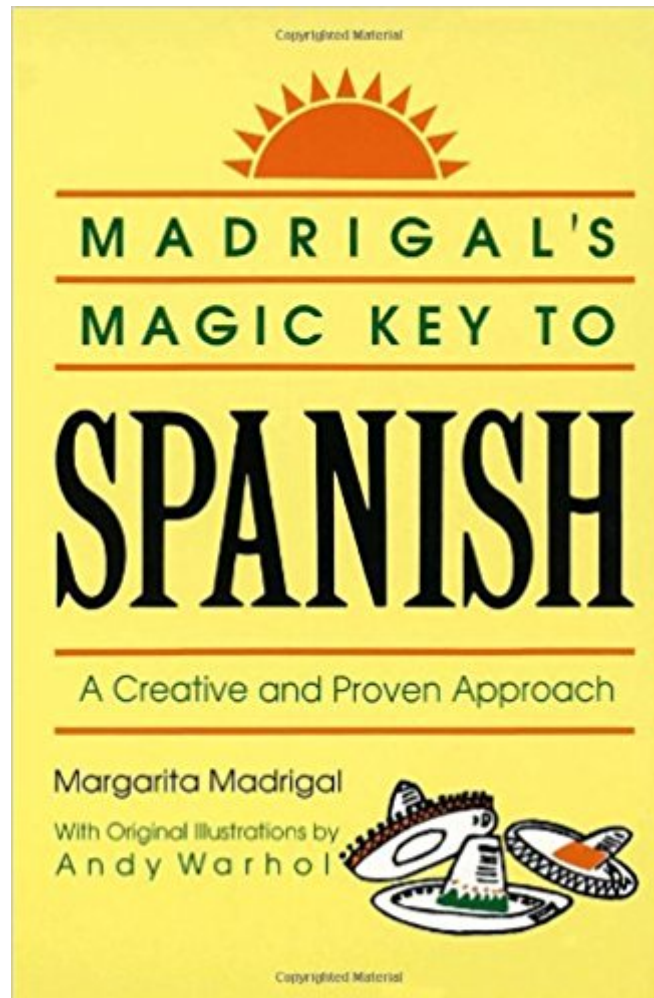




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Madrigal's Magic Key To Spanish: A Creative And Proven Approach



Synopsis

Anyone can read, write, and speak Spanish in only a few short weeks with this unique and proven method, which completely eliminates rote memorization and boring drills.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Spanish

Anyone can read, write, and speak Spanish in only a few short weeks with this unique and proven method, which completely eliminates rote memorization and boring drills. Original B & W illustrations.

In the preface to this book, the author, Margarita Madrigal, promises that if you complete this book, you will then be able to go to a Spanish speaking country and understand them. I will now go that far and agree with the author because I believe that in order to speak and understand Spanish with confidence, you will need a learning-Spanish audio program to supplement this book. But as the author promises, I honestly believe that this book will help you to do the following:

1. Speak Spanish
2. Read Spanish
3. Write in Spanish
4. Think in Spanish

There are so many things that I like about this book. For starters, the author of this book uses a very interesting method to help you quickly learn Spanish. What she does is teach the reader how to add hundreds and hundreds of Spanish words to his or her vocabulary by simply using the English words that you already know. For example, did you already know that the following words are both Spanish and English

words: Actor Popular Animal Capital hotel Radio Conductor Probable Cable Ideal Flexible The only difference is the pronunciation is different in Spanish. But the words are spelled the same way and have the same meaning in both Spanish and English. In addition to showing the reader that he or she already knows many Spanish words because there are so many English words that are spelled the same and that have the same meaning, the author also shows how the reader can take many English words that he or she already knows and convert them into Spanish words just by making small changes in the words. For example, the author shows how we can convert many English words that end in *-ist* into Spanish words by adding the letter *-a* to them: Pianist *el pianista* Violinist *el violinista* Dentist *el dentista* Oculist *el oculista* Capital *el capitalista* Communist *el comunista* Novelist *el novelista* Optimist *el optimista*

The author also found it beneficial that there is a helpful pronunciation key at the beginning of the book. Another thing that I really like about this book is that after every 9 or 10 lessons, there are a series of tests that help you test your progress and see how far you have come. Near the end of the book, there is also a section called *Common Spanish Expressions* where you will find five pages packed with helpful Spanish expressions, such as: *Acabar de* (plus infinitive) - to have just *A pesar de* in spite of *Buena suerte* good luck *Claro* of course *Dar la mano* to shake hands *Echar la culpa* to blame *Esta vez* this time *Me alegro de verlo* I am happy to see you *No lo haga* don't do it *No es justo* it isn't fair *Otra vez* again *Poco a poco* little by little *Ya lo creo* now I believe it At the very end of this book, there is a handy 35-page *Vocabulary* section that is organized like a dictionary. You will find Spanish words from *a* (to, at) all the way to *zoología* (zoology). Out of the 45 chapters covered in this book, my favorites were Chapter 41 and Chapter 42. In chapter 41, the author teaches The Present Subjunctive and breaks down how to express hope, fear, doubt and desire in Spanish. In chapter 42, the author teaches The Past Subjunctive and breaks down how to express past hopes, fears, doubts and desires in Spanish. She even explains how to use the conditional and past subjunctive together. In other words, you will learn how to express the following in Spanish: I would write a letter if I had the time. She would buy an airplane if it were possible. They would watch the movie if it were interesting. In chapter 42, Madrigal also covers the Past Perfect Subjunctive which

