



Spanish resources for prospective applicants

LinguaTute (www.linguatute.com)

- **Online Latin American literature course** (summer 2024) – this 6-week course is a fantastic opportunity to read and learn about the major Latin American authors of the 20th and 21st centuries, with each 1.5hr lesson focusing on a new author every week. We offer a FREE taster session on Julio Cortazar to help you decide whether this course is right for you. Signup via the LinguaTute website!
- Private language and/or literature tutoring with tutors who have studied at Oxford or Cambridge.
- Oxbridge admissions support for language applicants – personal statement support, MLAT (admissions test) preparation, and mock interviews.
- Blog with language-themed articles.
- **FREE 30-minute trial lesson** with any one of our Oxbridge-educated language tutors!

Podcasts

- TED talk – how language shapes the way we think, Lera Boroditsky
- University of Oxford Podcasts:
 - **'Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages'** – a series on various foreign literatures (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese)
 - **'Linguamania'** – general discussions of language
 - **'Oxford Spanish Literature Podcast'** – a series of discussions on major Spanish and Latin American authors and texts, including Cortazar, Lorca, Cervantes, & Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz.
 - **'Spain: 1959-1992'** – a politically focused overview of Spanish history from 1959-1992

Radio/news

- [Corpus de conversaciones en español](#): short clips featuring everyday conversations with speakers from various Spanish-speaking countries.
- [Catálogo de voces hispánicas \(Instituto Cervantes\)](#): short clips featuring examples of Spanish from different parts of Spain and Latin America
- [Prensa escrita](#): links to all daily papers in the Hispanic world.
- www.bbc.com/mundo - news
- [RTVE](#) Televisión española - Spanish TV

Films

- Anything by Pedro Almodovar – *Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios*, *Volver*, *Todo Sobre Mi Madre*
- Luis Bunuel (Surrealist director – silent films) – *La chien andalou* (co-directed with Salvador Dali)
- Guillermo del Toro - *El laberinto del fauno*
- Sebastián Leilo - *Una mujer fantástica*
- MUBI – lots of classic and cult international films

Linguistics

- *The Wonders Of Language Or How To Make Noises and Influence People*, Ian Roberts (2017) – one of the most accessible and well-written introductions to the study of linguistics (useful for learning linguistics terminology and beginning the study of linguistics by yourself).
- *Language: The Basics*, R. L. Trask (1999) – an accessible overview of language study and linguistics, both theoretical and practical (more of a general introduction to the questions raised in language study – e.g. how language works in the brain, why languages change, child language acquisition, etc.)



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Suggested Reading

Short stories and novellas:

- **Jorge Luis Borges** – *El Aleph; Las ruinas circulares, La biblioteca de Babel; Funes, el memorioso; Tlon, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius* (good collections: *Ficciones, El Aleph*. I highly recommend reading the stories in English as well – they can be very confusing as they are surrealist and philosophical works).
- **Gabriel García Márquez** – *El coronel no tiene quien le escriba, Crónica de una muerte anunciada*
- **Julio Cortázar** – *Bestiario* (collection), *Las babas del Diablo* (Blow-Up)
- *Lazarillo de Tormes* (anon.) - an example of the early Picaresque novel (comedy)

Poetry:

- **Federico García Lorca** – *Romancero Gitano, Poeta en Nueva York*
- **José Martí** - *Versos sencillos*
- **Pablo Neruda** – *Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada, Residencia en la tierra*
- **Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz** (1648 – 1695) – Highly recommended if you enjoy feminist literature and Golden Age Spanish! One particular masterpiece includes ‘Hombres necios’ – there’s a good translation on allpoetry.com with the original Spanish as well.

Plays:

- **Federico García Lorca** – *Bodas de Sangre, Yerma, La Casa de Bernarda Alba*.
- **Pedro Calderon de la Barca** (1600–1681) – *La vida es sueño, El príncipe constante*
- **Tirso de Molina** - *El condenado por desconfiado*

Novels:

- **Isabel Allende** - *La casa de los espíritus*
- **Miguel de Cervantes** - *Don Quixote* (HUGE book, but hilarious - and a timeless classic)
- **Gabriel García Márquez** - *El amor en los tiempos del cólera, Cien años de soledad*

Great general language books

- *Is That a Fish in Your Ear?* – David Bellos
- *Through The Looking Glass* – Guy Deutscher
- *The Language Lover’s Puzzle Book* – Alex Bellos. The puzzles in this book are similar to the language aptitude test and extremely fun for those who enjoy linguistic puzzles!
- *The Etymologicon* - Mark Forsyth. Engaging and funny introduction to etymology (history of words)
- *Mother Tongue* - Bill Bryson. Great introduction to the history of the English language and linguistics.

Additional useful language resources

- **The Queen’s College Translation Exchange** – hosts a multitude of events about translation and languages, including the **Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators** (takes places in Spring).
- **Creative Multilingualism** – Oxford-founded resource for linguists (the project has now ended but there is still lots of good info on the website!)
- **Oxford MFL blog** – Adventures on the bookshelf – organises a virtual book club e.g. <https://bookshelf.mml.ox.ac.uk/2019/02/13/virtual-book-club-spanish-episode/>
<https://bookshelf.mml.ox.ac.uk/>
- Reading group for Year 12 and 13 students
(<https://www.cai.cam.ac.uk/access-outreach/resources-and-events/year-1213-reading-groups>)
- **Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation** (<https://occt.web.ox.ac.uk/>) – hosts events and discussion groups on translation
- **Babel: The Language Magazine** – produces four issues annually on new linguistic research; the past, present and future of languages, and on the different uses of linguistics in the world.
- **UK Linguistics Olympiad** (UKLO.org) – competition for budding linguists to demonstrate their language skills (quite similar to the language aptitude test). The website also has lots of useful language resources and links!