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Published: January 4, 2024Reading is an important part of improving your Spanish skills, which is necessary if you want to travel in Spain or throughout South America. In this post, we've compiled a list of the best books for Spanish learners, so that you can get started on reading in Spanish in no time.Whether you're a complete beginner, at an intermediate level, or at an advanced stage, it's important to read Spanish books as much as possible.There are many Spanish books that will help you to learn and improve but, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, not all books are created equal (or something like that).Read on to discover Spanish novels for beginner and intermediate-level learners. dual-language books for beginners to boost vocabulary, and Latin American literary classics.We'll also take you through why you should incorporate books into your language-learning journey, how to make use of vocabulary acquisition and grammar, and the cultural awareness and travel benefits you can obtain from StoryLearning Spanish.1. Cien aos de soledad (One Hundred Years of Solitude) by Gabriel Garca MrquezThis landmark novel by the famous Colombian author was originally published in 1967. It tells the story of several generations in a family living through tumultuous times, with many changes and conflicts.Centered on the town of Macondo at different points in history, it recounts the period from 1808 to 1982.The most appealing aspect is that Mrquez doesn't use conventional storytelling methods or strategies; instead, he has created an interesting, dynamic, and complex storyline.The original publication was acclaimed by international critics as one of the best novels ever. This is a must-read for Spanish learners who want to read more books in the language but find that they are too difficult or confusing.It has all of the ingredients for an excellent book - adventure, drama, and romance, centered in the magical realism genre.Who is it suitable for?Beginner learners (as a dual language book) and those at intermediate/advanced levels. 2. Como agua para chocolate (Like Water for Chocolate) by Laura EsquivelThis book, written by Mexican author Laura Esquivel, is a wonderful read for anyone interested in culture and cooking. The story follows a young Mexican girl, Tita, who longs to marry Pedro, the love of her life.The recipes that start each chapter work into the plot seamlessly and give an added cultural touch to the already rich story.Who is it suitable for?Upper-Beginners and intermediate-level learners.The Spanish language in the book Como Agua Para Chocolate is one of the many easy Spanish easy reads from the period with Latin American flair, includes a mixture of verbs and conjugations that are used more often in Central America or South America than in Spain.This makes it an easy way for readers learning Spanish to obtain basic Spanish grammar without difficulty. 3. La vida imaginaria (The Imaginable Life) by Mara TorresAnalist for Premio Planeta in 2012, this book follows the life of Nata, who is trying to pick up the pieces after her long-time boyfriend leaves her. Throughout the storyline, the reader follows Nata as she relives different periods of her life, while simultaneously trying to remain in the real world.Who is it suitable for?Those at upper-intermediate and advanced levels of Spanish studies.The vocabulary and language used can be a little complicated at times, but it is still one of the several easy Spanish reads available for language learners with a comprehensive understanding of the Spanish language. 4. Cuentos de la Selva (Jungle Tales) by Horacio QuirogaThis book of Spanish short stories contains a group of storylines that take place in the jungle of Argentina, where Horacio Quiroga spent many years growing up.The stories tell of a world with crocodiles that smoke Paraguayan cigarettes and parrots that have tigers over for tea. With these short and simple novels, you will find yourself entertained and slowly exposed to new vocabulary. It is a great way to improve your Spanish.Who is it suitable for?Originally, the works would have been written for children. However, given the range of vocabulary and contexts that are easy to grasp, they are suitable for an adult learner at intermediate to advanced level learners.This book is ideal to use in language lessons as it's full of unusual, yet useful words and phrases within the fictional genre. 5. Spanish Short Stories for Beginners by Olly Richards (ideal for a beginner)This book is structured around short stories for Spanish learners. It was written by Olly Richards, a Polyglot and language teacher who has created language courses based on story learning.Spanish books containing short stories are a good place to start if you are a beginner or at intermediate level.This book, "Spanish Short Stories For Beginners" includes all the basics, including words and phrases to boost your language skills. Thanks to its proven language learning methods, it is a great way to improve your reading in Spanish.Olly Richards is also the creator of Spanish Unleashed, an online Spanish course that teaches Spanish through storytelling.The author mixes reading for pleasure with proven Spanish learning methods, providing lessons within the book.For example, each of the stories contains a quiz to test how much of the story each beginner understands.Who is it suitable for?Lower to average beginners.However, the plots of these tales will keep anyone learning Spanish entertained.Furthermore, the literature in the books provides plenty of new Spanish vocabulary, each story with a mixed genre.ACCESS STORYLEARNING SPANISH FOR FREE6. El Alquimista (The Alchemist) by Paulo CoelhoThe book tells the story of a young shepherd in Spain who goes on a quest after receiving the same dream night after night.Paulo Coelho's book was originally written in Portuguese but its Spanish translation became an international bestseller.The book is as much of a self-help book as it is a literary one.Who is it suitable for?Intermediate and advanced level Spanish students.It's easy to understand thanks to basic language and grammar, whilst the storyline is touching and one of the several easy Spanish reads from this period. 7. El principito (The Little Prince) by Antoine de Saint-ExuperyThe story is about a pilot who crashes his plane in the Sahara and is left stranded. There, he meets a young boy, known as the little prince, who tells him his story.The little prince tells him that the boy is from a small asteroid and has been traveling to different planets. Its a charming tale that highlights the potency of imagination.Who is it suitable for?Perfect for late beginners and intermediate learners.The Spanish translation is excellent. It is perfect for late beginners and early intermediate learners (as a dual language book) looking to practice. Additionally, this is suitable for teachers in search of material to incorporate into lessons.Sentences are short and relatively simple and the vocabulary isn't overly complex, but very useful. 