



SPANISH SESSION 1

Foundational Spanish Phrases for Visitor Interaction

February 18, 2026



JEFFERSON
COUNTY COLORADO
Parks & Open Space

LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE METHODS

- Build small daily habits (5–10 minutes of learning/practice).
- Swap everyday media for Spanish (shows/movies, music, podcasts, books).
- Add one real conversation each week (conversational group meet-ups or friend).
- Use short practice tools (apps like Duolingo) during downtime (commutes, waiting in line).
- Learn through your interests (food, travel, hobbies, etc).
- Keep it low-pressure; mistakes are part of learning (document mistakes/learning goals)
- Follow a simple weekly routine you can maintain.
- *Refer to Spanish Supplementary Resources List*



HISPANICS

A person with ancestry from a country whose primary language is Spanish

A 2023 study by the [Colorado Health Institute](#) found that most Hispanic Coloradans identify as Mexican or Mexican American (62.6%), and a significant portion identified as Chicano (27.1%)

LATINOS

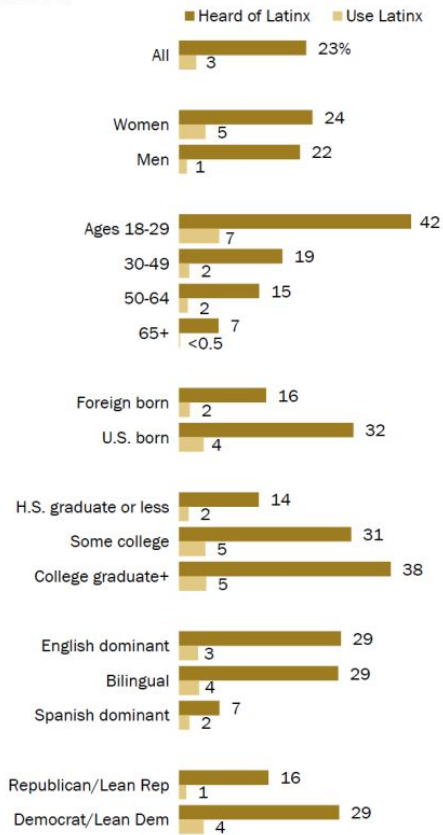
A person with origins from anywhere in Latin America (Mexico, South and Central America), and the Caribbean



There's no single "Hispanic culture" — experiences vary by country, region, class, and generation. Includes Afro-Latino, Indigenous, and Mestizo heritage.

Young adults, college graduates some of most likely to have heard of Latinx

% who ...



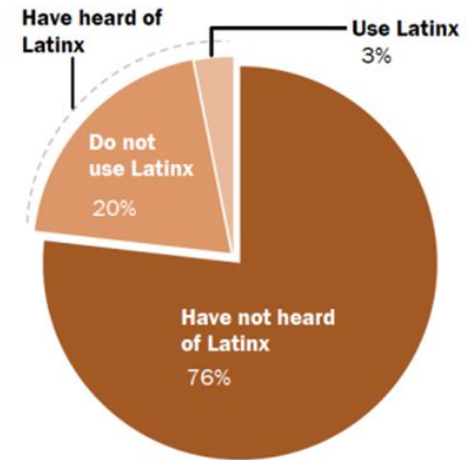
Note: "Some college" includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree. No answer responses not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. Latino adults conducted Dec. 3-23, 2019.
 "About One-in-Four U.S. Hispanics Have Heard of Latinx, but Just 3% Use It"

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LATINX/ LATINE?

Most Latino adults have not heard of the term Latinx; few use it

% who ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. Latino adults conducted Dec. 3-23, 2019.
 "About One-in-Four U.S. Hispanics Have Heard of Latinx, but Just 3% Use It"

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WHY IS LEARNING SPANISH IMPORTANT?

- Colorado's Spanish speaking population is growing rapidly.
- Any effort in saying a few phrases can make a big impact in helping visitors feel seen, safe, and valued in JCPOS parks.
- You don't need to be fluent – just friendly, respectful, and willing to try.
- Build stronger connections with diverse communities in the Denver Metro Area



