

**AN EASY INTRODUCTION  
TO SPANISH  
CONVERSATION**

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An Easy Introduction to Spanish Conversation by M. Velázquez De La Cadena

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**M. VELÁZQUEZ DE LA CADENA**

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AN  
EASY INTRODUCTION  
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SPANISH CONVERSATION

CONTAINING

ALL THAT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE A  
RAPID PROGRESS IN IT.

PARTICULARLY DESIGNED  
FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE LITTLE TIME TO STUDY  
OR ARE THEIR OWN INSTRUCTORS.

By M. VELAZQUEZ DE LA CADENA,  
PROFESSOR OF THE SPANISH; EDITOR OF OLLENDORFF'S SPANISH  
GRAMMAR, NEW SPANISH READER, ETC. ETC.

NEW YORK:  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY,  
549 & 551 BROADWAY.  
1879.

## PREFACE.

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*Multum in parvo* is the object of this small book; in which the student will find all the elements necessary to enable him in a very short time to enter into a conversation on the most usual topics.

For this purpose, and in order that he may understand the questions put, or the answers given to him, should they be expressed in words different in tense or number from those contained in the dialogues, and also to afford him the best means to vary them himself, it has been deemed expedient to prefix to the vocabularies a synopsis of the Spanish language. The learner is earnestly desired to study it attentively, so as to become perfectly familiar with the conjugation of the verbs; a thorough knowledge of which will render his progress easy, sure, and speedy.

Persons unaccustomed to commit tasks to memory, will do well to begin by learning daily a set

number (say *five*) of nouns, adjectives, or verbs, and as many phrases as they can remember well; repeating always the English before the Spanish. Such exercise being steadily pursued for a month, the student will have acquired an aggregate of more than five hundred of the words most frequently used in common intercourse. This plan has been often tried, and its results have constantly exceeded the most sanguine expectations.

Should the student wish to acquire a thorough knowledge of the Spanish, even without the assistance of a teacher, he may do so by studying *Ollendorff's New Method*, by *M. Velazquez and T. Simonne*, published by *D. Appleton & Co.*, No. 443 Broadway.

This work will also be found very useful for the younger classes of learners, as an *introduction to Ollendorff*, or any other Spanish grammar, as it contains in a few pages, and exhibits in the plainest manner, the elements necessary to enable them to make a very easy and rapid progress in the study of this language.

NEW YORK, June 1st, 1849.

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# EASY INTRODUCTION

TO

## SPANISH CONVERSATION.

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### PART I.

#### A SYNOPSIS OF THE CASTILIAN LANGUAGE.

##### THE LETTERS.

THE vowels are, a, e, i, o, u, y.

Pronounce them, *ah, ay, ee, oh, oo, ee*. They have invariably the same sound, and must be fully and distinctly pronounced.

The vowels are never silent, except *u*, in the syllables *gue, gui, que, qui*. When the *u* is to be sounded in them, it is marked with a diæresis (¨) over it; thus, *argüir*, ar-goo-ir.

The syllables in which the consonants are pronounced differently from the English, are the following. The letters in *italics* under them express their respective sounds.

##### C

Ca,	co,	cu,	cua,	cua
<i>Kah,</i>	<i>hoh,</i>	<i>ko,</i>	<i>kwah,</i>	<i>koo.</i>
		ca,	ci.	
	TA lisped,	<i>thay,</i>	<i>thee</i>	

##### CH

Pronounce it invariably as in the English words *chop, chess, chess*.

##### G

Ga	gu,	gu,	gue,	gui.
<i>Gah,</i>	<i>goh,</i>	<i>goo</i>	<i>gay,</i>	<i>gee.</i>

## J.

*J* before all the vowels, and *g* before *e* or *i*, have the sound of the English *h*, more harshly aspirated.

Ja, <i>Hah,</i>	je, <i>kay,</i>	ji, <i>hee,</i>	jo, <i>hoc,</i>	ju <i>wha.</i>
	Ge, <i>Hay,</i>		gi <i>hee.</i>	

## LL.

LL is not a double consonant in Spanish, consequently it must not be divided in spelling. It sounds like *ll* in English in *million*; but it must be pronounced more quickly and stronger. In some parts of the Mexican states it is sounded somewhat like the Spanish *y* consonant, with which they confound it in writing; and in manuscript we frequently see *cabayo* instead of *caballo*.

Lla, <i>Lyah,</i>	lla, <i>lye-ay,</i>	lli, <i>lyee,</i>	llo, <i>lyoh,</i>	llu. <i>lyoo.</i>
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## N.

N has a strong nasal sound, like *n* in *poniard*. The *gn* in French gives its sound.

Na, <i>nyah,</i>	ñe, <i>nye-ay,</i>	ñi, <i>nyee,</i>	ño, <i>nyoh,</i>	ñu. <i>nyoo.</i>
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## Q.

The syllables *qua*, *que*, *qui*, *quo*, are at present written with *c*, which see above.

Que, <i>Kay,</i>	qui <i>hee.</i>
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## V.

V must be pronounced as in English. Its sound is so slender in Spanish, that most generally it is confounded with the *b*: but such pronunciation must not be imitated. It is frequently used in manuscript instead of the capital U; thus

*Union y Libertad*, instead of *Union y Libertad*.