



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH

Servei de Llengües i Terminologia

Catalan for beginners

Just Arrived

Contents

1. Parla.cat
2. The languages in Catalonia
3. Intercomprehension
4. An introduction to our culture
5. An introduction to our language
6. Catalonia at a click

Session 1

Introduction

Why study Catalan?

Reasons given by students at Columbia University (New York)



Presentem-nos! (I)

*Let's introduce
ourselves (I)*

- **Em dic Martina!**
- Encantat.
- I tu, **com et dius?**
- Em dic Marc.
- Encantada.

verb DIR-SE

Jo	em dic
Tu	et dius
Ell/ella/vostè	es diu
Nosaltres	ens diem
Vosaltres	us dieu
Ells/elles/vostès	es diuen

Breaking the ice

- Com et dius?
- Per què estudies català?



1. Parla.cat

Registration and download from the browser Parla.cat

Català | Castellano | English | Français | Deutsch



CONTACT

Username
Password
access
Forgot your username or password?

parla · CAT Inicio

Descarrega't el nou navegador Parla.cat

Bàsic **Bàsic 1**
Bàsic 2
Bàsic 3

n1 **Elemental** **Elemental 1**
Elemental 2
Elemental 3

n2 **Intermedi** **Intermedi 1**
Intermedi 2
Intermedi 3

n3

Quiero hacer un curso

Prueba de nivel

Calendario

junio 2021

	l	m	m	j	v	s	d
28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
30	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Eventos globales
 Eventos de usuario
 Eventos de grupo
 Eventos del curso

Practica la conversa

vxl.cat

Practica la conversa

Demo and access “with tutorial” (drawing with glasses)

The screenshot shows the parla·CAT website's homepage. On the left, there's a large orange box with the text ".CAT". Below it, there are two main sections: "DEMO" (with a play button icon) and "REGISTRATION". The "DEMO" section contains a link to "Description of the contents of Parla.cat and of the functioning of this virtual learning environment.". A red arrow points from the text "Description of the contents of Parla.cat and of the functioning of this virtual learning environment." to a login form on the right. The login form has fields for "Password" and "access", and a link "Forgot your username or password?".

The screenshot shows the parla·CAT website's language levels and calendar. The page is divided into several colored sections: a grey sidebar on the left, a red header bar at the top, and a main area with green, blue, and yellow sections. The sidebar lists "Doms", "Basic", "Básic", "n1", "Elemental", "Elemental 1", "Elemental 2", "Elemental 3", "n2", "Elemental 4", "Elemental 5", "Elemental 6", "n3", "Intermedi", "Intermedi 1", "Intermedi 2", "Intermedi 3", "n4", "Suficiència", "Suficiència 1", "Suficiència 2", and "Suficiència 3". The main area features large numbers "n1", "n2", "n3", and "n4" in white. To the right of the levels are "Vull fer un curs" and "Prova de nivell" sections. The "Calendari" section shows the month of January 2011 with various events marked by colored boxes: green for "Ensenyaments presencials", blue for "Ensenyaments d'ús usual", orange for "Cicle en línia", and red for "Ensenyaments de curs". At the bottom right is a "Resum" section.

2. The languages in Catalonia

Catalan is the original language of Catalonia

What languages are spoken in Catalonia? In Catalonia, the two main languages for communicating are Catalan and Spanish.

The original language. Catalan is the original language of Catalonia. Spanish was introduced later in history.

Other languages. In recent years, our language heritage has been enriched with the languages of European residents and immigrants from all over the world.

Is English used? Most people have studied English at some time in their lives and young people generally have an acceptable level.

Catalan is spoken by around 10 million people

It is not a dialect! Catalan is not a dialect, as is sometimes erroneously believed. It is a language in its own right.

In which environments is it used? It is used in a natural way in all areas of society: in the family, with friends, in the street, at work, in shops, in schools, in the administration...

Where else is it spoken? Catalan is also spoken in the Balearic Islands, Valencia, Andorra, Aragon, the south-east of France and Alghero (Sardinia).

How many speakers does it have? It is calculated that, of the 11 million people who live in Catalan-speaking territories, around 10 million use Catalan actively or passively.

Catalan and official EU languages

Catalan occupies ninth position. It has more speakers than Greek, Portuguese, Swedish, Norwegian or Danish.

Language	Total population
German	91.2 M
French	65.4 M
English	64.1 M
Italian	58.5 M
Spanish	43 M
Polish	38.3 M
Dutch	23.4 M
Rumanian	23 M
Catalan	12.6 M

Europe and Catalan-speaking territories



Catalan is the language that is used most in the university

Equal official status. Catalan shares with Spanish the status of official language. Professors and students have the right to use either of the two languages.