8. Papelucho (Paperboy) by Marcela PazThe Papelucho series was written by Marcela Paz in the 1950s. It is a classic of children's literature in Chile and Latin America, selling more than two million copies since it first came out.That said, it's still a great resource to learn Spanish as an adult beginner.Who is it suitable for?Perfect for beginners, both adults and children.The books, which are perfect for beginners, tell the story of an indigenous boy called Papelucho who lives with his family on the outskirts of Santiago.Papelucho is a nickname for "Paper Boy" as the protagonist delivers newspapers to make some money.In this series, Paz explores social injustice and class divisions in Chile at that time through stories about ordinary people who resist injustices imposed on them by society or their employers. 9. Gringo Viejo (Old Gringo) by Carlos FuentesGringo Viejo is a Spanish-language book by Mexican author Carlos Fuentes. It is widely regarded as his best literary work and a great tool to learn Spanish whilst improving your reading skills.The book is set in the late 19th century during a time of war and revolution. It depicts an American journalist living in Mexico who falls for a Mexican woman. However, they are torn apart because their countries are at war.The central theme revolves around the idea that people's perceptions of a foreign country are incomplete and often inaccurate.Who is it suitable for?Upper-intermediate and advanced students.A Spanish reader without a solid foundation may struggle to read this book. It is best for upper-intermediate and advanced students.The book is famous because it shows the complexity of a foreign culture that may not be understood until an outsider experiences it firsthand. It also has beautiful imagery throughout, which appeals to anyone who appreciates nature or art in general. 10. Cuentos Para 365 Das (Stories for 365 Days) by Gloria FuentesCuentos Para 365 Das is a collection of short stories for children. The author's objective was to offer the child an amusing and instructive guide that would allow them to explore life in all its facets, whilst improving their reading.The illustrations help us understand how this is possible: we observe the world through these small things' eyes.Gloria Fuentes was a poet whose works are linked to the first literary movement after the Spanish Civil War.Who is it suitable for?It is a great resource for a beginner. This book is essentially a mix of Spanish books and it is a great resource for a beginner (as a dual language book) and anybody else with some Spanish knowledge.This mixture of literature and poetry will boost your language skills. After all, the use of imagery is an ideal way to improve Spanish learning efficiency. 11. Azul (Blue) by Rubn DaroAzul is a collection of short stories and poetry by Nicaraguan poet Rubn Daro.Thought of by many as the father of Spanish-American literature, Rubn Daro was a prolific writer who pursued eclectic mixes of styles from Symbolism to Realism.Azul is considered one of the greatest works by this author. It was part of the "Modernismo" (modernism) literary movement that followed.Who is it suitable for?This is one of several great books in Spanish for beginners.It's not too long and the simple language and words make it easy to follow. Furthermore, the poems rhyme, which makes them fun to read. 12. El Tnel (The Tunnel) by Ernesto SabatoEl Tnel is a dark, psychological thriller genre Spanish novel by Argentine writer Juan Pablo Castel. The storyline follows a man who is forced to go underground for three days without any food or water.The author explores themes such as loneliness, alienation, and fear. It's an interesting, but not easy Spanish read.The protagonist's mind deteriorates in the darkness of the tunnel and we get to know more about his past, present, and future all at once.Who is it suitable for?This book is suitable for advanced students.This book is not one of the easy Spanish reads available and is best for advanced students. Spanish books such as these require time and patience to read, even for those at an advanced stage in Spanish. 13. La Ciudad de las Bestias (City of the Beasts) by Isabel AllendeLa Ciudad de las Bestias a novel by Chilean-American writer Isabel Allende. Much of the story takes place in the Amazon rainforest. It's our favorite book in this post, and of its genre, for its use of Spanish literature.Often considered Isabel Allende's masterpiece, it is a gripping novel of loss, search, and redemption. Brought up in luxury by her grandparents after the death of their parents, Aurora "Rory" Maclean grows up in a happy and loving environment.The family's happiness is shattered when the main character, aged 16 years old, learns that her grandparents are not her parents.Insisting on knowing the truth of their identities, she embarks on an extraordinary journey to find out more about herself.Who is it suitable for?Intermediate and advanced students.Given the complexity of the language used, La Ciudad de las Bestias is one of the Spanish books most suited to an intermediate and advanced learner. 14. Aura by Carlos Fuentes"Aura" is a story about the life of two people, Silvia and Reinard Labarca. The storyline spans from their first years together in high school, through to their age and death.This novel is full of its fantastic images of "dreamlike" events and the identity explored by the narrator.Who is it suitable for?Intermediate-level Spanish readers who are not afraid of heartbreakAura was published in 1962 in Mexico. It is one of the few easy Spanish reads from this period, with relatively simple language to suit any level. 15. Fictions (Collected Fictions) by Jorge Luis BorgesFictions by Jorge Luis Borges is a collection of short stories by one of the most famous Latin American writers ever.This is one of his best examples of literature and what he is mostly known for. To read Borges is to immerse yourself in an experience, rather than just a reading exercise.Who is it suitable for?Average readers at the intermediate level and beyondFictions was written in order to "defeat time" as Borges himself stated. It includes about 25 texts that are perfect for intermediate and advanced Spanish readers, as well as any adult reader. 16. La Ta Julia y el escribidor (Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter) by Mario Vargas LlosaLa Julia y el escribidor is a Spanish language novel written by Mario Vargas Llosa. Published in 1981 and translated to English in 1993, the story takes place in a small Peruvian town, where Aunt Julia becomes engaged to the family's former scriptwriter.The book focuses on their relationship as they grow old together. Mario Vargas Llosa won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2010.Who is it suitable for?Average readers at the intermediate level and beyond.This is one of our favorite Spanish novels for beginner Spanish students for its relatable language and fun storyline. It proves a great resource from which to learn Spanish. Why You Should Incorporate Books into Your Language-Learning JourneyIncorporating books into your Spanish language learning journey can greatly enhance your overall experience and proficiency with the language, as well as provide insights into various Hispanic cultures.ACCESS STORYLEARNING SPANISH FOR FREE6. Vocabulary Acquisition and GrammarBooks offer a rich source of vocabulary acquisition. By reading different genres, you expose yourself to a diverse range of words and expressions, expanding your linguistic repertoire.Additionally, books provide valuable examples of grammar and sentence structures in context. They allow you to observe how native speakers use language naturally, helping you internalize grammar rules and improve your own sentence formation.ACCESS STORYLEARNING SPANISH FOR FREE7. Cultural Awareness and TravelFurthermore, books are a gateway to cultural awareness.Through