TRAVELER'S LANGUAGE GUIDE

Useful Words & Phrases for Your Journey

Connect with the people and places you visit. You don't need to speak the language fluently to make an effort. Learning a few local words is a simple way to show respect, connect with the people you meet and experience a destination more meaningfully. Don't worry about saying everything perfectly. Listen carefully, speak politely and give it a try!

A note about pronunciation: The pronunciation tips in this guide are approximate and are intended to help first-time speakers get started. Languages contain sounds, tones and regional variations that cannot always be represented accurately using English spelling.

SPANISH - Español

Greetings

English	Spanish	Pronunciation
Hello	Hola	OH-lah
Good morning	Buenos días	BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs
Good afternoon	Buenas tardes	BWEH-nahs TAR-dehs
Good evening / Good night	Buenas noches	BWEH-nahs NOH-chehs
Goodbye	Adiós	ah-DYOHS

Being Polite

English	Spanish	Pronunciation
Please	Por favor	por fah-VOR

English	Spanish	Pronunciation
Thank you	Gracias	GRAH-syahs
You're welcome	De nada	deh NAH-dah
Excuse me	Disculpe	dees-KOOL-peh
I'm sorry	Lo siento	loh SYEHN-toh

Everyday Conversation

English	Spanish	Pronunciation
Yes	Sí	see
No	No	noh
How are you?	¿Cómo está?	KOH-moh ehs-TAH
I'm well, thank you	Estoy bien, gracias	ehs-TOY byehn, GRAH-syahs
My name is...	Me llamo...	meh YAH-moh
Nice to meet you	Mucho gusto	MOO-choh GOOS-toh

When You Need Help

English	Spanish	Pronunciation
I don't understand	No entiendo	noh ehn-TYEHN-doh
Could you repeat that?	¿Puede repetirlo?	PWEH-deh reh-peh-TEER-loh
Do you speak English?	¿Habla inglés?	AH-blah een-GLEHS
Where is...?	¿Dónde está...?	DOHN-deh ehs-TAH
Where is the restroom?	¿Dónde está el baño?	DOHN-deh ehs-TAH el BAHN-yoh
Help, please	Ayuda, por favor	ah-YOO-dah por fah-VOR

Food, Drink & Shopping

English	Spanish	Pronunciation
I would like...	Quisiera...	kee-SYEH-rah
Water, please	Agua, por favor	AH-gwah por fah-VOR
How much is this?	¿Cuánto cuesta esto?	KWAHN-toh KWEHS-tah EHS-toh

English	Spanish	Pronunciation
It was delicious	Estaba delicioso	ehs-TAH-bah deh-lee-SYOH-soh

FRENCH - Français

Greetings

English	French	Pronunciation
Hello / Good morning	Bonjour	bohn-ZHOOR
Good evening	Bonsoir	bohn-SWAHR
Goodbye	Au revoir	oh ruh-VWAHR
See you soon	À bientôt	ah byehn-TOH

Being Polite

English	French	Pronunciation
Please	S'il vous plaît	seel voo PLEH
Thank you	Merci	mehr-SEE
You're welcome	De rien	duh RYEHN
Excuse me	Excusez-moi	ex-kew-zay MWAH
I'm sorry	Je suis désolé(e)	zhuh swee day-zoh-LAY

Everyday Conversation

English	French	Pronunciation
Yes	Oui	wee
No	Non	nohn
How are you?	Comment allez-vous?	koh-MAHN tah-lay VOO
I'm well, thank you	Je vais bien, merci	zhuh vay BYEHN mehr-SEE
My name is...	Je m'appelle...	zhuh mah-PELL
Nice to meet you	Enchanté(e)	ahn-shahn-TAY

When You Need Help

English	French	Pronunciation
I don't understand	Je ne comprends pas	zhuh nuh kohm-PRAHN pah
Could you repeat that?	Pouvez-vous répéter?	poo-vay VOO ray-pay-TAY
Do you speak English?	Parlez-vous anglais?	par-lay VOO ahn-GLAY
Where is...?	Où est...?	oo EH
Where is the restroom?	Où sont les toilettes?	oo sohn lay twah-LEHT
Help, please	Aidez-moi, s'il vous plaît	ay-day MWAH seel voo PLEH

Food, Drink & Shopping

English	French	Pronunciation
I would like...	Je voudrais...	zhuh voo-DRAY
Water, please	De l'eau, s'il vous plaît	duh LOH seel voo PLEH
How much is this?	Combien ça coûte?	kohm-BYEHN sah KOOT
It was delicious	C'était délicieux	say-TAY day-lee-SYUH

