



Churvaness!

BILINGUAL CLASSICS

THE SECRET OF CHIMNEYS

El Secreto de Chimneys

Agatha Christie

ENGLISH
ESPAÑOL

English • Español Parallel Text Edition

Para estudiantes de español

Read the classic novel side-by-side in both languages

A LANGUAGE LEARNER'S EDITION

Churvaness! The Secret of Chimneys — A Bilingual Edition (English → Spanish)

Sentence-by-sentence bilingual reading for Spanish learners

Churvaness! Team

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Spanish Cheat Sheet

Pronunciation

Spanish spelling is highly regular — each letter has a consistent sound, and stress follows predictable rules.

Alphabet & Key Sounds

Letter(s)	Sound (English approximation)	Example
a	<i>a</i> as in father (shorter)	ca sa (house)
e	<i>e</i> as in bet (mid-open)	me sa (table)
i	<i>ee</i> as in see (shorter)	vi no (wine)
o	<i>o</i> as in go (pure, no glide)	bo ca (mouth)
u	<i>oo</i> as in fool (shorter)	lu na (moon)
b / v	Both <i>b</i> — soft between vowels	bi en, vi no
c (+e,i)	<i>th</i> as in thin (Latin America: <i>s</i>)	ci elo (sky)
c (+a,o,u)	<i>k</i> as in king	ca sa (house)
ch	<i>ch</i> as in church	mu cho (much)
d	<i>d</i> — soft between vowels (like “th” in “this”)	dí a (day)
g (+e,i)	<i>ch</i> as in Scottish loch (raspy h)	ge nte (people)

Letter(s)	Sound (English approximation)	Example
g (+a,o,u)	<i>g</i> as in go	g ato (cat)
gu (+e,i)	<i>g</i> as in get (u is silent)	gu erra (war)
gü (+e,i)	<i>gw</i> — u is pronounced	ping ü ino (penguin)
h	Always silent	h ola (hello)
j	<i>ch</i> as in Scottish loch (raspy h)	j amón (ham)
ll	<i>y</i> as in yes (varies by region: <i>j</i> or <i>sh</i>)	ll amar (to call)
ñ	<i>ny</i> as in canyon	ñ o (Mr.)
qu (+e,i)	<i>k</i> as in king (u is silent)	qu e (that)
r (single)	Tapped <i>r</i> — like the “dd” in “ladder”	pe r o (but)
rr	Rolled r — strongly trilled	pe rr o (dog)
s	<i>s</i> as in say	s ol (sun)
y	<i>y</i> as in yes (or <i>j</i> as in jam in some regions)	ya (already)
z	<i>th</i> as in thin (Latin America: <i>s</i>)	z apato (shoe)
x	<i>x</i> as in box (or <i>ch</i> as in loch in old words)	ex a men (exam), Mé x ico

Stress

Rule 1: Words ending in a vowel, *-n*, or *-s* → stress falls on the **second-to-last** syllable.

- **ca**-sa, **ha**-blan, **pe**-rros

Rule 2: Words ending in any other consonant → stress falls on the **last** syllable.

- co-**mer**, pa-**pel**, ciu-**dad**

Rule 3: Any word breaking these rules **must** carry a written accent mark on the stressed vowel.

- **ár**-bol, na-**ción**, fá-cil, a-**sí**

Accent marks also distinguish otherwise identical words:

- *si* (if) vs. *sí* (yes)
- *el* (the) vs. *él* (he)
- *que* (that) vs. *qué* (what?)
- *como* (like, as) vs. *cómo* (how?)

* * *

Basic Grammar

Word Order

Default order is **Subject-Verb-Object** (like English), but Spanish is more flexible:

- *Veo la ballena.* (I see the whale — subject may be omitted because verb ending marks person.)
- *La ballena la veo.* (The whale, I see it — object fronted for emphasis, pronoun doubles it.)
- *Ayer vi la ballena.* (Yesterday saw-I the whale — time expression first is common.)

Questions invert subject: *¿Ves la ballena?* (See you the whale?)

Negation places *no* before the verb: *No veo la ballena.* (I don't see the whale.)

Adjectives typically follow the noun: *la ballena blanca* (the white whale). A few common adjectives precede: *gran ballena* (great whale).