literature, you can explore the customs, traditions, and history of Spanish-speaking countries, gaining a deeper understanding of their people and perspectives. By immersing yourself in the cultural nuances depicted in books, you develop a more authentic and nuanced grasp of the language.Books can fuel your wanderlust and desire to travel. They transport you to different regions and cities, immersing you in vibrant landscapes and diverse cultures.As you read, you'll encounter vivid descriptions of places and learn about local customs, igniting your curiosity and inspiring you to explore Spanish-speaking countries firsthand.Incorporating books into your Spanish language learning journey offers a multifaceted approach that enhances vocabulary acquisition, grammar comprehension, cultural awareness, and travel aspirations.Soo grab a book and embark on a linguistic adventure that expands your horizons in countless ways.ACCESS STORYLEARNING SPANISH FOR FREE8. FAQs About Learning Spanish with BooksLet's look at some frequently asked questions about learning Spanish with books.How can I learn Spanish with books for a Spanish beginner?You can use books to learn Spanish as a beginner. Get a beginner Spanish workbook to practice basic grammar concepts, vocabulary, and sentence structure. Select books that explore important Spanish grammar rules and learn Spanish verb tenses through dedicated books that explain conjugation rules.Practice with exercises found in workbooks or online resources for practical application. You can also consider a Spanish beginner course that includes recommended reading materials. A complete Spanish grammar workbook may be tedious, but it will get the job done.Can I learn Spanish from classic Spanish stories?Yes, you can read classic Spanish stories to improve your comprehension and cultural understanding. Start with books for Spanish beginners with simplified vocabulary and sentence structures.You can also look for dual translation books designed for English speakers to help with new words and phrases. However, when you come across new Spanish words in literature, you can often decipher the meaning from the context of the story. This intuitive approach can deepen the language-learning process.Can I learn Spanish just with a Spanish book?While a Spanish book is a great learning resource, it will not be sufficient on its own to teach you Spanish. On top of your Spanish novel or Spanish textbook, you should also try to find ways to practice speaking Spanish and developing listening comprehension.Spanish conversation classes, audiobooks, and other interactive Spanish resources can be very helpful. Of course, if you can, the best way to learn Spanish is by visiting a Spanish-speaking country.However, if this is not possible, try to make your Spanish learning journey immersive in other ways. Movies, TV shows, and podcasts are also great resources.Summing up: The Best Books for Spanish LearnersThere we have it! 16 Easy-to-Read Books in the Spanish LanguageImmersion is the fastest and most accurate way to learn a language and reading in a different language is a great way to speed up the learning process.If you are feeling in need of reading practice in Spanish then the products above will help.In this case, select a book that is written at the right reading level so that you can expand your vocabulary and solidify the words you have already learned.In the future, we recommend you search for reading material in line with your level, whilst also making sure to choose books that provide a mental challenge. Always search for a challenge!There are hundreds of easy-to-read Spanish books for Spanish learners accessible online. Furthermore, literature is one of the few things which allows us to study Spanish alone.So, make use of these resources!ACCESS STORYLEARNING SPANISH FOR FREE With over 10 years of experience, HSA is where your goals merge with our teachers' passion: to improve your Spanish fluency. Custom-tailored to fit your needs, you choose your program, schedule, favorite teachers, pace of learning, and more...Learn More With over 10 years of experience, HSA is where your goals merge with our teachers' passion: to improve your Spanish fluency. Custom-tailored to fit your needs, you choose your program, schedule, favorite teachers, pace of learning, and more...Learn More Reading practice is an important part of learning the Spanish language.But you don't want to start with something too advanced that will make you feel overwhelmed or discouraged.Luckily, there's plenty of great reading material available in Spanish for beginners. These 38 Spanish books for beginners include short stories, graphic novels and more, and will engage and entertain you while also boosting your reading skills. These books!ContentsSpanish Novels for BeginnersIf you feel ready to dive into a novel, there are some great options even for beginner Spanish learners. They'll provide plenty of reading practice and dialogue for learning conversational Spanish. 1. La misin de RoxEnglish Title: Rox MissionAuthor: Laura GallegoLa misin de Rox, known in English as All the Fairies in the Kingdom, is the third installment in a young adult series. Its a delightful tale that can easily stand alone from the other two books.The story involvesmagic, a fascinating quest and the need to defend civilization. There are monsters, battles, secrets and tests of endurance.The book is easy to read, although absolute beginners will likely benefit from a translation app or a good Spanish dictionary on hand.2. Detective MalasuerteEnglish Title: Unlucky DetectiveAuthor: Hilario PenaThis is a page-turner that every level Spanish learner will likely find gripping, especially those who like the detective genre.The story includes a private investigator who finds himself involved in a case with supernatural occurrences. The unsavory characters he meets are both intriguing and revolting.This exciting read is well-suited for beginner readers since the vocabulary is relatively uncomplicated. There are also cultural references. HSA is where your goals merge with our teachers' passion: to improve your Spanish fluency. Custom-tailored to fit your needs, you choose your program, schedule, favorite teachers, pace of learning, and more...Learn More With over 10 years of experience, HSA is where your goals merge with our teachers' passion: to improve your Spanish fluency. Custom-tailored to fit your needs, you choose your program, schedule, favorite teachers, pace of learning, and more...Learn More Some people claim that the alien landscapes described in the books refer to Patagonia in Argentina, as Saint-Exupry flew over this region many times during his time as a pilot.Its a good book for practicing simple dialogue and the past tense. The length is manageable even for beginner learners, especially if you're already familiar with the story. 