enable you to express the following in Spanish: I would have known the lesson if I had studied. We would have spoken Spanish if we had studied. If they had had time, they would have traveled to Spain. The reason why Chapters 41 and 42 are my favorite chapters is because these are the chapters that teach the Spanish subjunctive. I, like many native English speakers, find that the Spanish subjunctive is one of the most difficult areas of Spanish. In Chapters 41 and 42, Madrigal does a fantastic job breaking-down the complex topic of the Spanish subjunctive. The only thing that I did not like about this book is that the vocabulary does not cover modern technology. The first edition of this book was written in 1951. This book seriously needs to be updated. You will learn how to say the Spanish words for telephone, newspaper and telegram. But don't expect to learn how to say cellphone, website or email in Spanish. Although this book does not teach you any Spanish words related to modern technology, I still recommend that you buy this book because it will allow you to quickly learn hundreds of Spanish words quite easily just by using the English words that you already know. By the way, this same author, Margarita Madrigal, has another helpful book that you will find available here at : In closing, I want to leave you with a list of my favorite three learn-Spanish products available here at :

1. **Easy Spanish Phrase Book NEW EDITION: Over 700 Phrases for Everyday Use (Dover Language Guides Spanish)** - This is an economically priced, handy resource that easily fits into my back pocket. You can conveniently take it anywhere with you when vacationing in a Spanish speaking country in order to have more than 700 phrases in your Spanish-vocabulary arsenal. And unlike so many learning-Spanish books, there is also a section called "Computers and Technology" where you'll find Spanish vocabulary related to modern technology.
2. **Learning Spanish Like Crazy Level 1 CDR - w/ Super Bonus Package - Learn Spanish & Speak Spanish - New & Improved for PC/Mac - Free Updates for 1 Yr** - This is my favorite audio Spanish program because the program focuses on everyday, Latin American Spanish. It's geared toward the foreign-language learner who wants to eventually achieve fluency in Spanish instead of someone who just wants to learn a few travel phrases. Compared to the other programs that I have used, this one does the best job at teaching you how to develop an authentic sounding Latin American Spanish accent. The program also comes with a very impressive bonus package.
3. **501 Spanish Verbs with CD-ROM and Audio CD (501 Verb Series)** - If you think you can accomplish fluency in Spanish as an adult without mastering conjugating Spanish verbs, you are only fooling yourself. This book is an absolute essential resource for learning how to conjugate Spanish verbs. And if you have any questions about Madrigal's **Magic Key To Spanish**, please post your questions below and I will do my best to answer your questions.

This is my favorite Spanish book for beginning self-study. It starts easy, which fosters self-confidence, and there is an easy, natural progression to more in-- depth learning. I have studied Spanish for two years, with an instructor twice a week, and I constantly refer back to this book. I have given copies away to beginners studying Spanish. I have worn out one copy, and had to order another.

The author leads you through Spanish grammar and vocabulary at a steady pace. Particularly valuable are the quizzes at the end of each section that allow you to test your knowledge as you go along. The quizzes are simple enough that you can complete each item in your head--but still difficult enough to require that the reader actually learn the material. The only thing this book lacks is an appendix that summarizes verb conjugations and other important grammatical information. I have just returned from a two-week trip to Spain and feel that I benefitted from studying this book.

I really like this book (for many of the same reasons already presented), and it has motivated me to learn Spanish more than any other in my collection. I would recommend supplementing the book with 1) a book on verbs, and 2) an audio method, particularly to help with pronunciation. I've always believed in using multiple methods to build on and reinforce a new skill. I do believe there is a notable limitation with this book, as noted by a few other reviewers, esp. J. Fella. **DISCLAIMER:** I've been studying Spanish for a long time, but am by no means an expert. Having said that: I believe that the conjugation of hablar as used in this book isn't necessarily wrong, but rather the formal usage, as spoken in Europe. In Spain, "habla" (third person) for "you speak" would be correct since the pronoun "usted" is commonly used when speaking to a person you do not know well. In Mexico, "hablas" (second person) would be correct since the pronoun "tu" is implied... "Usted" -the formal word to address "you"- isn't used in Mexico and can cause confused looks when used in conversation. I suspect that J. Fella learned "Mexican Spanish" in school, and therefore would have quickly noticed the issue. Mexico: tu hablas (you speak), él habla (he speaks), ella habla (she speaks) Spain: usted habla (you speak), él habla (he speaks), ella habla (she speaks) It would be wise to double-check word usage, depending on where you plan to visit, and especially when learning verbs. Each book I have on Spanish fails to disclose if the reader will be learning the classic language as used in Spain, or a Latin American version.

I have been trying to learn Spanish for a while and found the process frustrating. This book really

feels like a "Magic Key". Things that were previously confusing now makes sense. I'm finally able to speak with my husband (who's fluent) at home without him wondering what in the world I am trying to say. It's an easy read, organized well, makes the information digestible without being too slow or boring. Both saying the exercises out loud and writing them help but definitely DO them. It may seem hard to learn a language from a book without audio but saying them aloud helps a lot and she addresses phonetics immediately so there is no confusion.

I'm not a native Spanish speaker, but I am a teacher, and if I were to teach Spanish, this is the way I'd do it. I've hated how people would just teach random phrases and expect you to catch the main idea of the language. This book teaches you what words you can count on to be similar and then it teaches you structure changes in sentences working from what you would be most familiar with to what's more rare and unexpected. The only complaint is it uses lots of "telephono", fax machine, and other old words in its exercises because it was written a long time ago. You can't blame the author for that, but I wish they'd update the book so we could practice with more current words.

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