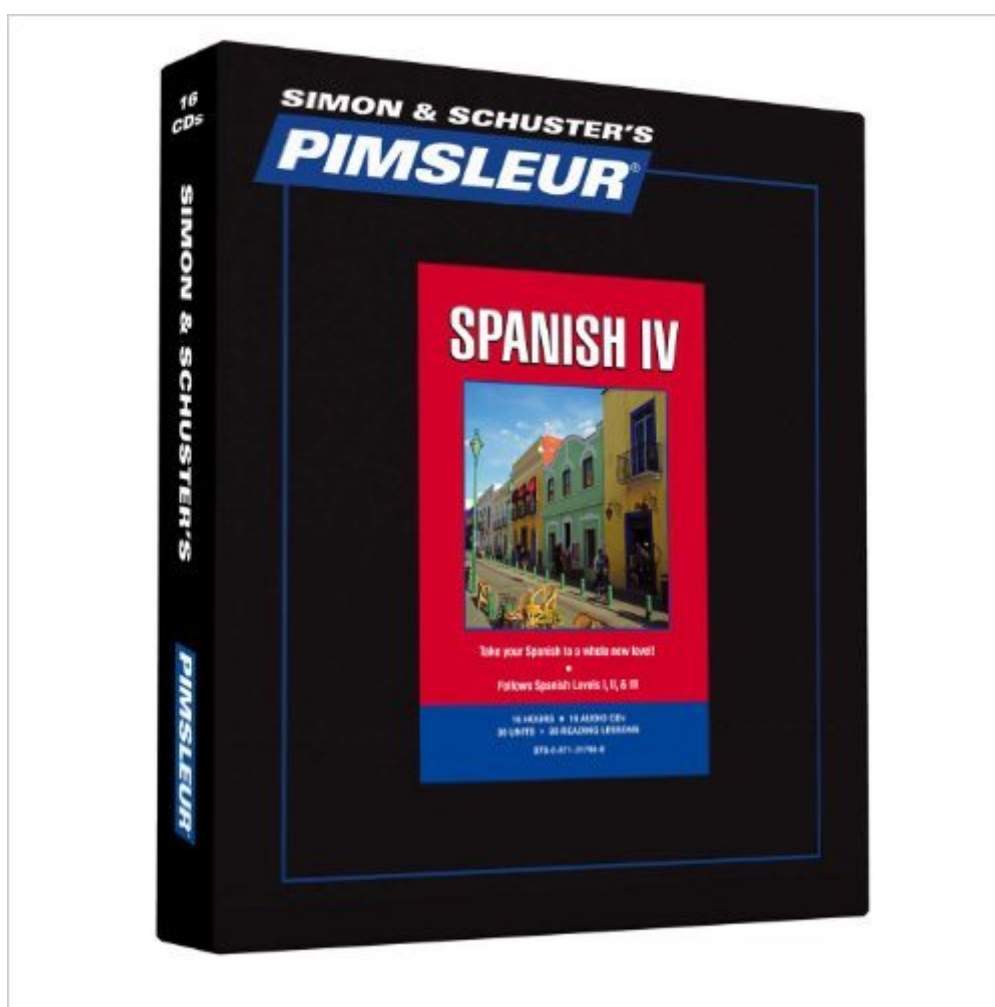


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# Pimsleur Spanish Level 4 CD: Learn To Speak And Understand Latin American Spanish With Pimsleur Language Programs (Comprehensive)



## Synopsis

The Easiest and Fastest Way to Learn Spanish Did you know that Spanish is the world's second most commonly spoken language? For Americans, it's one of the easiest to learn, and you won't find anything faster or easier than the Pimsleur® Method. Even knowing a little bit of Spanish will make travel to Latin America or Spanish-speaking countries a breeze. Whether you want to travel, communicate with friends or colleagues, reconnect with family, or just understand more of what's going on in the world around you, learning Spanish will expand your horizons and immeasurably enrich your life. The best part is that it doesn't have to be difficult or take years to master. Thirty minutes a day is all it takes, and we get you speaking right from the first day. Pimsleur courses use a scientifically-proven method that puts you in control of your learning. If you've tried other language learning methods but found they simply didn't stick, then you owe it to yourself to give Pimsleur a try.