4. El alquimistaEnglish Title: The AlchemistAuthor: Paulo CoelhoOriginally written in Portuguese, the Spanish translation of this international bestseller is a good one if you want to read a whole novel in the language.The story of El alquimista concerns a young Spanish shepherd who goes on a quest after having a recurring dream. The lessons he learns can be applied to a variety of life decisions.Apart from its spiritual message, this book of language benefit is that both the vocabulary and grammar are simple and easy to understand.5. El tnelEnglish Title: The TunnelAuthor: Ernesto SabatoThis highly acclaimed psychological thriller was written in 1948 and remains a popular text for teenagers in Argentina today. It has also been adapted for the stage and the big screen.The plot of El tnel concerns a Buenos Aires painter who killed the woman he loved. Castel examines his motives, delving into existentialism and reflecting the authors characteristic acid pessimism.This book deals with some tricky subject matter but it is a fascinating and thought-provoking read for anyone who wants to challenge themselves.6. Pobre AnaEnglish Title: Poor AnaAuthor: Blaine RayAna and her parents live in a small home in California with a run-down car. She envies the lives of her friends, with their flashy cars and a wealth of other things she can only dream of.Spending the summer with a family in Mexico, she meets new friends and acquaintances and learns that there are more important things in life than a new ride.Pobre Ana is the first of the Blaine Ray series. It has a convenient vocabulary list in the book to assist Spanish learners. 7. Esperanza reneEnglish Title: Esperanza RisingAuthor: Pam Munoz RyanThis beautiful novel recounts the story of a young girl growing up on a ranch in Mexico who's forced to flee with her mother to a farm labor camp in California during the Great Depression.The story was inspired by Ryans grandmothers personal experiences. Its best the recipient of several awards and much praise from critics.At less than 300 pages, this novel shouldn't be missed. You'll pick up a lot of great adjectives and descriptive phrases and itll also help you learn Spanish present and past tenses.8. La vida imaginariaEnglish Title: The Imaginary LifeAuthor: Mara TorresAfter being left by her significant other, Nata has to face life anew. The reader follows her through her post-relationship recovery as she grapples with her past and present circumstances.This is one of the few books on the list not aimed at children or teens and the language used reflects this. However, its still simple enough for beginners.At less than 200 pages long, it's a good option if you want a simple book meant for adults. Plus, it will teach you a lot of colloquial words and phrases.9. MentiraEnglish Title: LieAuthor: Care Santos TorresThis stirring tale highlights the pitfalls of love in the technological era. Xenia is a hardworking student, driven by her goal of studying medicine. But these goals are set aside when she falls in love with a mysterious boy she meets online. Desperate to find out who he is, she goes on a hunt for information, only to discover a shocking truth.Mentira won the 2015 Edeb Youth Literature Award. Its also only around 250 pages and its a vocabulary gold mine for language learners. 10. Wonder: La lecin de AugustEnglish Title: Augusts LessonAuthor: R. J. PalacioThis is the Spanish version of the English novel Wonder, which earned several awards and was made into a hit movie starring Julia Roberts in 2017.The story August Pullman, a boy with a severe facial deformity, as he navigates the difficulties of starting fifth grade at a new school.Its a little bit longer than the previous novels on this list but still easy enough for the more experienced beginner. It will help you get a handle on multiple verb tenses and learn a lot of new verbs.Bilingual Spanish ReadersGraded readers are an excellent option for beginner Spanish learners. They typically contain simple stories, use basic vocabulary and often add extras to help learners power up their skills. 11. First Spanish Reader: A Beginners Dual-Language BookAuthor: Angel FloresThis book is an excellent introduction to the wonderful world of reading Spanish stories. The tales are presented with the Spanish text on one page and the English translation on the opposite page.Many of the stories include common Spanish idioms and uncomplex vocabulary, but the tales are thought-provoking and engaging. There's also a bonus section that highlights vocabulary and offers practice exercises for Spanish learners. The stories are a manageable length, providing great little bites of literature designed for language learning. 12. 11 Bilingual Fairy Tales in Spanish and EnglishAuthor: Charles PerraultThis book is a collection of classic fairy tales in Spanish, such as Ricitos de oro y los tres osos (Goldilocks and the Three Bears) and Capercuzita Roja (Little Red Riding Hood).Because the stories are the original texts, they are a great resource for learning Spanish translations might look outdated, though this was done on purpose to preserve the original style.You'll get the audio files of each story (270 minutes in total), narrated by both native Spanish and English speakers. These are perfect for listening to proper pronunciation and natural speech flow. 13. Short and Easy Spanish Novels for BeginnersAuthor: Joe ArenasLooking for a bit of suspense in your Spanish language books? This author makes the horror genre accessible even for beginners. This book contains two stories, Espectro (Spectrum) and La Casa (The House), both filled with simple grammar constructions and relevant vocabulary.The stories are short and sweetwith each sentence no more than 12 words long and each chapter only containing 10 sentencesleaving plenty of space on each page if you want to take any notes.The stories conclude with a short multiple-choice quiz as a reading comprehension exercise. 14. Short Stories in SpanishEditor: John R. KingSuitable for all levels, this is a compilation of 10 contemporary stories from the most celebrated Hispanic writers, including Gabriel Garca Mrquez and Laura Freixas.Compared to the rest of the books in this category, the content might seem slightly more advanced given that each story is more or less 10 full pages. However, they come with helpful annotations for learner support.This is a nice alternative for beginners who want to go beyond childrens literature and explore authentic Spanish texts that are way more approachable than the featured writers novels. 15. AuraAuthor: Carlos FuentesCarlos Fuentes was a renowned writer in the Latin American world. His short mystery novel Aura is sure to keep you engaged. The story follows Felipe, a man who goes to work in the house of a widow to edit her deceased husbands memoirs. While there, he becomes enamored with her niece, Aura.Much of the story is written in the present tense, so this is a great place to start if you're still getting a handle on Spanish tenses. You'll also pick up a lot of interesting vocabulary. 16. El Gran Oro PardoEnglish Title: Big Brown BearAuthor: David McPhailThis version of El Gran Oro Pardo is particularly helpful for beginners. You'll find Spanish translations on every line alongside the English text.You'll not only be able to follow the mischievous adventures of our big, brown bear friend, but more importantly, you'll also be able to see how English and Spanish correlate.As you read, try to take note of how the two languages compare and contrast. For example, see how their sentence constructions match up in some ways and differ in others. 