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HISPANICS IN COLORADO

21% of the population is **Hispanic**

1 in 5 Coloradans are of Latino or Hispanic origin

Nearly 80% of Hispanics in CO are native born

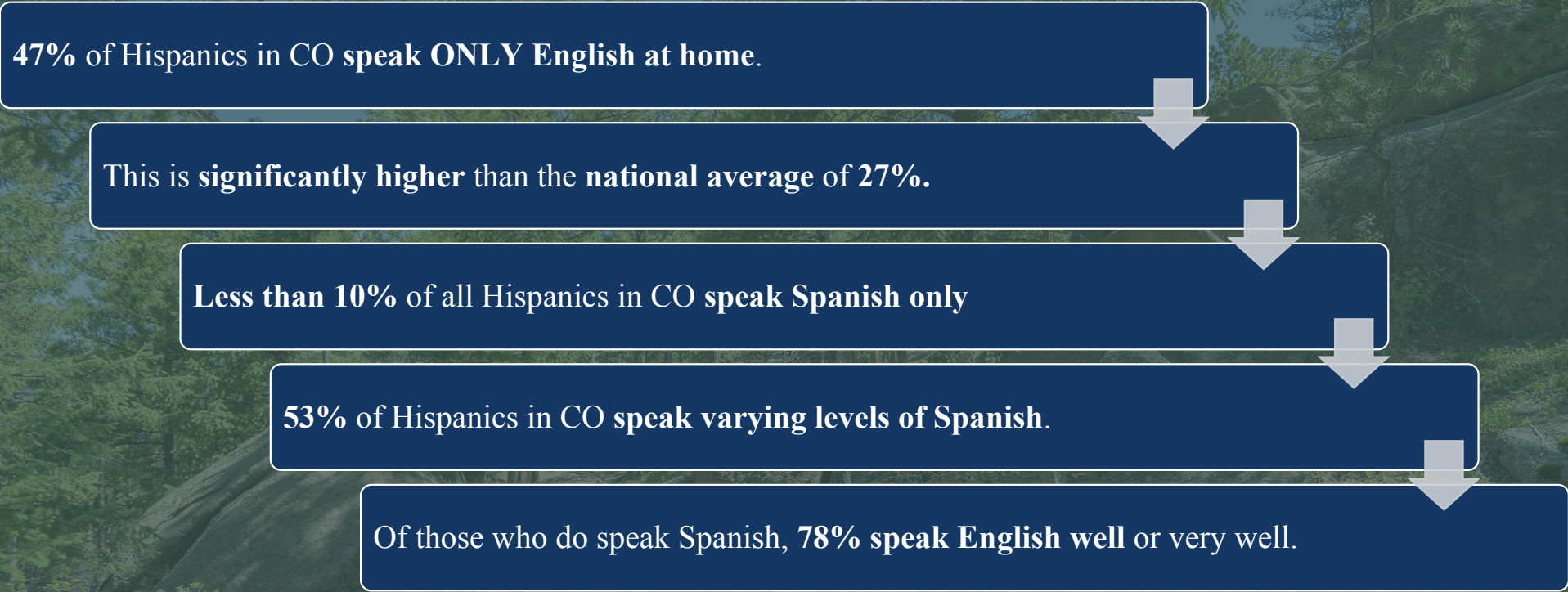
4% of the CO population is comprised of Latino immigrants

Latino Leadership Institute at the University of Denver 2022



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ENGLISH AND SPANISH LANGUAGES



Latino Leadership Institute at the University of Denver 2022



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OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SESSION

- Greet and welcome park visitors in Spanish.
- Initiate and respond to common visitor interactions using foundational Spanish phrases.
- Apply culturally respectful communication strategies when engaging Spanish-speaking visitors.
- Build confidence in basic conversational Spanish through pronunciation practice and roleplay scenarios.



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GUESS THE WORD IN SPANISH

- Hello
- Thank you
- Please
- Yes
- Bathroom
- Welcome
- Be careful
- Park
- Hola
- Gracias
- Por favor
- Si
- Baño
- Bienvenido
- Cuidado
- Parque



1 The Spanish alphabet and phonetic pronunciation:

A	(a)	<i>ah</i>	J	(j)	<i>hota</i>	R	(r)	<i>erreh</i>
B	(b)	<i>beh</i>	K	(k)	<i>kah</i>	S	(s)	<i>eseh</i>
C	(c)	<i>seh</i>	L	(l)	<i>eleh</i>	T	(t)	<i>teh</i>
CH	(ch)	<i>che</i>	LL	(ll)	<i>eyeh</i>	U	(u)	<i>uu</i>
D	(d)	<i>deh</i>	M	(m)	<i>emeh</i>	V	(v)	<i>uveh</i>
E	(e)	<i>eh</i>	N	(n)	<i>eneh</i>	W	(w)	<i>doble-uu or uveh-doble</i>
F	(f)	<i>efeh</i>	Ñ	(ñ)	<i>enyeh</i>	X	(x)	<i>equis</i>
G	(g)	<i>heh</i>	O	(o)	<i>oh</i>	Y	(y)	<i>yeh</i>
H	(h)	<i>acheh</i>	P	(p)	<i>peh</i>	Z	(z)	<i>zetah</i>
I	(i)	<i>ee</i>	Q	(q)	<i>cu</i>			

GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS

English	Spanish
<i>Good morning / afternoon / evening</i>	<i>Buenos días / Buenas tardes / Buenas noches</i>
<i>Hello, I am a volunteer for Jefferson County Parks & Open Space</i>	<i>Hola, soy voluntario/a de Parques y Espacios Abiertos del Condado de Jefferson.</i>
<i>Goodbye / See you later</i>	<i>Adiós / Hasta luego</i>
<i>My name is... / What's your name?</i>	<i>Me llamo... / ¿Cómo se llama? / ¿Cual es tu nombre?</i>
<i>Nice to meet you / Likewise</i>	<i>Encantado a conocerte / Igualmente/Igual</i>
<i>Adult man / Adult woman</i>	<i>Señor / Señora</i>
<i>Girl / boy</i>	<i>Niña / niño</i>
<i>Young woman / young man</i>	<i>Señorita / Señorito</i>
<i>Older man / older woman</i>	<i>Caballero / caballera</i>
<i>I am learning Spanish / I don't speak a lot of Spanish</i>	<i>Estoy aprendiendo español / No hablo mucho español.</i>
<i>I'm well, thank you</i>	<i>Estoy bien, gracias</i>
<i>So-so</i>	<i>Más o menos</i>



POLITE & HELPFUL PHRASES

English	Spanish
<i>Please / Thank you / You're welcome</i>	<i>Por favor / Gracias / De nada</i>
<i>Excuse me</i>	<i>Perdón/Perdóname / Disculpame / Con permiso</i>
<i>I'm sorry</i>	<i>Lo siento</i>
<i>Of course / No problem</i>	<i>Claro / No hay problema</i>
<i>One moment, please</i>	<i>Un momento, por favor/porfa</i>
<i>I don't understand</i>	<i>No entiendo / No comprende / Yo no sé</i>
<i>Slower, please</i>	<i>Más despacio/despacito, por favor</i>
<i>Can you repeat that?</i>	<i>¿Puedes repetir eso?</i>
<i>Okay / Alright</i>	<i>Está bien / De acuerdo</i>
<i>Wait for me</i>	<i>Esperame</i>



COMMON VISITOR INTERACTIONS

English	Spanish
<i>Where is the bathroom?</i>	<i>¿Dónde está el baño?</i>
<i>Do you need help? / How can I help you?</i>	<i>¿Necesitas ayuda? / ¿En qué puedo ayudarle?</i>
<i>Do you speak English?</i>	<i>¿Hablas inglés?</i>
<i>Do you have a question?</i>	<i>¿Tienes una pregunta?</i>
<i>What time does the park open/close?</i>	<i>¿A qué hora abre / cierra el parque?</i>
<i>The park opens at sunrise</i>	<i>El parque abre al amanecer</i>
<i>The park closes at sunset</i>	<i>El parque cierra al atardecer</i>
<i>Are you enjoying your visit?</i>	<i>¿Estás disfrutando su visita?</i>
<i>I am lost / Are you lost?</i>	<i>Estoy perdido/a / ¿Estás perdido?</i>
<i>Which trail is easy for kids?</i>	<i>¿Qué sendero es fácil para niños?</i>
<i>This trail is difficult</i>	<i>Este sendero es difícil</i>
<i>Is this your first time here?</i>	<i>¿Es su primera vez aquí?</i>
<i>Do you like to hike/walk?</i>	<i>¿Te gusta caminar?</i>



PARK INFORMATION

English	Spanish
<i>Restroom</i>	<i>Baño</i>
<i>Trail</i>	<i>Sendero</i>
<i>Picnic area</i>	<i>Área de picnic</i>
<i>Parking lot</i>	<i>Estacionamiento</i>
<i>Entrance / Exit</i>	<i>Entrada / Salida</i>
<i>Map / Water / Trash can</i>	<i>Mapa / Agua / Basurero</i>
<i>Straight ahead</i>	<i>Derecho / Recto</i>
<i>Turn left / right</i>	<i>Gire a la izquierda / derecha</i>