How much is it used in the classroom? Around 60% of bachelor's degree classes are taught in Catalan and 40% in Spanish, although these figures vary depending on the school.

And in postgraduate studies? In postgraduate, master's degree and doctoral studies, Spanish is used more and English is increasingly widespread.

Are the professors free to decide which language to use? Yes, they can choose to communicate in either of the two official languages (Catalan or Spanish).

+ info

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT CATALAN BUT
WERE AFRAID TO ASK

(click on the image)



3. Intercomprehension

Easy Catalan

Watch the following video and note the similarities between the words.



Catalan is no harder than other languages

Language families. Languages that are derived from a common previous language are grouped into language families.

Romance languages. These languages include Catalan, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese and some others.

Latin, the common root. Some languages that are spoken in Europe have Latin as the common root and are called Romance languages.

80% Catalan shares 80% of its vocabulary with the rest of the languages in the Romance family and is very similar to French or Italian.

Let's look at an example

How do we say *wine* in other Romance languages?

Common root

VINUM

vi

vin

vino

vino

vinho

vin

Latín

Catalán

Francés

Italiano

Español

Portugués

Rumano

If you know a Romance language it won't be hard to learn another

Sister languages. In terms of relationship, it tends to be said that Romance languages are daughters of Latin and sisters with each other.

Intelligibility. Among speakers of Romance languages, there is a certain degree of mutual intelligibility, especially in the written language.

Twin languages. Some of these languages, such as Catalan, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese could also be considered twins.

Command. If you have a good command of one or several Romance languages it is easier to learn another in the same family.

In a couple of weeks, you can start to understand Catalan

What is similar about them?

Romance languages share common characteristics in the grammatical structure, the phonetics or the vocabulary.

Vocabulary. The vocabulary is perhaps where it is easiest to observe the similarities, due to a word that has the same origin.

Recognisable. The vocabulary is quite recognisable at first glance for someone who already knows a Romance language.

Parallelisms. Another factor that facilitates learning of Romance languages is the number of parallelisms and grammatical consistency that can be observed between them.

Let's practice

Below we will read a brief conversation in Catalan (in orange).

- Use the translations into other Romance languages that you will see on the screen to help.
- Deduce words from the context.
- Don't worry about the grammatical details that you don't understand.
- Don't worry about the order of the words.
- Enjoy the exercise!

- Bonjour!
- Bonsoir!
- Bonne nuit!

- Bom dia!
- Boa tarde!
- Boa noite!

- Bon dia!
- Bona tarda!
- Bona nit!

- Buongiorno!
- Buon pomeriggio!
- Buona notte!

- Bună dimineață!
- Bună seara!
- Noapte bună!

- Como vai?
- Bem, obrigada.

- Com estàs?
- Bé, gràcies.

- Come stai?
- Bene, grazie.

- Ce mai faci?
- Bine, mulțumesc.

- Comment ça va?
- Ça va bien merci.

- Come ti chiami?
- Mi chiamo Alba.

- Comment tu t'apelles?
- Je m'appelle Alba.

- Cum te chiamă?
- Mă chiamă Alba.

- Com et dius?
- Em dic Alba.

- Qual é o seu nome?
- Meu nome é Alba.

- D'on ets?
- Soc de Catalunya.

- De unde eşti?
- Sunt din Catalunya.

- De onde é?
- Eu sou da Catalunha.

- D'où viens tu?
- Je viens de Catalogne.

- Di dove sei?
- Vengo dalla Catalogna.

- Onde vives?
- Vivo em Barcelona.

- Unde stai?
- Stau în Barcelona.

- On vius?
- Visc a Barcelona.

- Dove vivi?
- Vivo a Barcellona.

- Où habites tu?
- J'habite à Barcelone.

Bon dia!
Bona tarda!
Bona nit!

- Com estàs?
- Bé, gràcies.

- Com et dius?
- Em dic Alba.

- On vius?
- Visc a Barcelona.

- D'on ets?
- Soc de Catalunya.