17. El Recreo RecessEnglish Title: The Recreation RecessAuthor:Rosa BustilloThis is one of those books that you and your children (or nieces and nephews) can enjoy together.El Recreo Recess is another dual-language book where you get a word-for-word Spanish translation on every page while improving your vocabulary and knowledge of Spanish sentence structures.Its available on Kindle, so you can take it with you wherever and improve your Spanish on your own time. 18. Jorge el curioso: El jonnEnglish Title: Curious George: The Home RunAuthor: H. A. ReyThis book from the well-known Curious George series is about how George went from spectator to player on his first trip to the baseball park.While its a fun read, you'll do more than just read a story about a beloved childrens book character.By the end of the story, you'll have a real feel for the most basic sentence and phrase structures in Spanish. You'll see for yourself what gendered nouns are and how prepositions and pronouns work. And you'll pick up some Spanish baseball vocabulary.Childrens Books in SpanishSpanish childrens books typically help Spanish-speaking children learn their mother tongue. For the same reasons, theyre also great for teens and adults learning Spanish as a foreign language. 19. La liebre y la tortugaEnglish Title: The Tortoise and the HareAuthors: Tina Vallis andSigrid MartnezThis is the Spanish retelling of the beloved and well-known classic childrens book. The story has a target audience of 2-5 years old but will bring as much joy to an older reader learning the language.This fun yet meaty story is told using basic words and phrases to help build your vocabulary. The short sentences offer beginners a chance to practice reading Spanish aloud, without being faced with long, complex sentences.The book also features interactive scrapbooking activities for some hands-on learning. 20. Papelucho DetectiveEnglish Title: Detective PapeluchoAuthor: Marcela PazPapelucho Detective is a series of 12 books written between the 1940s and 1970s about an 8-year-old boy named Papelucho.Written in diary form, the stories detail his everyday life in Santiago, Chile and are based on the authors own childhood experiences. The books come with lovely illustrations and are packed with useful everyday vocabulary.As the stories are written from the perspective of a child, the prose is simple and easy to understand. For more Papelucho, watch the 2007 animated film Papelucho y el marciano (Papelucho and the martian). 21. Alma y cmo obtovo su nombreEnglish Title: Alma and How She Got Her NameAuthor: Juana Martinez-NealThis story is about a young girl learning about her heritage through her name. And with a name like Alma Sofera Espanza Jos Pura Candela, theres a lot of history to be uncovered.Its a beautiful story about family and self-discovery. And given that this is a childrens book, the story is very accessible to beginners.In the authors note at the end, she shares the history of her own name and encourages you to share yours. Its the perfect opportunity for a little writing practice using some of the family vocabulary and simple grammar structures from the story. 22. La luz de LucaEnglish Title: Lucas LightAuthor: Margarita Del MazoThis award-winning childrens tale is about a little firefly who's struggling to light up like the rest of her family. The night comes when its finally her time to shine, but something gets in her way.Suited for kids between the ages of 4 and 6, its a gorgeous picture book full of forest vocabulary and animal terms that you dont often come across as a novice.You'll end up with an ink on your hands thanks to the illustrations to further expand your animal vocabulary. 23. Si le das una galletita a un ratn and you soon learn that mice are surprisingly demanding guests.Through repetition of sentence structures, this charming classic teaches the conditional tense and will help you feel more confident using if and then statements. 24. Con Tango son tresEnglish Title: With Tango There Are ThreeAuthors: Justin Richardsonand Peter KernellThis is a groundbreaking LGBT picture book that stars two proud, papa penguins.Based on a true story, Con Tango son tres takes place at New York Citys Central Park Zoo, where two male penguins fall in love, adopt an egg and raise a penguin chick.Its a heartwarming story that will add to your arsenal of Spanish animal words and family vocabulary. It also uses very simple sentences, making it perfect for mid- to upper-beginner learners. 25. Se venden gorrasEnglish Title: Caps for SaleAuthor: Esphyr SlobodkinaThis book tells the story of a peddler trying to sell caps. The peddler is quite unusual because he wears all his hats on his head as he peddles them.One day, he decides to take a nap in a tree, but while he sleeps a group of mischievous monkeys steal his caps and refuse to give them back.A fun book to read, you'll also learn the simple past tense with this book, as well as descriptive adjectives. 26. Un Dia de Nieve English Title: The Snowy DayAuthor: Ezra Jack KeatsThis simple yet heartwarming story is about a young boy exploring his neighborhood after the first snowfall of the season.The book won the Caldecott Medal in 1963, making it the first picture book with an African American protagonist to win a major childrens award.This is a great book for learning the Spanish past perfect tense in an accessible and digestible way due to the relative simplicity of its prose. You'll come across phrases like el sol haba derretido toda la nieve (the sun had melted all the snow). 27. Las bellas hijas de MufaroEnglish Title: Mufaros Beautiful DaughtersAuthor: John SteptoeThis is a beautiful African American retelling of the classic Cinderella fairy tale and another winner of the Caldecott Medal.When the king announces hes looking for a wife, Mufaro decides both his daughters are great candidates for queen, kind, considerate Nyasha and mean, selfish Manyara. But wholl win the kings heart?Theres much more writing in this book compared to the others on our list, so its best suited for advanced beginners or intermediate learners. Expect more past tense, as well as conversational language in the form of dialogue. 28. English Title: Are You My Mother?Author: P.D. EastmanThis has to be one of the most touching mother-child stories in any language.It tells the delightful tale of a newly hatched bird who opens his eyes and doesnt see his mother. He ventures into the world looking for her, meeting a parade of animals who quickly deny that theyre related.Youll have to read the book to find out how the story ends. This ones perfect for toddlers and Spanish beginners alike. 29. Conejo y tortuga van a la escuelaEnglish Title: Rabbit and Turtle Go to SchoolAuthor: Lucy FloydThis book tries to give a definitive answer to one of lifes most crucial questions: If a rabbit and a turtle race to school, who will get there first?Theres a catch, though. The turtle rides in a bus and the rabbit runs, but chooses his own route. So, who do you think will win? Of course, the answers obvious.This is a great book for any beginning language reader that will help you on your road to Spanish fluency.Graphic Novels in SpanishGraphic novels typically involve more complex storylines than childrens books, but theyve still got the useful illustrations and simple dialogue to help you follow along. 30. Gael y la red de mentiras: una novela grficaEnglish Title: Gael and the Web of Lies: A Graphic NovelAuthor: Ernesto RdrguezThis is one of three books in a wonderful graded reader series. The series uses a comic book format and the illustrations are fabulous.Gael is an unlikely hero living a thrilling life. Hes a cat burglar whose adventures take him to Madrid, Mallorca and other intriguing spots.The series targets beginner-level learners, but anyone who enjoys comic books will love reading about Gael and his friends. Each book also offers reading comprehension exercises for learners to assess their reading skills. 