ITALIAN - Italiano

Greetings

English	Italian	Pronunciation
Hello	Salve	SAHL-veh
Good morning	Buongiorno	bwohn-JOR-noh
Good evening	Buonasera	bwoh-nah-SEH-rah
Goodbye	Arrivederci	ah-ree-veh-DEHR-chee

Being Polite

English	Italian	Pronunciation
Please	Per favore	pehr fah-VOH-reh
Thank you	Grazie	GRAHT-see-eh

English	Italian	Pronunciation
You're welcome	Prego	PREH-goh
Excuse me	Scusi	SKOO-zee
I'm sorry	Mi dispiace	mee dees-PYAH-cheh

Everyday Conversation

English	Italian	Pronunciation
Yes	Sì	see
No	No	noh
How are you?	Come sta?	KOH-meh stah
I'm well, thank you	Sto bene, grazie	stoh BEH-neh GRAHT-see-eh
My name is...	Mi chiamo...	mee KYAH-moh
Nice to meet you	Piacere	pyah-CHEH-reh

When You Need Help

English	Italian	Pronunciation
I don't understand	Non capisco	nohn kah-PEE-skoh
Could you repeat that?	Può ripetere?	pwoh ree-PEH-teh-reh
Do you speak English?	Parla inglese?	PAR-lah een-GLAY-zeh
Where is...?	Dov'è...?	doh-VEH
Where is the restroom?	Dov'è il bagno?	doh-VEH eel BAHN-yoh
Help, please	Aiuto, per favore	ah-YOO-toh pehr fah-VOH-reh

Food, Drink & Shopping

English	Italian	Pronunciation
I would like...	Vorrei...	vohr-RAY
Water, please	Acqua, per favore	AHK-kwah pehr fah-VOH-reh
How much is this?	Quanto costa?	KWAHN-toh KOH-stah
It was delicious	Era delizioso	EH-rah deh-lee-TSYOH-zoh

GERMAN - Deutsch

Greetings

English	German	Pronunciation
Hello	Hallo	HAH-loh
Good morning	Guten Morgen	GOO-ten MOR-gen
Good afternoon / Hello	Guten Tag	GOO-ten tahk
Good evening	Guten Abend	GOO-ten AH-bent
Goodbye	Auf Wiedersehen	owf VEE-der-zay-en

Being Polite

English	German	Pronunciation
Please	Bitte	BIT-teh
Thank you	Danke	DAHN-keh
You're welcome	Gern geschehen	gehrn geh-SHAY-en
Excuse me	Entschuldigung	ent-SHOOL-dee-goong
I'm sorry	Es tut mir leid	ess toot meer lite

Everyday Conversation

English	German	Pronunciation
Yes	Ja	yah
No	Nein	nine
How are you?	Wie geht es Ihnen?	vee gate ess EE-nen
I'm well, thank you	Mir geht es gut, danke	meer gate ess goot DAHN-keh
My name is...	Ich heiße...	ikh HYE-seh
Nice to meet you	Freut mich	froyt mikh

When You Need Help

English	German	Pronunciation
I don't understand	Ich verstehe nicht	ikh fehr-SHTAY-eh nikht
Could you repeat that?	Können Sie das wiederholen?	KURN-en zee dahs VEE-der-hoh-len
Do you speak English?	Sprechen Sie Englisch?	SHPREKH-en zee ENG-lish
Where is...?	Wo ist...?	voh ist
Where is the restroom?	Wo ist die Toilette?	voh ist dee toy-LET-teh
Help, please	Hilfe, bitte	HIL-feh BIT-teh

Food, Drink & Shopping

English	German	Pronunciation
I would like...	Ich hätte gern...	ikh HET-teh gehrn
Water, please	Wasser, bitte	VAH-ser BIT-teh
How much is this?	Wie viel kostet das?	vee feel KOS-tet dahs
It was delicious	Es war köstlich	ess vahr KURST-likh

VIETNAMESE - Tiếng Việt

Vietnamese is a tonal language, which means the tone used when speaking can change a word's meaning. Listen carefully to local speakers and don't be afraid to ask for help with pronunciation.