4. An introduction to our culture

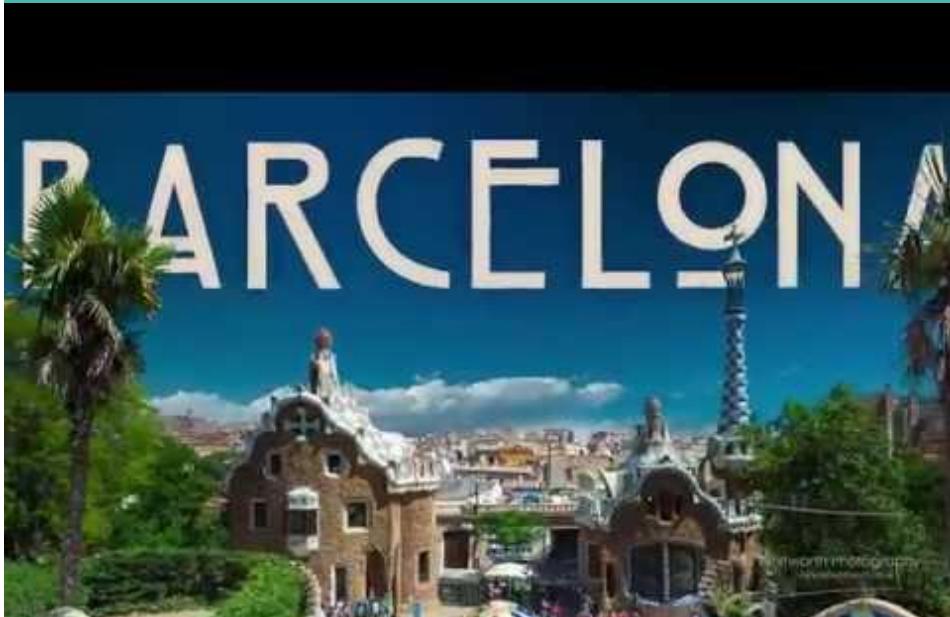
Catalonia Experience

Watch the following video about Catalonia and then talk about the things that you have recognised.



Barcelona from the air

Watch the following video of Barcelona and then talk about the things that you have recognised.



True or false?

Discuss the following statements with your teacher:

- Catalans are open and welcoming.
- Catalans address each other informally.
- Catalans touch each other when they speak.
- Catalans are punctual.
- Catalans have supper at eight.
- Catalans never leave tips.
- Catalans divide the bill when it's time to pay.

+ info

80 CLUES

Guide on how Catalan society
works: habits, customs,
traditions.



Session 2

Just Arrived

5. An introduction to our language

Les lletres i els sons catalans

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| ■ A a | ■ M eme |
| ■ B be | ■ N ene |
| ■ C ce | ■ O o |
| ■ Ç ce trencada | ■ P pe |
| ■ D de | ■ Q cu |
| ■ E e | ■ R erre |
| ■ F efe | ■ S esse |
| ■ G ge | ■ T te |
| ■ H hac | ■ U u |
| ■ I i | ■ V ve |
| ■ J jota | ■ W ve doble |
| ■ K ka | ■ X ix |
| ■ L ele | ■ Y i grega |
| | ■ Z zeta |

The letters and sounds

ES SEPAREN

-rr-
-l·l-
-ss-
-tx-
-ix-

NO ES SEPAREN

-ny-
-qu-
-gu-
-ll-

Activitat - Lletres:

Llegiu en veu alta els sons que representen aquestes lletres. Després les podeu escoltar a: [click](#)

Activity - Letters: Read aloud the sounds that these letters represent. Then you can listen using the link.

Activitat - Lletres:

Llegeix amb els companys les paraules que trobaràs a continuació.

Activity - Letters: Read the words below with your classmates.

Gat

Casa

Taxi

UPC

Demà

Feliç

Viatge

Catalunya

Xinès

Jove

Gent

Examen

Banc

Després

Bar

Hivern

Zero

Cotxe

Biblioteca

Activitat - Lletres:

Lletteja el teu nom i cognoms als teu companys. Després apunta el nom i cognoms dels teus companys, també.

Activity - Letters: Spell out your name and surname(s) for your classmates. Then write down the name and surname(s) of your classmates too.

Els dies de la setmana i els mesos de l'any

Days of the week and months of the year

Dies de la setmana
dilluns
dimarts
dimecres
dijous
divendres
dissabte
diumenge

Mesos de l'any	
gener	juliol
febrer	agost
març	setembre
abril	octubre
maig	novembre
juny	desembre

Activitat - Dies de la setmana i mesos de l'any:

Mira aquests dos vídeos infantils on s'ensenyen els dies i mesos de l'any. Fixa't en com s'escriuen. En parelles escriuvi el que hagueu retingut:

- dies de la setmana
- mesos de l'any

Activity - Days of the week and months of the year: Watch these two children's videos that teach the days and months. Note how they are written. In pairs, write what you remember.

