

Newsletter

Foreign Language Tutors

September 2023

TUTORING

Spanish & Computer Science

Students who are looking for extra help during this school year may consider private tutoring an option. Our rates are the same year-round.

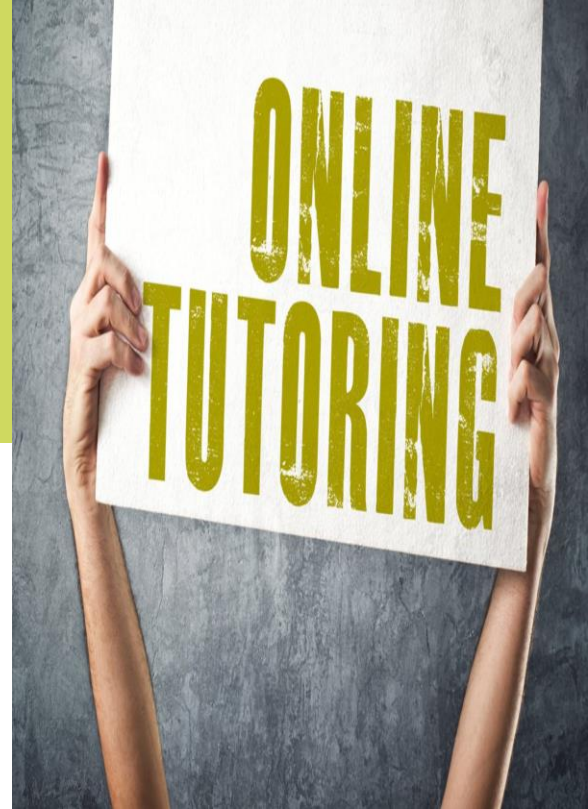
Spanish Tutoring is available starting at 2 years of age. Classes for all levels.

- Spanish as a Second Language
- STAMP exam preparation
- Translation Services
- School help
- Conversation only

Computer Science tutoring for specialized topics:

- SQL (Structured Query Language)
- Data Modeling
- Coding
- Data Management
- Data Science & Artificial Intelligence
- Cybersecurity
- Introduction to cloud services
- Job Interview preparation – Computer Science field

"It is literally the case that learning languages make you smarter. The neural networks of the brain strengthen as a result of language learning" ~ Michael Gove



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Students' Corner

Eva

Eva is a bright fifth grader who travels with her family often. Latin American countries are among their favorite destinations. Eva had been wanting to learn Spanish for a while. She has been our student for about six months. She visited a Latin American country this summer and practiced her Spanish at every opportunity. When they first arrived, one of the local guides asked her if she spoke Spanish, without hesitation she replied: "Yes I do!", and she proceeded to converse with the guide as much as she could. Eva said she loved being able to communicate in a language that is not her mother tongue. She said it felt amazing and she is eager to learn more. Eva's speech is about 30% fluent at this point, I asked her how she managed. She said, *"I just used the words I know and filled in the rest with signs and gestures. It was so much fun."* Nobody else in her family speaks Spanish, and she was their translator. She was very proud of that. Eva is not worrying about all what she still needs to learn. She finds joy in what she already knows and what she can do with it. She is ready for the next steps. We are immensely proud of her as well. Wonderful job Eva!

Avant STAMP 4S is recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education (ACE). Universities across the U.S. are recognizing Avant STAMP and creating pathways to higher education for language learners everywhere.

Avant STAMP proficiency tests are aligned to internationally recognized proficiency standards.

Some of our students have been contacted privately recommending them to take the STAMP test this summer. If you were one of the students contacted, this means we consider you are ready for the exam, go for it!

For more information on the Avant STAMP test, go to:

<https://avantassessment.com/test-overview>

STAMP Test

We encourage all our students to take the STAMP Test when they are ready. The STAMP test will provide official accreditation on a foreign language. These credentials may be used in your resume and/or use them for college credits.

Avant STAMP is used to measure real-world language proficiency and earn credentials like Seals of Biliteracy. Its purpose is to improve language-learning outcomes, support excellence in language programs, and enable language credentialing.

6 of the hardest things about learning Spanish

01 Gendered Words

For an English speaker, learning that nouns have a specific gender can be really hard to wrap your head around. Casa is female while sofa is masculine. You also have to make sure that all adjectives surrounding nouns agree with the gender of the noun. And there are rules and exceptions! All feminine words end with “a” right? Wrong!

02 Por y Para

Some people simplify POR and PARA as using it like “to” and “for”, but there are other uses for these two conjunctions. Just as with memorizing verbs and continual practice, they can also be mastered.

03 Irregular Verbs

Spanish irregular verbs are like revenge for English’s impossible spellings. There are so many to remember it can be quite overwhelming. Again, the more you practice, the better it gets. Committing to memorizing some of the more common ones – especially in the preterito – will help a lot.

04 All the tenses

Sometimes it feels like so many tenses can make you tense! Trying to remember the correct vocabulary, making sure all your adjectives agree with your nouns and on top of that, choosing between preterito and imperfect is enough to drive you crazy. It is a lot, and it is one of the hardest things to get used to. If you want to sound fluent, the use of different tenses is something you must learn.

Please remember to immerse yourself in Spanish. Find ways to listen to it. Make use of podcasts, tv programs, books, songs, etc. I promise you that getting immersed will make a significant difference.