31. Enola Holmes y el sorprendente caso de Lady AlistairEnglish Title: Enola Holmes and the Surprising Case of Lady AlistairAuthor: Nancy SpringerThis is one of a series of graphic novels that feature the wildly imaginative Enola Holmeswho just so happens to be Sherlock Holmes younger sister!This volume includes Enola Holmes dressed in disguise and on the search for a missing teenager. She manages to keep one step ahead of her more well-known brother throughout the entire story.The Spanish text is engaging while remaining in classic graphic novel stylestory and to the point. And the illustrations are so detailed that they can help you follow along with the story. 32. Vivos se los llevaronEnglish Title: They Were Taken AliveAuthors: Andalusia K. Soloff, Marco Parra and Anah H. GalavizThis fascinating factual account involves the Mexican police and 43 student teachers who disappeared from a college without a trace. The novel relies on interviews and official documents to tell the tale.The story includes issues that affect Mexico and many other countries, such as drugs, corrupt politicians and everyday citizens who get caught in the crossfire of these issues.This is a true-life story that you'll never forget. While reading, make sure you also take note of the colorful cultural references and any unfamiliar slang. 33. Una arruga en el tiempoEnglish Title: A Wrinkle in TimeAuthor: Madeleine LngleThis Spanish graphic novel is based on the treasured childhood classic and is perfect for beginners.Even if you havent read the original text or seen the movie, the vivid illustrations clearly depict the Spanish translations, so you always have an idea of whats going on in each panel.If the plot or certain words are still unclear to you, browse each chapter before reading and look up any unfamiliar words or phrases, then write down their definitions and keep that list handy as you read through the chapters.Short Stories in SpanishShort stories are a great way to ease into reading in Spanish without getting overwhelmed. Theyre like mini language lessons with plenty of vocabulary and grammar patterns to pick up as you read. 34. El libro de Gloria Fuertes para nias y nios: versos, cuentos y vidaEnglish Title: Gloria Fuertes book for girls and boys: poems, stories and lifeAuthor: Gloria FuertesThis precious collection of childrens literature features over 100 poems and stories, many of which are beautifully illustrated by acclaimed artist Marta Alts.The stories are entertaining and the poetry is simple, yet often profound. The book features dragons, bears, little chicks, turtles, kangaroos and many other adorable characters.Not only will the stories captivate you, but they'll also help you advance on your Spanish learning journey. While this book is geared towards children between the ages of 6 and 8, adult beginners will also find great pleasure in it. 35. Cuentos de la selvaEnglish Title: Jungle TalesAuthor: Horacio QuirogaThis book of short stories for children was written in 1918 by Uruguayan author Horacio Quiroga. The stories are short, sweet and easy to read.Quiroga spent many years living in the jungle of Misiones, Argentina and used his experiences to bring the jungle to life in these stories.This is a world where crocodiles wear banana necklaces and smoke Paraguayan cigarettes, parrots invite tigers around for tea and one lazy bee drinks all the honey to avoid having to work. 36. Spanish Short StoriesAuthor: Horacio QuirogaIf you're seeking variety in literature, heres a collection of 20 original short stories that span across genres from romance to science fiction and more. I recommended having a notebook ready since each is followed by a little questionnaire to see how much youve absorbed from reading. The questions are in English, but some require a response in Spanish.The author also includes vocabulary, grammar and cultural notes to give you a well-rounded understanding of each short story. Each chapter ends with the English translation, strategically placed after the questionnaire. 37. Cuentos que contaban nuestras abuelasEnglish Title: Tales Told by Our GrandmothersAuthors: Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel CampoyA homage to family and heritage, this book is a sneak peek into the rich Latin-American cultures diversified by their African, Arabic, European, Hebrew and indigenous roots.From a shrewd vixen to cheerful bagpipes, these 12 stories have been passed down from generation to generation: withstanding the test of time, changing landscapes, and finally immortalized in this heartwarming anthology.This book is extremely helpful for those who want to focus on Spanish of the Americas, although its still a wonderful and accessible read for advanced beginners in European Spanish. 38. Easy Spanish ReaderAuthor:William TardyThis book is for learners who want a textbook feel to their reading. The Easy Spanish Reader is divided into three parts with exercises between them.In the first part, you'll learn all about friends Enrique and Maria while picking up some useful vocabulary. The second part deals with the history of Mexico.The third section is an adaptation of the Spanish classic Lazarillo de Tormes (Lazarillo de Tormes), which is a story about a boy who serves a series of masters that includes a priest and an archbishop.Check out this post for more short stories in Spanish.Why Read Spanish Books for BeginnersReading in Spanish will not only make you feel more confident about your language skills, but it will also expand your vocabulary and help you internalize the language youre learning. Here are some of the best benefits of reading as a beginner Spanish learner:You get to see the language written down, as opposed to just hearing it. Seeing the words out on the page will provide you with the opportunity to read the sentences over and over again until you absorb the meaning and retain it in your memory.Reading will expose you to new vocabulary and grammar structures. Dont forget to record any new vocabulary you learn as you go along, and dont give up if there are words or even sections in any of these books you may not understand fully.Reading lowers anxiety. Reading is probably the most stress-free activity you can do to learn a language. When you read, youre able to sit back, relax and just take it all in at your own pace.You can discover new stories you might not otherwise have had the opportunity to read. Not all books written in Spanish are translated into English, so your Spanish skills may be able to help you discover a world you wouldnt have known otherwise.If youre worried that youre not advanced enough to read a book in Spanish, think again. Its similar to when you learned to read in your own language: you start with basic books and work your way up to something more advanced. You can also use more structured, interactive reading to build up your skills until youre ready to tackle books.How to Pick Spanish Books for BeginnersReading Spanish books for beginners will help you to transition into the language more easily if you pick a book thats well-suited to your specific interests and level. Your perfect Spanish book should be:An achievable length. Dont aim for Don Quijote de la Mancha (Don Quixote) on your first try. Think about the book length youd normally read in English, and divide it into half the size.Level-appropriate. Ideally, you should understand roughly 70% of the words on the page. If youre not sure, try reading the first page before you buy the book. If you can grasp that or