DIRECTIONS & WAYFINDING

English	Spanish
<i>You are here</i>	<i>Usted está aquí</i>
<i>Map</i>	<i>Mapa</i>
<i>Trailhead</i>	<i>Inicio del sendero</i>
<i>Scenic viewpoint</i>	<i>Mirador</i>
<i>Turn left</i>	<i>Gire a la izquierda</i>
<i>Go straight / Ahead</i>	<i>Siga recto / Derecho</i>
<i>Stay on the path</i>	<i>Manténgase en el sendero</i>
<i>Picnic area</i>	<i>Área de picnic</i>

USE GESTURES, NONVERBAL CUES, OR TRANSLATION APP FOR SUPPORT

- Pointing (left/right/straight) while saying directions.
- Using hand signals for “follow me,” “stop,” or “wait.”
- Smiling and nodding
- Directing visitor to a map.
- Microsoft Translator app works offline and uses text and audio to translate automatically



BE RESPECTFUL AND APPROACHABLE

- **Be welcoming and approachable** — offer a friendly greeting and let visitors guide the conversation. Smile, make eye contact, and show you're open to connecting.
- **Use a welcoming tone and body language:** smile, step closer slowly, make eye contact.
- **If you hear visitors speaking Spanish, greet them in Spanish and try your best to continue the conversation.** You can also use translation apps or refer to resources if needed.
- **Focus on connection, not perfection** — small gestures of respect go a long way.
- **If someone doesn't respond in Spanish, that's okay** — your effort still shows care and inclusivity.



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ROLEPLAY SCENARIO #1:

Scene: You're walking near a trailhead and hear a family speaking Spanish as they prepare to start their hike. They don't seem to have a map and look a bit unsure about which trail to take.

Role #1: JCPOS Volunteer

- Greet the family in Spanish.
- Offer to help or provide a map.
- Use simple phrases and gestures.

Role #2: Park Visitors

- Ask one question in Spanish about the trail, distance, or maps.

Practice Instructions:

Work in pairs or groups of 3–4.

Speak for 2 minutes, then switch roles.

Use the phrases and add gestures (point to “map,” “trail,” etc.).



ROLEPLAY SCENARIO #1: USEFUL PHRASES

Volunteer Role

¡Hola! Bienvenidos al parque. (*Hello! Welcome to the park.*)

¿Tiene un mapa? (*Do you have a map?*)

Puedo darle uno. (*I can give you one.*)

Este sendero es fácil / moderado / difícil. (*This trail is easy / moderate / difficult.*)

¡Tenga cuidado y disfrute su caminata! (*Be careful and enjoy your hike!*)

Visitor Role

¿Dónde está el mapa? (*Where is the map?*)

¿Cuál sendero es más corto / más fácil? (*Which trail is shorter / easier?*)

¿Cuánto tarda este sendero? (*How long is this trail?*)

¿Hay baños / agua cerca? (*Are there restrooms / water nearby?*)

Gracias. (*Thank you.*)



ROLEPLAY SCENARIO #2:

Scene: Visitors are at a scenic spot, taking photos of the view. They speak Spanish and seem excited.

Role #1: JCPOS Volunteer

- Greet visitors in Spanish.
- Offer to take a photo for them
- Let them know of any other scenic views in the park

Role #2: Park Visitors

- Respond politely in Spanish
- Accept or decline the offer to take a photo
- Comment about the view and/or thank the volunteer

Practice Instructions:

Work in pairs or groups of 3–4.

Speak for 2 minutes, then switch roles.

Use the phrases and add gestures (point to “map,” “trail,” etc.).

ROLEPLAY SCENARIO #1: USEFUL PHRASES

Volunteer Role

¡Hola! ¿Quieren que les tome una foto? *(Hello! Would you like me to take a photo for you?)*

¿Qué vista más bonita, verdad? *(What a beautiful view, isn't it?)*

¡Disfruten su paseo! *(Enjoy your walk!)*

¡Sonri, por favor! *(Smile, please!)*

¡Qué foto más linda que vamos a tomar! *(This is going to be a great photo!)*

Visitor Role

Sí, por favor, muchas gracias. *(Yes, please, thank you very much.)*

No, gracias, pero gracias por ofrecer. *(No, thank you, but thanks for offering.)*

¡Gracias, qué amable! *(Thank you, that's so kind!)*

¡Nos encanta este parque! *(We love this park!)*

¡Qué buena idea, gracias! *(What a great idea, thank you!)*





What's a phrase you feel confident saying after today's session?

Plan goal(s) for this quarter to incorporate Spanish during your volunteer time — whether it's learning a few new words, greeting visitors, or practicing with another volunteer.

Offero Spanish Resources: Under Documents

Spanish Training Session #1

