule behind the sentence.

9. Find the Learning Route That Fits Your Life

Complete beginners do not all have the same schedule, goals or reasons for learning Spanish.

At LAE Madrid, there are different ways to start depending on the type of commitment you want to make.

Intensive Spanish: when you want Spanish to become a major part of your week

An **Intensive Spanish Course in Madrid** is a strong option if you have enough time available to study regularly and want to build momentum.

Frequent classes mean you repeatedly return to new vocabulary, grammar and speaking practice instead of leaving long gaps between lessons.

This can be particularly useful if you have recently moved to Madrid specifically to learn Spanish, have a flexible schedule or want to make language learning one of your main priorities.

The advantage of studying intensively in Madrid is that your day does not need to end when class finishes. You can immediately use the Spanish you have learned in shops, cafés, markets and everyday interactions.

An intensive programme may suit you if you want regular classroom contact, structured academic progression, frequent speaking opportunities and a strong commitment to improving your Spanish.

10. Long-Term Spanish Study: when Spanish is part of a bigger plan

Some students want much more than a few weeks of Spanish.

Perhaps you are planning to spend a longer period living in Spain. You may want to progress through several levels, become much more independent in Spanish or connect your language learning to broader academic or personal plans.

Long-term study gives you the opportunity to build your Spanish progressively.

Instead of concentrating only on rapid short-term progress, you have more time to strengthen the foundations and gradually develop increasingly complex language skills.

This can also change the way you experience Madrid.

As your Spanish develops, everyday situations become easier, conversations become more meaningful and you can participate more naturally in Spanish life.

Some international students also explore longer-term study routes connected with study visas or further academic programmes.

Visa rules, study requirements and programme conditions can change, so always speak with LAE Madrid about the current options and check the relevant official requirements before making decisions.

11. Everyday Spanish for Complete Beginners: when you need Spanish to fit around your life

Maybe you already live in Madrid.

You work during the day, study at university or have other commitments.

You want to learn Spanish properly, but attending an intensive programme simply is not realistic.

This is exactly why **Everyday Spanish for Complete Beginners** exists.

The course uses a flipped-classroom model that combines independent preparation with face-to-face evening classes.

The online element is not a live online lesson.

Instead, students use LAE Madrid's structured online classroom to become familiar with the week's vocabulary, grammar and key concepts before attending class.

When you arrive for your face-to-face lesson, you have already encountered the material.

That means classroom time can focus more heavily on speaking, pronunciation, interaction, teacher feedback and practical communication.

After class, you return to the online classroom to review and consolidate what you have practised before preparing the next topic.

The learning cycle is:

Prepare → Practise → Consolidate → Continue

Prepare

Use the online classroom to familiarise yourself with the week's language before your face-to-face class.

Practise

Come to LAE Madrid and use that language through conversation, activities, pronunciation work and interaction with your teacher and classmates.

Consolidate

Review what you have learned after class and practise the areas that need more attention.

Continue

Prepare the next topic and start the cycle again.

This structure can work particularly well for complete beginners because you are not seeing everything for the first time while simultaneously being expected to speak.

You arrive already familiar with the material and can use the classroom to turn knowledge into communication.

12. Learning Spanish Is Easier When You Are Not Doing It Alone

Starting life in another city can sometimes feel isolating, particularly if language is another barrier.

A Spanish course gives you more than lessons. It gives you a regular place to go and a group of people who are experiencing many of the same challenges.

At LAE Madrid, our students come from different countries, professions and backgrounds, but they share something important: they are learning Spanish and building their own relationship with Madrid.

That community can make a difference.

You practise with classmates, celebrate improvements together and gradually become more comfortable speaking Spanish around other people.

LAE Madrid also organises cultural and social activities where students can meet outside formal lessons.

Our weekly tapas activities, for example, give students an opportunity to spend time together, meet people from other classes and enjoy Madrid in a relaxed environment.

These activities are not a replacement for serious academic learning. They support it.

The classroom gives you structure. Madrid gives you opportunities to practise. The people around you give you more reasons to keep going.

13. Your Complete Beginner Checklist

Use this checklist during your first weeks of learning Spanish.

- ☐ Introduce yourself confidently in Spanish.
 - ☐ Learn how to order food and drinks.
 - ☐ Practise Spanish numbers and prices.
 - ☐ Learn ten useful questions for everyday life.
 - ☐ Understand the basics of *ser* and *estar*.
 - ☐ Learn a small group of high-frequency verbs.
 - ☐ Listen to Spanish for at least ten minutes several times per week.
 - ☐ Complete one small real-life Spanish challenge every week.
 - ☐ Review vocabulary between classes.
 - ☐ Learn complete phrases instead of only isolated words.
 - ☐ Speak even when your sentence is not perfect.
 - ☐ Notice and celebrate something that has become easier.
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14. A Simple Seven-Day Beginner Spanish Challenge

If you want to start using Spanish immediately, try this simple challenge.

Day 1: Introduce yourself

Practise saying your name, where you are from, where you live and what you do.

Day 2: Order something

Order a coffee, snack or meal entirely in Spanish.

Day 3: Listen

Spend ten minutes listening to Spanish without worrying about understanding everything. Write down any words you recognise.

Day 4: Ask a question

Ask someone a simple question in Spanish.

Day 5: Describe your routine

Try explaining five things you normally do during the day.

Day 6: Explore Madrid in Spanish

Visit a market, museum, café or neighbourhood and pay attention to the Spanish around you.

Day 7: Review your week

Write or say five things you learned and identify one moment when Spanish felt easier than it did before.

Then start again next week with slightly more ambitious challenges.

15. Which LAE Madrid Learning Route Is Right for You?

Choose an **Intensive Spanish Course** if you have significant time available and want Spanish to become one of the main focuses of your week.

Explore **Long-Term Spanish Study** if you are planning an extended period in Spain and want to develop your Spanish through a longer academic journey.

Choose **Everyday Spanish for Complete Beginners** if you work or study during the day and want a structured evening course that uses a flipped-classroom approach to combine independent preparation with real face-to-face teaching and interaction.

The best course is not simply the one with the most hours.

It is the one that gives you the right level of structure and support for the life you are actually living.

Ready to Start Spanish from Zero?

You do not need to arrive at LAE Madrid already speaking Spanish.

That is what learning is for.

Our job is to help you build the academic foundations, confidence and practical communication skills you need to begin using Spanish in Madrid.

You will learn in class, practise throughout the week and gradually discover that more and more of the city starts making sense.

Start small. Stay consistent. Speak before you feel completely ready.

The Spanish comes next.

Explore Spanish Courses for Complete Beginners at LAE Madrid

Visit **laemadrid.com** to explore our Spanish courses, current schedules and complete beginner starting options.

Learn Spanish. Live Madrid. Become part of the conversation.

Important information

Course formats, schedules, start dates and programme conditions may change. Always check the relevant LAE Madrid course page or contact our team for the latest information.

For long-term programmes connected with visa or immigration requirements, check current official requirements and speak with LAE Madrid about the study options available for your circumstances.