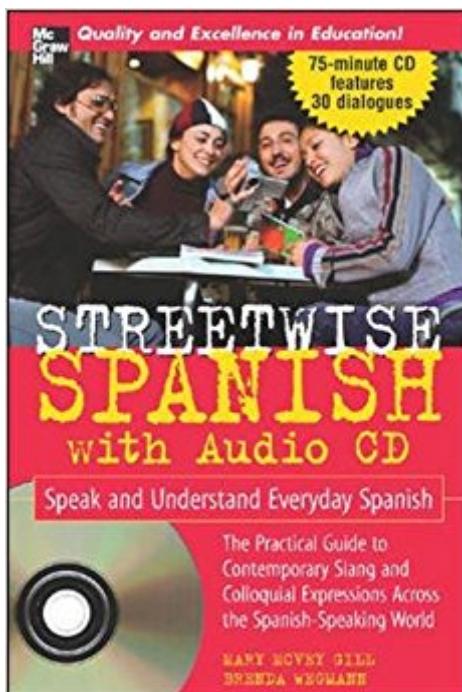


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# Streetwise Spanish (Book + 1CD): Speak And Understand Colloquial Spanish (Streetwise (Mcgraw Hill))



## Synopsis

Easy lessons that help you speak Spanish like a native This revised edition of Streetwise Spanish features an overview of the “signature” words that differentiate speakers across the Spanish-speaking world. It also includes an audio CD featuring 30 dialogs from the book, spoken by native speakers from more than 15 countries and exercises that test your grasp of key slang expressions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

¡Agarra la onda!--learn the Spanish they speak en el calle.\* How would you ask "What's up?" in Cancun? How do they say, "Don't bug me!" in Punta Cana? And how would a Spaniard tell you to "Go jump in the lake!"? Spanish is spoken by more than 340 million people in twenty-three countries. And in each region, the people have their own special take on the language. Fortunately, with Streetwise Spanish, you can turn regional differences from "problems" into colorful expressions that add flair to your language and help you sound at home anywhere. This audio edition of the bestselling guide takes you on a grand tour of everyday Spanish as it's spoken around the world. With the help of thirty dialogs, enacted by native speakers, it clues you in on the idioms, colloquialisms, slang, and vulgarisms currently used by Spanish speakers of all walks of life, from LA to Las Palmas, Madrid to Manila. The best guide to everyday Spanish, Streetwise Spanish, Audio Edition tells you how with: An audio CD featuring thirty dialogs spoken by Spanish speakers

from more than fifteen countries--for authentic regional accents Dozens of cartoons, jokes, and anecdotes An overview of "signature" words differentiating speakers across the Spanish-speaking world Engaging exercises that let you test comprehension and fine-tune skills Articles explaining how cultural attitudes influence the use of slang Vocabulary lists and a mini-dictionary \* Get with the program! (literally, Catch the sound wave!)--Learn the Spanish they speak on the street.

Mary McVey Gill and Brenda Wegmann are experienced teachers of Spanish and English as a Second Language. Together they have authored numerous textbooks and language-learning guides for Spanish and ESL.

I bought this book to help "demystify" some of the alternate usage I was hearing in those interesting Argentine films I was watching. While I surmised that "vos sos" meant the same thing as "tu eres", this book actually verified that I was right! While it doesn't go into great depth about vos vs. tu, it does offer at least a basic idea of the alternate "vos" verb conjugations of the second person singular familiar form. Most books I've studied simply mention the vos variation in a kind of "by the way" manner, as if nobody needs know more, because nobody will ever meet anybody from Uruguay or Argentina. This book is different! Personally I could use a little less vosotros and a little more vos information. Lots of useful information about other regional variations in meaning and what NOT to say where. Handy "tests" at the end of each chapter plus "reviews" after every five chapters. ANSWERS at the back, so you can check whether or not you're actually learning anything. Also includes appendix of "signature" words arranged by country from Argentina to Venezuela, AND a handy Spanish to English glossary of words and phrases that mean something other than the literal translation. Humorous stories, anecdotes and cartoons keep the learning fun. Definitely a handy guide, presented in a simple enough format that even non-advanced "students" of Spanish can use. As confusing as some of these Spanish slang usages are, it makes one think of how much MORE confusing English slang must be to native Spanish speakers! Just think for a moment about the differences in American, British, Australian and Canadian (eh?) English, plus all the sub-dialects in each country and those Caribbean and South African versions. Not only different standard nouns, but alternate verb meanings, pronunciations, spellings, contractions and slang! I guess the old saying about Americans and British being two people separated by a common language really is true. But, back to THIS BOOK. STREETWISE SPANISH really is useful. You'll learn a LOT! Easy to browse through randomly as well, no need to go from front to back. About the only question it didn't answer for me was, "What does 'guey' mean?" That word is still a mystery!

Throughout my student years I had always learned "proper" Spanish. Just learning proper spanish does not give you a real "feel" for the language. I found many of the phrases in this book quite entertaining and funny. There are chapters for different situations (expressing anger, romantic relationships) each with two conversations in Spanish and then an English translation. One of the most valuable aspects of the book is that they let you know which Spanish-speaking country the phrase is commonly used as well as giving you tips on what phrases are OK to use in one country but can be offensive in another. The only reason I knocked one star off the rating is because it would have been helpful to include a list of commonly used English phrases with their equivalent Spanish phrases. It's good to know what people are saying, but it is equally good to know how to express yourself. For a more "dictionary" style book, get "The Red-Hot Book of Spanish Slang" written by the same authors.

I recommend this book. It contains a lot of expressions and information that will help people when traveling to other countries, but also if they are just learning Spanish. I've taught Spanish to various ages, and I like to bring in extra materials to compliment what I've been given. It's always good to expose students to more "real life" experience, and give them exposure to specific countries and their expressions. It has a CD, but that will probably change as technology has changed...a great book to add to your collection!

I have lived in Mexico for yrs & yrs & learning spanish is an ongoing battle. There is book spanish but that is never enough. The spanish that is spoken in the streets is QUITE differnt then what is found in grammer books. Streetwise Spanish helps to gap the bridge between the two. As a daily routine I am taking the newly found sayings & putting them to practise in normal conversation. They are always being understood. Also coming from an english background the mexican people here get a kick of me using the "modismos" (sayings) of the latin culture. The only thing I didn't care for was one chapter where they use the Spain sayings that uses the vosotros. However I HIGHLY recomend this book to those who wish to go to the next level of Spanish. The money I spent on this book was very well spent.

Both the audio CD and the book are excellent. The CD provides fairly fast but clear street conversations from various countries. The text is not a typical instructional text, but provides reproductions and explanations of the audio. Good for an intermediate student. Definitely not for a

beginner. I wish they would produce a follow-up CD with 30 new conversations.

When someone "borrowed" my 1st edition, I was glad to be able to get an Audio CD with this second edition. But, the CD chapter exercises do not follow book exercises. The familiar exercises at the end of chapters is a nice touch, but I was disappointed that CD doesn't match up with these. The book itself is a good taste of Spanish slang from around the world. The book is especially good for the learner who has become bored with the usual textbook vocabulary from beginner's Spanish.

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