Els números Numbers

1	un	21	vint-i-un	41	quaranta-un	61	seixanta-un	81	vuitanta-un
2	dos	22	vint-i-dos	42	quaranta-dos	62	seixanta-dos	82	vuitanta-dos
3	tres	23	vint-i-tres	43	quaranta-tres	63	seixanta-tres	83	vuitanta-tres
4	quatre	24	vint-i-quatre	44	quaranta-quatre	64	seixanta-quatre	84	vuitanta-quatre
5	cinc	25	vint-i-cinc	45	quaranta-cinc	65	seixanta-cinc	85	vuitanta-cinc
6	sis	26	vint-i-sis	46	quaranta-sis	66	seixanta-sis	86	vuitanta-sis
7	set	27	vint-i-set	47	quaranta-set	67	seixanta-set	87	vuitanta-set
8	vuit	28	vint-i-vuit	48	quaranta-vuit	68	seixanta-vuit	88	vuitanta-vuit
9	nou	29	vint-i-nou	49	quaranta-nou	69	seixanta-nou	89	vuitanta-nou
10	deu	30	trenta	50	cinquanta	70	setanta	90	noranta
11	onze	31	trenta-un	51	cinquanta-un	71	setanta-un	91	noranta-un
12	dotze	32	trenta-dos	52	cinquanta-dos	72	setanta-dos	92	noranta-dos
13	tretze	33	trenta-tres	53	cinquanta-tres	73	setanta-tres	93	noranta-tres
14	catorze	34	trenta-quatre	54	cinquanta-quatre	74	setanta-quatre	94	noranta-quatre
15	quinze	35	trenta-cinc	55	cinquanta-cinc	75	setanta-cinc	95	noranta-cinc
16	setze	36	trenta-sis	56	cinquanta-sis	76	setanta-sis	96	noranta-sis
17	disset	37	trenta-set	57	cinquanta-set	77	setanta-set	97	noranta-set
18	divuit	38	trenta-vuit	58	cinquanta-vuit	78	setanta-vuit	98	noranta-vuit
19	dinou	39	trenta-nou	59	cinquanta-nou	79	setanta-nou	99	noranta-nou
20	vint	40	quaranta	60	seixanta	80	vuitanta	100	cent

Activitat - Números (1):

Escolta els números pronunciats en català: [click](#)

Activity - Numbers (1): Listen to the numbers pronounced in Catalan.

Activitat - Números (2):

Dictats i *memory* de números. Descobreix la teva habilitat per a aquests dos reptes amb les activitats 3, 4, 5 i 6 que trobaràs a: [click](#)

Activity - Numbers (2): Dictation and memory of numbers. Discover your ability for these two challenges with activities 3, 4, 5 and 6 that you can find at the link.

Activitat - Números (3):

Per parelles o grups digues dades numèriques de la teva biografia. Per exemple:

- Tinc _____ anys.
- Data de naixement: _____ (setmanes/mesos/anys)
- Porto a Catalunya: _____ (setmanes/mesos/anys)
- Fa _____ que no visito el meu país. (setmanes/mesos/anys)

Activity - Numbers (3):

In pairs or groups, give numerical data from your biography. For example, age, date of birth, how long you have been living in Catalonia, how long it has been since you went to your country (weeks/months/years), etc.

Els articles

Articles

El director / Els directors

L'espai / Els espais

La directora / Les directores

L'aula / Les aules

Però, excepció: la Isabel / la universitat

MASCULÍ - SINGULAR

el / l'

MASCULÍ - PLURAL

els

FEMENÍ - SINGULAR

la / l'

FEMENÍ - PLURAL

les

Els noms *Nouns*

MASCULÍ - SINGULAR

director

MASCULÍ - PLURAL

directorss

FEMENÍ - SINGULAR

directora

FEMENÍ - PLURAL

directoress

Activitat - Articles: Posa l'article correcte.

Activity - Articles: Insert the correct article.