Articles

Two genders (masculine/feminine), two numbers:

	Masculine	Feminine
Definite singular	el barco	la ballena
Definite plural	los barcos	las ballenas
Indefinite singular	un barco	una ballena
Indefinite plural	unos barcos	unas ballenas

Nouns

All nouns have grammatical gender. Most ending in *-o* are masculine, most in *-a* are feminine. Exceptions exist: *el día* (day, masculine), *la mano* (hand, feminine).

Plurals: add *-s* after vowels (*barco* → *barcos*), add *-es* after consonants (*mujer* → *mujeres*).

Adjectives

Adjectives agree in gender and number with the noun:

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	blanco	blanca
Plural	blancos	blancas

Adjectives ending in *-e* or a consonant don't change for gender (only number): *grande* → *grandes*, *azul* → *azules*.

Adverbs

Most are formed by adding *-mente* to the feminine adjective: *rápido* → *rápida* → *rápidamente* (quickly). Simpler forms are common: *bien* (well), *mal* (badly), *pronto* (soon).

Pronouns

Spanish often omits subject pronouns because verb endings encode the person:

Person	Subject	Object (direct)	Object (indirect)	Reflexive	Possessive
yo (I)	(often omitted)	me	me	me	mi(s)
tú (you, informal)	(often omitted)	te	te	te	tu(s)
él/ella/usted	(often omitted)	lo/la	le	se	su(s)
nosotros	(often omitted)	nos	nos	nos	nuestro/a(s)
vosotros (Spain)	(often omitted)	os	os	os	vuestro/a(s)
ellos/ellas/ustedes	(often omitted)	los/las	les	se	su(s)

Note on *usted/ustedes*: these are formal “you” forms that take **third-person** verbs. Usage varies regionally — Latin America uses *ustedes* for all plurals; Spain uses *vosotros* informally.

Verbs

Spanish verbs are highly inflected — endings mark person, number, tense, and mood. Three conjugation classes:

	-ar (hablar — to speak)	-er (comer — to eat)	-ir (vivir — to live)
Present			
yo	hablo	como	vivo
tú	hablas	comes	vives
él/ella/usted	habla	come	vive
nosotros	hablamos	comemos	vivimos
vosotros	habláis	coméis	vivís
ellos/ustedes	hablan	comen	viven

Preterite (simple past):

	-ar	-er/-ir
yo	hablé	comí
tú	hablaste	comiste
él	habló	comió
nosotros	hablamos	comimos
ellos	hablaron	comieron

Imperfect (ongoing past):

	-ar	-er/-ir
yo	hablaba	comía
tú	hablabas	comías
él	hablaba	comía
nosotros	hablábamos	comíamos
ellos	hablaban	comían

Future: infinitive + ending (no stem change): hablaré, hablarás, hablará, hablaremos, hablarán.

Conditional: infinitive + ending: hablaría, hablarías, hablaría, hablaríamos, hablarían.

Common irregular verbs:

Infinitive	Present (yo)	Preterite (él)	Meaning
ser	soy	fue	to be (permanent)
estar	estoy	estuvo	to be (temporary/location)
haber	he	hubo	to have (auxiliary)
tener	tengo	tuvo	to have, possess
ir	voy	fue	to go
hacer	hago	hizo	to do/make
decir	digo	dijo	to say/tell
poder	puedo	pudo	can, be able
saber	sé	supo	to know
querer	quiero	quiso	to want, love
venir	vengo	vino	to come
ver	veo	vio	to see
dar	doy	dio	to give
poner	pongo	puso	to put
traer	traigo	trajo	to bring

Ser vs. Estar

Both mean “to be” — a critical distinction:

- **Ser** — inherent/permanent characteristics: *Soy marinero.* (I am a sailor.) *La ballena es blanca.* (The whale is white.)
- **Estar** — states/locations: *Estoy cansado.* (I am tired.) *La ballena está en el mar.* (The whale is in the sea.)

Personal a

When the direct object is a **specific person** (or personified animal/pet), Spanish places *a* before it:

- *Veo **a** Ismael.* (I see Ishmael.)
- *Veo **la** ballena.* (I see the whale — no *a* for regular animals/things.)

Subjunctive

The subjunctive mood appears far more in Spanish than in English. It's used after expressions of doubt, desire, emotion, and in many subordinate clauses. This translation uses it where the original's tone calls for it — don't be surprised to see it frequently.

* * *

Function Words

These words appear constantly and never get superscript numbers in the bilingual text.