05 Ser and Estar

In English, there is only one verb for “to be” and that’s where the complications of ser and estar come in. It’s natural at the beginning when speaking to express yourself however you can. It might not seem like a big deal to you, but to native speakers, the misuse of ser and estar sounds really strange.

06 Subjunctive

This is perhaps the hardest thing about learning Spanish. After being bombarded with tens of new tenses in the indicative mode, you learn there’s a whole other dimension of tenses called the Subjunctivo. Use it when you want to express a desire or a doubt, when one action depends on another, or following some fixed expressions with “que”. The uses are many and understanding them is difficult. Learning subjunctive takes time and requires a lot of practice.

What can you do if you are experiencing difficulty with any of these topics?

Talk to us about it. We will help you. Please know that if you are having a hard time with any of the concepts above, you are not alone. The reality is that these are difficult concepts to grasp.

What else can you do? Listen, Listen, Listen to Spanish content. Listening to a variety of Spanish content will expose you to all the different situations in which these concepts are used. The more you listen, the easier they will become.

You may also realize that when you're listening to Spanish, you experience a "delay" in understanding due to the unavoidable translation your brain must perform. By the time your brain is done translating, you realize you have missed half of the next sentence. Here's the thing, the only way to make that automatic translation faster is by listening more and more. One day, that translation will go away, or it will be so fast and effective, that you will think it is no longer there.

On a final note, please remember that every time you are reading Spanish, you must do it out loud. When you read out loud, you are creating the connections in your brain that will enable you to speak. You are turning a mental practice to a physical and mental practice. Remember, neurons that fire together wire together. Let's create those connections.

We are adding helpful content to our website, please bear with us while we continue to work on this.

Conversation nights are back on!

Conversation nights are back and are free for students enrolled in a Foreign Language Tutors program. These nights are a great way to meet other students who are also passionate about learning a second language.

Conversation nights take place on Friday or Saturday nights at 7pm EST and are by appointment only. Duration is 30 minutes for kids under 7 years of age and 45 minutes for kids 7 years through adult.



SSL Resources

Free online resources

We've been busy adding useful content to our website and we have a lot more coming up. Press Cntrl+Click to follow the link. Here you will find useful videos, links to books, conjugations, and more.

[Resources | FLang Tutors \(foreignlanguagetutors.com\)](https://foreignlanguagetutors.com)

To find free downloadable material, such as Ascii table for Spanish Characters, Difference between "Bueno, Bien and Buen", plus more, press Cntrl+Click to follow the link.

[Free Downloads | FLang Tutors \(foreignlanguagetutors.com\)](https://foreignlanguagetutors.com)

Book of the month

The book of the month is "**Harry Potter y las Reliquias de la Muerte**" (Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows) by J.K Rowling. Available in hard copy and audio book. This book, aside from being an excellent story, suitable for all ages, is also a fantastic resource about the use of Preterito and Imperfecto. The story combines these two tenses often on the same sentence. The Spanish used in the book is European, A.K.A "as spoken in Spain".

500 Spanish Expressions Challenge

Will you dare to join the challenge? For this challenge you will commit to memorize/learn 500 new Spanish common expressions. Why a challenge? Because the only way to grow is to challenge yourself, and let's not forget about the power of accountability! You would not want to disappoint your fellow challengers.

For more information press Ctrl + Click on the link below.

[Join the Challenge | FLang Tutors \(foreignlanguagetutors.com\)](https://foreignlanguagetutors.com)

Computer Science Corner

Computer science is a field that covers a huge number of areas. It is most directly related to math since it improves analytical skills and the ability to resolve specific, well-defined problems. As well as being an important science in its own right, computer science is also one of the most powerful tools used in all areas of STEM, not to mention modern-day life.

For students starting college in the Fall with a major in Computer Science, getting a head start in SQL and Database Modeling is strongly recommended. We tutor all levels, from beginner to post-graduate.

Is the world of Tech for me?

If you have a child who is curious about the world of technology, but is unsure about pursuing it as a career, we can answer all their questions and help them make an informed decision.

FAQ

What types of jobs can I get with a Computer Science Degree?

Most people who have computer science degrees become software engineers or computer programmers. If you don't want to work with code, there are many other jobs in this field. You can become any of the following:

- Cybersecurity expert
- Game designer
- Computer project manager
- Computer support specialist
- Database manager
- Network Administrator
- Data structure analyst
- Web developer
- Computer researcher

Note: This is not a complete list of possible career paths. There are many others.

Can you guess where this quote comes from?

"You cannot touch without being touched."

That's Newton's third law! It is a practical statement of Newton's third Law of Physics which states that "whenever one object exerts a force on a second object, the second object exerts an equal and opposite force on the first object". In other words, for every action there is a reaction.



Announcements

Live Worksheets – Important!

Live Worksheets has released an improved site. To access your account, please go to the link below.

[Resources | Foreign Language Tutors](#)

Once you're on the page, scroll down and click on the student login button:

Live Worksheets Student Login

New tutors

I am very excited to informally introduce our new tutors:

Dulce – Spanish tutor

Iliana – Spanish tutor

Gaby – Spanish tutor

Gigi – Spanish and Computer Science tutor

Finally yours truly – Spanish and Computer Science tutor

Referrals

Thank you very much for your referrals. Remember that you get one hour of free instruction for each student referred to us. Offer is effective after the referred student has completed one month of instruction.

Back to School

If you are returning from your summer break, please contact me ASAP with your preferred schedule. Spots are filling fast.