less, thats a good start! If you want to familiarize yourself with reading in Spanish, it might be a good idea to choose a book you find fairly simple, to help ease you into the reading habit.A story that interests you. The same goes for reading in any language. If youre not into the story or subject, youre unlikely to see the book through to the end. This is perhaps even more important for reading in Spanish. Try to find a story that you like, or youll end up frustrated and bored.Once youve read these Spanish books for beginners and are ready to advance to some more difficult reads, check out this list of some of the best Spanish books of all time. You can also check out some of the recommendations on our YouTube channel:Reading the books on these lists will work well if youre a tactile learner, but there are also numerous digital language learning options to choose from if you want to learn on the go.For example, the learning program FluentU has a built-in multimedia flashcard system to study vocabulary.FluentU takes real-world videoslike music videos, movie trailers, news and inspiring talksand turns them into personalized language learning lessons.Other sites use scripted content. FluentU uses a natural approach that helps you ease into the Spanish language and culture over time. Youll learn Spanish as its actually spoken by real people.FluentU has a wide variety of videos topics, as you can see here:FluentU brings native videos within reach with interactive transcripts. You can tap on any word to look it up instantly. Every definition has examples that have been written to help you understand how the word is used.Plus, if you see an interesting word you dont know, you can add it to a vocab list.Review a complete interactive transcript under the Dialogue tab, and find words and phrases listed under Vocab.Learn all the vocabulary in any video with FluentUs robust learning engine. Swipe left or right to see more examples of the word youre on.The best part is that FluentU keeps track of the vocabulary that youre learning, and gives you extra practice with difficult words. It'll even remind you when its time to review what youve learned. Every learner has a truly personalized experience, even if youre studying with the same video. Start using the FluentU website on your computer or tablet or, better yet, download the FluentU app from the iTunes or Google Play store. Click here to take advantage of our current sale! (Expires at the end of this month.)

Published: January 4, 2024Reading is an important part of improving your Spanish skills, which is necessary if you want to travel in Spain or throughout South America. In this post, we've compiled a list of the best books for Spanish learners, so that you can get started on reading in Spanish in no time.Whether you're a complete beginner, at an intermediate level, or at an advanced stage, it's important to read Spanish books as much as possible.There are many Spanish books that will help you to learn and improve but, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, not all books are created equal (or something like that).Read on to discover Spanish novels for beginner and intermediate-level learners. dual-language books for beginners to boost vocabulary, and Latin American literary classics.We'll also take you through why you should incorporate books into your language-learning journey, how to make use of vocabulary acquisition and grammar, and the cultural awareness and travel benefits you can obtain from StoryLearning Spanish.1. Cien aos de soledad (One Hundred Years of Solitude) by Gabriel Garca MrquezThis landmark novel by the famous Colombian author was originally published in 1967. It tells the story of several generations in a family living through tumultuous times, with many changes and conflicts.Centered on the town of Macondo at different points in history, it recounts the period from 1808 to 1982.The most appealing aspect is that Mrquez doesn't use conventional storytelling methods or strategies; instead, he has created an interesting, dynamic, and complex storyline.The original publication was acclaimed by international critics as one of the best novels ever. This is a must-read for Spanish learners who want to read more books in the language but find that they are too difficult or confusing.It has all of the ingredients for an excellent book - adventure, drama, and romance, centered in the magical realism genre.Who is it suitable for?Beginner learners (as a dual language book) and those at intermediate/advanced levels. 2. Como agua para chocolate (Like Water for Chocolate) by Laura EsquivelThis book, written by Mexican author Laura Esquivel, is a wonderful read for anyone interested in culture and cooking. The story follows a young Mexican girl, Tita, who longs to marry Pedro, the love of her life.The recipes that start each chapter work into the plot seamlessly and give an added cultural touch to the already rich story.Who is it suitable for?Upper-Beginners and intermediate-level learners.The Spanish language in the book Como Agua Para Chocolate is one of the many easy Spanish easy reads from the period with Latin American flair, includes a mixture of verbs and conjugations that are used more often in Central America or South America than in Spain.This makes it an easy way for readers learning Spanish to obtain basic Spanish grammar without difficulty. 3. La vida imaginaria (The Imaginable Life) by Mara TorresAnalist for Premio Planeta in 2012, this book follows the life of Nata, who is trying to pick up the pieces after her long-time boyfriend leaves her. Throughout the storyline, the reader follows Nata as she relives different periods of her life, while simultaneously trying to remain in the real world.Who is it suitable for?Those at upper-intermediate and advanced levels of Spanish studies.The vocabulary and language used can be a little complicated at times, but it is still one of the several easy Spanish reads available for language learners with a comprehensive understanding of the Spanish language. 4. Cuentos de la Selva (Jungle Tales) by Horacio QuirogaThis book of Spanish short stories contains a group of storylines that take place in the jungle of Argentina, where Horacio Quiroga spent many years growing up.The stories tell of a world with crocodiles that smoke Paraguayan cigarettes and parrots that have tigers over for tea. With these short and simple novels, you will find yourself entertained and slowly exposed to new vocabulary. It is a great way to improve your Spanish.Who is it suitable for?Originally, the works would have been written for children. However, given the range of vocabulary and contexts that are easy to grasp, they are suitable for an adult learner at intermediate to advanced level learners.This book is ideal to use in language lessons as it's full of unusual, yet useful words and phrases within the fictional genre. 