**Why Pimsleur?**

- Quick + Easy - Only 30 minutes a day.
- Portable + Flexible - Core lessons can be done anytime, anywhere, and easily fit into your busy life.
- Proven Method - Works when other methods fail.
- Self-Paced - Go fast or go slow - it's up to you.
- Based in Science - Developed using proven research on memory and learning.
- Cost-effective - Less expensive than classes or immersion, and features all native speakers.
- Genius - Triggers your brain's natural aptitude to learn.
- Works for everyone - Recommended for ages 13 and above.

**What's Included?**

- 30, 30-minute audio lessons - a Spanish short story (65 minutes) to provide you practice reading Spanish - in total, 16 hours of audio, all featuring native speakers - a Reading Booklet and User's Guide

**What You'll Learn**

Builds upon skills taught in Pimsleur's Spanish Levels 1-3. You'll be speaking and understanding Spanish with near-fluency and with considerable skill. In Level 4, the pace and conversation moves more rapidly, making way for even more substantial mastery of vocabulary and structures. Some topics included in Level 4:

- Work related travel: meetings, projects, conferences, appointments; using a business center in a hotel; making conversations in an educational setting.
- Accommodations: reserving a room, requesting an Internet connection, getting help with luggage, asking about breakfast and dinner hours.
- Shopping: getting around in a department store, trying on and buying various items of clothing, asking for colors and sizes, buying gifts and souvenirs, going to the market.
- Vacationing: going to the beach and swimming pool, sunbathing, choosing inside or outside seating at a restaurant, taking a walk, talking about sports.
- Family and friends: conversing informally with and about friends and extended family, talking informally about everyday situations.
- Smalltalk: expressing opinions, wishes, and stating views; asking how someone is feeling; talking about books.
- Weather: describing types of weather: rainy, windy, sunny, humid.

After Lesson 30, a

short story broken down into 20 manageable segments (65 minutes) is provided for practice reading Spanish. The Pimsleur Method We make no secret of what makes this powerful method work so well. Paul Pimsleur spent his career researching and perfecting the precise elements anyone can use to learn a language quickly and easily. Here are a few of his secrets:

- The Principle of Anticipation In the nanosecond between a cue and your response, your brain has to work to come up with the right word. Having to do this boosts retention, and cements the word in your mind.
- Core Vocabulary Words, phrases, and sentences are selected for their usefulness in everyday conversation. We don't overwhelm you with too much, but steadily increase your ability with every lesson.
- Graduated Interval Recall Reminders of new words and structures come up at the exact interval for maximum retention and storage into your long-term memory.
- Organic Learning You work on multiple aspects of the language simultaneously. We integrate grammar, vocabulary, rhythm, melody, and intonation into every lesson, which allows you to experience the language as a living, expressive form of human culture.
- Learning in Context Research has shown that learning new words in context dramatically accelerates your ability to remember. Every scene in every Pimsleur lesson is set inside a conversation between two people. There are no drills, and no memorization necessary for success.
- Active Participation The Pimsleur Method + active learner participation = success. This method works with every language and every learner who follows it. You gain the power to recall and use what you know, and to add new words easily, exactly as you do in English.

The Spanish Language Spanish is the official language of 19 Latin American nations, as well as Spain, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba. Further, it's one of the six official languages recognized by the United Nations. Pimsleur's Spanish programs teach an educated Latin American Spanish, featuring speakers from Colombia and Mexico. Students can expect to understand the lessons clearly and to be understood by Spanish speakers everywhere. Tech Talk - CDs are formatted for playing in all CD players, including car players, and users can copy files for use in iTunes or Windows Media Player.

## **Book Information**

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Audio CD

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## Customer Reviews

Despite taking Spanish in high school (3 years) and college (4 quarters), the ten-year lapse between that era and marrying my Mexican wife essentially wiped out that somewhat strong foundation.