<input type="text"/> Enric	<input type="text"/> casa	<input type="text"/> bar	<input type="text"/> apunts
<input type="text"/> aeroport	<input type="text"/> begudes	<input type="text"/> Ricard	<input type="text"/> biblioteca
<input type="text"/> aula	<input type="text"/> Eva	<input type="text"/> taula	<input type="text"/> camí
<input type="text"/> nit	<input type="text"/> Òscar	<input type="text"/> matrícula	<input type="text"/> avió
<input type="text"/> fotocòpies	<input type="text"/> idioma	<input type="text"/> targetes	<input type="text"/> edifici

Activitat - Articles (solució)

Activity - Articles (solution)

l' Enric	_la_ casa	_el_ bar	_els_ apunts
l' aeroport	_les_ begudes	_el/en_ Ricard	_la_ biblioteca
l' aula	_l'_ Eva	_la_ taula	_el_ camí
la nit	_l'_ Òscar	_la_ matrícula	_l'_ avió
_les fotocòpies	_l'_ idioma	_les_ targetes	_l'_ edifici

Presentem-nos (II)!

***Let's introduce
ourselves (II)***

Soc la Martina!

I tu, qui ets?

Soc la Julia

Soc l'Aina

Soc el Jordi

Soc l'Andreu

verb SER

Jo **soc**

Tu **ets**

Ell/ella/vostè **és**

Nosaltres **som**

Vosaltres **sou**

Ells/el·les/vostès **són**

Saludar i respondre a una salutació

Greet and respond to a greeting

Hola!

Bon dia!

Bona tarda!

Bona nit!

Com estàs?

Bé, gràcies!

Anar fent...

Encantat / Encantada

Molt de gust.

Activitat - Diàleg: Ordena el diàleg

Activity - Dialogue: Put the dialogue in the right order

—Em dic Maria. I tu?

—Hola!

—Anar fent.

—Molt de gust, Carles. Com estàs?

—Encantat. Jo em dic Carles.

—Bé, gràcies. I tu?

—Hola!

—Com et dius?

Activitat - Diàleg (solució)

Activity - Dialogue (solution)

—Hola!

—Hola!

—Com et dius?

—Em dic Maria. I tu?

—Encantat. Jo em dic Carles.

—Molt de gust, Carles. Com estàs?

—Bé, gràcies. I tu?

—Anar fent.

Activitat - Presentació:

Per parelles, practiqueu les presentacions. Utilitza el diàleg o les preguntes que hem vist com a guió.

Activity - Presentation: *In pairs, practice the presentations. Use the dialogue or the questions that we have seen at the start as a guide.*

Els països Countries

Soc **de** Colòmbia.

Soc **d'**Alemanya.

Soc **del** Japó.

Soc **de la** Xina.

Soc **de l'**Argentina.

Soc **dels** Estats Units.

Soc **de les** Illes Balears

de

de + vocal = d'

de + el= del

de + la = de la

de + l' = de l'

de + els = dels

de + les = de les

Nacionalitats

Nationalities

País	Masculí acabat en consonant	Femení acabat en -a:
Suècia	suec	sueca
Brasil	brasiler	brasilera
Estats Units	estatunidenc (*o, nord-americà)	estatunidenca (*o, nord-americana)
Turquia	turc	turca
Espanya	espanyol	espanyola

The names of languages tend to be the same as the word for the nationality.

País	Masculí acabat en vocal tònica: -à / -è / -í / -ó	Femení acabat en: -ana / -ena / ina / -ona
Mèxic	mexicà	mexicana
Eslovènia	eslovè	eslovena
Argentina	argentí	argentina
Letònia	letó	letona
	Masculí acabat en vocal tònica: -ès	Femení acabat en: -esa
Polònia	polonès	polonesa
Xina	xinès	xinesa

Activitat - Nacionalitats: Pregunta per la nacionalitat dels teus companys de classe. Pots seguir el model.

Activity - Nationalities: Ask the nationality of your classmates. You can use the model.

- Hola, em dic Jaqueline i soc de França. Soc francesa. I tu, com et dius?
- Em diu Juan.
- I, d'on ets?
- Soc de Mèxic, soc mexicà.

6. Catalonia at a click

Test your knowledge

Traverse Catalonia in a click:
history, language, gastronomy, art,
traditions, excursions, etc.

Click on the image.



Catalonia at a click is a collection of links to sites which provide useful information on life in Catalonia. There is something here for everyone: history, local cuisine, festivals, useful tips, amongst others. If you are thinking of coming here to study, it is a good place to start planning your stay. If you have already landed, it is a good place to find out more about us.



Ask us about further courses in Catalan, Spanish or other languages, translations, and multilingual terminology resources. :-)

Mapa del lloc · Contacte · Identifica't · Català · Cerca

50 ANYS
UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA
DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH sense Límits

Serveis i recursos lingüístics. Idiomes a la UPC

Sou a: Inici

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Recursos de redacció

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