5. Spanish Short Stories for Beginners by Olly Richards (ideal for a beginner)This book is structured around short stories for Spanish learners. It was written by Olly Richards, a Polyglot and language teacher who has created language courses based on story learning.Spanish books containing short stories are a good place to start if you are a beginner or at intermediate level.This book, "Spanish Short Stories For Beginners" includes all the basics, including words and phrases to boost your language skills. Thanks to its proven language learning methods, it is a great way to improve your reading in Spanish.Olly Richards is also the creator of Spanish Unleashed, an online Spanish course that teaches Spanish through storytelling.The author mixes reading for pleasure with proven Spanish learning methods, providing lessons within the book.For example, each of the stories contains a quiz to test how much of the story each beginner understands.Who is it suitable for?Lower to average beginners.However, the plots of these tales will keep anyone learning Spanish entertained.Furthermore, the literature in the books provides plenty of new Spanish vocabulary, each story with a mixed genre.ACCESS STORYLEARNING SPANISH FOR FREE6. El Alquimista (The Alchemist) by Paulo CoelhoThe book tells the story of a young shepherd in Spain who goes on a quest after receiving the same dream night after night.Paulo Coelho's book was originally written in Portuguese but its Spanish translation became an international bestseller.The book is as much of a self-help book as it is a literary one.Who is it suitable for?Intermediate and advanced level Spanish students.It's easy to understand thanks to basic language and grammar, whilst the storyline is touching and one of the several easy Spanish reads from this period. 7. El principito (The Little Prince) by Antoine de Saint-ExuperyThe story is about a pilot who crashes his plane in the Sahara and is left stranded. There, he meets a young boy, known as the little prince, who tells him his story.The little prince tells him that the boy is from a small asteroid and has been traveling to different planets. Its a charming tale that highlights the potency of imagination.Who is it suitable for?Perfect for late beginners and intermediate learners.The Spanish translation is excellent. It is perfect for late beginners and early intermediate learners (as a dual language book) looking to practice. Additionally, this is suitable for teachers in search of material to incorporate into lessons.Sentences are short and relatively simple and the vocabulary isn't overly complex, but very useful. 8. Papelucho (Paperboy) by Marcela PazThe Papelucho series was written by Marcela Paz in the 1950s. It is a classic of children's literature in Chile and Latin America, selling more than two million copies since it first came out.That said, it's still a great resource to learn Spanish as an adult beginner.Who is it suitable for?Perfect for beginners, both adults and children.The books, which are perfect for beginners, tell the story of an indigenous boy called Papelucho who lives with his family on the outskirts of Santiago.Papelucho is a nickname for "Paper Boy" as the protagonist delivers newspapers to make some money.In this series, Paz explores social injustice and class divisions in Chile at that time through stories about ordinary people who resist injustices imposed on them by society or their employers. 9. Gringo Viejo (Old Gringo) by Carlos FuentesGringo Viejo is a Spanish-language book by Mexican author Carlos Fuentes. It is widely regarded as his best literary work and a great tool to learn Spanish whilst improving your reading skills.The book is set in the late 19th century during a time of war and revolution. It depicts an American journalist living in Mexico who falls for a Mexican woman. However, they are torn apart because their countries are at war.The central theme revolves around the idea that people's perceptions of a foreign country are incomplete and often inaccurate.Who is it suitable for?Upper-intermediate and advanced students.A Spanish reader without a solid foundation may struggle to read this book. It is best for upper-intermediate and advanced students.The book is famous because it shows the complexity of a foreign culture that may not be understood until an outsider experiences it firsthand. It also has beautiful imagery throughout, which appeals to anyone who appreciates nature or art in general. 10. Cuentos Para 365 Das (Stories for 365 Days) by Gloria FuentesCuentos Para 365 Das is a collection of short stories for children. The author's objective was to offer the child an amusing and instructive guide that would allow them to explore life in all its facets, whilst improving their reading.The illustrations help us understand how this is possible: we observe the world through these small things' eyes.Gloria Fuentes was a poet whose works are linked to the first literary movement after the Spanish Civil War.Who is it suitable for?It is a great resource for a beginner. This book is essentially a mix of Spanish books and it is a great resource for a beginner (as a dual language book) and anybody else with some Spanish knowledge.This mixture of literature and poetry will boost your language skills. After all, the use of imagery is an ideal way to improve Spanish learning efficiency. 11. Azul (Blue) by Rubn DaroAzul is a collection of short stories and poetry by Nicaraguan poet Rubn Daro.Thought of by many as the father of Spanish-American literature, Rubn Daro was a prolific writer who pursued eclectic mixes of styles from Symbolism to Realism.Azul is considered one of the greatest works by this author. It was part of the "Modernismo" (modernism) literary movement that followed.Who is it suitable for?This is one of several great books in Spanish for beginners.It's not too long and the simple language and words make it easy to follow. Furthermore, the poems rhyme, which makes them fun to read. 12. El Tnel (The Tunnel) by Ernesto SabatoEl Tnel is a dark, psychological thriller genre Spanish novel by Argentine writer Juan Pablo Castel. The storyline follows a man who is forced to go underground for three days without any food or water.The author explores themes such as loneliness, alienation, and fear. It's an interesting, but not easy Spanish read.The protagonist's mind deteriorates in the darkness of the tunnel and we get to know more about his past, present, and future all at once.Who is it suitable for?This book is suitable for advanced students.This book is not one of the easy Spanish reads available and is best for advanced students. Spanish books such as these require time and patience to read, even for those at an advanced stage in Spanish. 13. La Ciudad de las Bestias (City of the Beasts) by Isabel AllendeLa Ciudad de las Bestias a novel by Chilean-American writer Isabel Allende. Much of the story takes place in the Amazon rainforest. It's our favorite book in this post, and of its genre, for its use of Spanish literature.Often considered Isabel Allende's masterpiece, it is a gripping novel of loss, search, and redemption. Brought up in luxury by her grandparents after the death of their parents, Aurora "Rory" Maclean grows up in a happy and loving environment.The family's happiness is shattered when the main character, aged 16 years old, learns that her grandparents are not her parents.Insisting on knowing the truth of their identities, she embarks on an extraordinary journey to find out more about herself.Who is it suitable for?Intermediate and advanced students.Given the complexity of the language used, La Ciudad de las Bestias is one of the Spanish books most suited to an intermediate and advanced learner. 14. Aura by Carlos Fuentes"Aura" is a story about the life of two people, Silvia and Reinard Labarca. The storyline spans from their first years together in high school, through to their age and death.This novel is full of its fantastic images of "dreamlike" events and the identity explored by the narrator.Who is it suitable for?Intermediate-level Spanish readers who