Articles & Demonstratives

Spanish	English	Notes
el, la, los, las	the	definite articles
un, una, unos, unas	a, an, some	indefinite articles
este, esta, estos, estas	this, these	proximal

Spanish	English	Notes
ese, esa, esos, esas	that, those	medial
aquel, aquella, aquellos, aquellas	that, those (far)	distal

Prepositions

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
a	to, at (personal a)	ante	before, in front of
bajo	under	con	with
contra	against	de	of, from
desde	from, since	durante	during
en	in, on, at	entre	between
hacia	toward	hasta	until, as far as
mediante	by means of	para	for, in order to
por	for, by, through	según	according to
sin	without	sobre	on, about, over
tras	after, behind		

De + el contracts to **del**. *A + el* contracts to **al**.

Conjunctions

Spanish	English
y / e	and (e before i-/hi- words)
o / u	or (u before o-/ho- words)
pero	but
sino	but rather (after negation)
que	that
porque	because
aunque	although
si	if
cuando	when
mientras	while
como	as, like
así que	so, therefore
ni	nor, not even
pues	since, well

Common Adverbs & Particles

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
no	not, no	sí	yes, indeed
muy	very	mucho	much, a lot
poco	little, few	bastante	enough, quite
bien	well	mal	badly
ya	already, now	aún / todavía	still, yet
también	also	tampoco	neither, not either
siempre	always	nunca / jamás	never
aquí / acá	here	allí / ahí	there
ahora	now	entonces	then
antes	before	después	after
cerca	near	lejos	far

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
solo / sólo	only, just	casi	almost
quizás / tal vez	perhaps	acaso	by chance

Question Words

Spanish	English
qué	what
quién / quiénes	who
cuál / cuáles	which
dónde	where
cuándo	when
por qué	why
cómo	how
cuánto/a/os/as	how much / many

All interrogatives carry accent marks to distinguish from their relative-pronoun counterparts.

Numbers 0-10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
cero	uno	dos	tres	cuatro	cinco	seis	siete	ocho	nueve	diez

100	1,000
cien(to)	mil

Common Phrases

English	Spanish
Hello	Hola
Good morning	Buenos días
Good afternoon	Buenas tardes
Good evening / night	Buenas noches
Goodbye	Adiós / Hasta luego
Yes / No	Sí / No
Please	Por favor
Thank you	Gracias
You're welcome	De nada
Excuse me / Sorry	Perdón / Lo siento
How are you?	¿Cómo está(s)?
Very well	Muy bien
Oh!	¡Oh!
Ah!	¡Ah!
Alas!	¡Ay!
Well!	¡Bueno!
Hurrah!	¡Hurra!
God!	¡Dios!
By God!	¡Por Dios!
The devil!	¡Demonios!

* * *

Language-Specific Notes

The Translations Are in Neutral / Latin American Spanish

This translation uses a neutral register that should be comprehensible across all Spanish-speaking regions. Regional vocabulary (e.g.,

coche vs. *carro* vs. *auto* for “car”) is avoided where possible. The *vosotros* form (Spain-only) does not appear — *ustedes* is used for all plural “you” forms.

Two Verbs for “To Be”

The *ser* vs. *estar* distinction has no English equivalent and appears constantly in the translation. The numbered vocabulary table will often show the same English word mapped to different Spanish verbs depending on the sense — pay attention to which one is used in each context.

Pro-Drop (Subject Omission)

Spanish frequently omits subject pronouns (*yo, tú, él*, etc.) because the verb ending tells you who’s acting. The translation line may be shorter than the English because no pronoun appears. The superscript numbers still track the content words that remain.

Nautical Spanish

Spain and Spanish America have a rich maritime tradition. Many nautical terms are shared with English via centuries of contact:

English	Spanish
whale	ballena
ship	barco / buque
sail	vela
mast	mástil
anchor	ancla
deck	cubierta
bow	proa
stern	popa
starboard	estribor
port (larboard)	babor

English	Spanish
harpoon	arpón
captain	capitán
crew	tripulación
voyage	viaje / travesía

False Friends

Watch out for these deceptive cognates:

Spanish	Looks Like	Actually Means
actual	actual	current, present-day
asistir	assist	to attend
atender	attend	to pay attention, to serve
constipado	constipated	has a cold
embarazada	embarrassed	pregnant
en absoluto	absolutely	not at all
éxito	exit	success
largo	large	long
molestar	molest	to annoy, bother
pretender	pretend	to intend, claim
realizar	realize	to carry out, make real
sensible	sensible	sensitive
sensiblemente	sensibly	noticeably

* * *

Now turn to Chapter 1 and begin reading.

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