Greetings

English	Vietnamese	Approximate pronunciation
Hello	Xin chào	seen chow
Good morning	Chào buổi sáng	chow boo-ee sahng
Good evening	Chào buổi tối	chow boo-ee toy
Goodbye	Tạm biệt	tahm bee-et

Being Polite

English	Vietnamese	Approximate pronunciation
Please	Làm ơn	lahm urn
Thank you	Cảm ơn	gahm urn
You're welcome	Không có gì	khome gaw zee
Excuse me / I'm sorry	Xin lỗi	seen loy

Everyday Conversation

English	Vietnamese	Approximate pronunciation
Yes	Vâng	vuhng
No	Không	khome
How are you?	Bạn khỏe không?	bahn kweh khome
I'm well, thank you	Tôi khỏe, cảm ơn	toy kweh gahm urn
My name is...	Tôi tên là...	toy ten lah
Nice to meet you	Rất vui được gặp bạn	ruht voo-ee duhk gahp bahn

When You Need Help

English	Vietnamese	Approximate pronunciation
I don't understand	Tôi không hiểu	toy khome hee-oo
Could you repeat that?	Bạn có thể nói lại không?	bahn gaw teh noy lie khome
Do you speak English?	Bạn có nói tiếng Anh không?	bahn gaw noy tee-eng ahn khome
Where is...?	...ở đâu?	uh doh
Where is the restroom?	Nhà vệ sinh ở đâu?	nyah veh sing uh doh
Help me, please	Làm ơn giúp tôi	lahm urn zoop toy

Food, Drink & Shopping

English	Vietnamese	Approximate pronunciation
I would like...	Tôi muốn...	toy moo-un
Water, please	Cho tôi nước, làm ơn	chaw toy nuhk lahm urn
How much is this?	Cái này bao nhiêu tiền?	guy nay bow nyew tee-en

English	Vietnamese	Approximate pronunciation
It was delicious	Rất ngon	ruht ngon

JAPANESE - 日本語 | Nihongo

Japanese communication often places great importance on politeness. The phrases below use polite forms suitable for travelers.

Greetings

English	Japanese	Romanization
Hello / Good afternoon	こんにちは	Konnichiwa
Good morning	おはようございます	Ohayō gozaimasu
Good evening	こんばんは	Konbanwa
Goodbye	さようなら	Sayōnara

Being Polite

English	Japanese	Romanization
Please	お願いします	Onegaishimasu
Thank you	ありがとうございます	Arigatō gozaimasu
You're welcome	どういたしまして	Dōitashimashite
Excuse me / I'm sorry	すみません	Sumimasen

Everyday Conversation

English	Japanese	Romanization
Yes	はい	Hai
No	いいえ	Iie
How are you?	お元気ですか？	Ogenki desu ka?
I'm well	元気です	Genki desu
My name is...	私の名前は...です	Watashi no namae wa...desu

English	Japanese	Romanization
Nice to meet you	はじめまして	Hajimemashite

When You Need Help

English	Japanese	Romanization
I don't understand	わかりません	Wakarimasen
Could you say that again?	もう一度お願いします	Mō ichido onegaishimasu
Do you speak English?	英語を話せますか？	Eigo o hanasemasu ka?
Where is...?	...はどこですか？	...wa doko desu ka?
Where is the restroom?	トイレはどこですか？	Toire wa doko desu ka?
Please help me	助けてください	Tasukete kudasai

Food, Drink & Shopping

English	Japanese	Romanization
I would like this	これをお願いします	Kore o onegaishimasu
Water, please	お水をお願いします	Omizu o onegaishimasu
How much is this?	これはいくらですか？	Kore wa ikura desu ka?
It was delicious	おいしかったです	Oishikatta desu

YOUR LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

You don't need to have a long conversation to create a meaningful connection. Before you return home, see how many of these you can complete:

☐ Greet someone in the local language
☐ Say please and thank you
☐ Introduce yourself
☐ Order or ask for something politely
☐ Ask a simple question
☐ Learn a new word from someone you meet
☐ Recognize a word on a sign or menu
☐ Use a local phrase without reading it from this guide
☐ Teach someone a word or expression from home

How many did you complete?
My favorite new word or phrase:

What it means:

Where or from whom I learned it:

KEEP EXPLORING! Language is more than vocabulary. It reflects the history, identity and everyday life of a place. As you travel, listen to the words spoken around you. Notice signs, menus and greetings. Ask respectful questions, try something new and remember that a sincere effort matters far more than perfect pronunciation. Be curious. Be respectful. Give it a try.

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