Accordingly, Pimsleur has proven (for me) to be a VERY effective, reliable tool to learn the (Spanish) language. I started 'from scratch' with Edition I, and continued through the II and III editions, repeating each twice per day (once in the am, once in the pm), while utilizing the accompanying readings. I made very good progress, and was extremely excited that Spanish IV was released almost immediately (and coincidentally) following my completion of editions III. Within each of the first III editions (30 lessons apiece), I felt consistently challenged to the point where each day brought new challenges (and thus, progress). They were never easy, and in some cases there were notable jumps in difficulty from lesson to lesson. That is a good thing. Therein lies the problem with Pimsleur Spanish IV. While the quality of the product is the same - taut, straight-forward, well-paced - the lessons are shorter (lesson 18 was 28 minutes while lesson 19 was a paltry 26!) and the difficulty level is not increasing. Whereas tenses were alternated and expanded frequently toward the end of Spanish III, Spanish IV utilizes primarily the (basic) 'present' tense, with occasional preterit mixed in (but very rare). As such, the only progress within each lesson is the new (and somewhat simple) vocabulary, which to their credit at least is modern (email, smartphones, PDA, etc). In short, it is always good to practice and for me this methodology is very effective, so the practice is the most important part with Pimsleur IV. That said, there is much lower of a 'jump' of difficulty, thus leaving me yearning for a greater challenge, and feeling that the Pimsleur IV is primarily an exercise, not so much a learning platform.

Hey Pimsleur editors, Level IV should be harder than and build on the first three levels, not easier and repeat lessons that were taught before. As the other reviewers have stated, this more like II or II.5. One example: around lesson twenty the phrase "ahora mismo" is introduced like a new phrase when it was already introduced way back in Level II and used constantly in all the subsequent

lessons. Many phrases are unnecessarily repeated (OK, it's hot and it's humid, but does it have to be repeated twenty times through multiple lessons? Can someone be a bus driver instead of a software engineer? What's with the obsession with bathing suits? Yikes, how about some variety here. The verb tenses tend to be all simple predicates and the two speakers are talking in two different tempi (female faster and the male intentionally slowing down) which makes the conversations sound awkward, stilted, and artificial. Additionally in the previous levels, after the English narrative "setup" the Spanish speaker would speak the Spanish phrase once, pause, and repeat the whole sentence or the more difficult parts again to reinforce the memorization. This was very time efficient since the listener got at least two Spanish "hits" for each English phrase. For some reason they dropped this and usually only give the Spanish phrase once. This product should be recalled, remade, and reissued with the correct difficulty and excellent teaching style of the first three lessons. Positive note: the reading materials are excellent. Updated vocabulary for the some of the new technology (scrolling through emails, ie). 30 more lessons can never hurt. ¡Que lastima!

I have tried more than a dozen Spanish audio courses, and most are greatly lacking, usually because they provide long lists of vocabulary words with little or no opportunity to practice and use them. Pimsleur is the exception because Pimsleur introduces a few words at a time and gives the listener plenty of opportunity to practice and MASTER the vocabulary before introducing new words. I was pleased that there was not a tremendous amount of overlap between Spanish IV and Spanish Plus (previously the only course beyond Level III). The big disappointment about Spanish IV is that it introduces far less vocabulary than Spanish I, II, or III. In the previous levels, I found that I listened to them three to four times before moving to the next lesson. In Spanish IV, I found that one or two times was enough practice that I felt comfortable moving to the next lesson. The other disappointment is that the lessons are short! Most lessons are about 28 minutes long when they should be 30 minutes long. While that may not sound like much of a difference, over the course of 30 lessons, it really means the user is getting only 28 lessons, not 30. How difficult would it have been to add those extra two minutes per lesson. I recommend this course for someone looking to learn Spanish, but I wish it had introduced more new vocabulary.

This Spanish IV course basically covers more basic phrases that really should have been covered in the Spanish 2 course. I was surprised that Spanish Pimsleur IV does not cover past tenses more thoroughly and more colloquial phrases like their French III, Brazilian Portuguese III, and Italian III (courses which I thought were great and rate 5 stars). To be honest I believe that what Pimsleur

should do is get rid of their Spanish III and Spanish Plus courses (which are more or less useful only if you want to study business phrases and/or going to a book fair, as Spanish II, III, and IV cover enough business conversation), call their Spanish IV course Spanish III, and create a new Spanish IV which teaches more past tenses like preterite and imperfect, more colloquial phrases which are useful and more work with reflexive verbs. So for people out there who are thinking of ordering Pimsleur Spanish, order I, II, and IV, save your money by not ordering III or Spanish Plus. If Pimsleur decides to do a Spanish V, they really should concentrate on the previously stated suggestions. After writing all this, I still recommend Pimsleur Spanish, it just doesn't measure up to some of their other languages as highly.

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