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# Catalan for beginners

— Just Arrived —

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# 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

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# 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

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# 1. Parla.cat

# Registration and download from the browser Parla.cat

Català | Castellano | English | Français | Deutsch

**parla · CAT**

CONTACT ✉

Username  
Password  
access  
Forgotten your username or password?

**THE VIRTUAL RAMBLA**  
The Virtual rambla is a leisure time and cultural meeting place so that members who form part of the virtual environment can meet and interact. ☺

**COURSE**  
Parla.cat is a virtual learning space that offers all the educational materials for learning the Catalan language. The course can be done with a self-managed learning method or a method with a tutor. ☺

**DEMO**  
Description of the contents of Parla.cat and of the functioning of this virtual learning environment. ☺

**REGISTRATION**  
Registering enables you to access both methods in which the course is offered: self-managed learning and studying with a tutor. ☺

**AULA MESTRA**  
This area is aimed both at people who want to learn Catalan and people who want to teach Catalan. It is designed to equip them with additional learning and teaching resources, respectively, as well as communication tools for sharing knowledge, ideas and experiences. ☺


Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament de Cultura  
Direcció General de Política Lingüística

INSTITUT RAMON LLULL  
Catalan Language and Culture

CONSORCI PER A LA NORMALITZACIÓ LINGÜÍSTICA

ACCESSIBILITAT | CRÈDITS

**parla · CAT** Inicio

 [Descarrega't el nou navegador Parla.cat](#)

• Demo

Mis cursos  
**Tutoria Libre**  
Bàsic 1

Informes  
Expedient

Recursos  
Manuales

Preguntas frecuentes  
Gramàtica  
Buzón de correo

Eines lingüístiques  
Optimot  
Diccionari IEC  
Diccionari multilingüe  
Guiés de conversa

**Bàsic**  
Bàsic 1  
Bàsic 2  
Bàsic 3

**Elemental**  
Elemental 1  
Elemental 2  
Elemental 3

**Intermedi**  
Intermedi 1  
Intermedi 2  
Intermedi 3


Quiero hacer un curso

✓ Prueba de nivel

Calendario  
junio 2021 ← →

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

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)



Parla.cat

Password

access

Forgotten your username or password?

**DEMO**

Description of the contents of Parla.cat and of the functioning of this virtual learning environment.

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parla · CAT

**DEMO**

**REGISTRATION**

Nivell	Curso
Bàsic	Bàsic 1
	Bàsic 2
	Bàsic 3
Elemental	Elemental 1
	Elemental 2
	Elemental 3
Intermedi	Intermedi 1
	Intermedi 2
	Intermedi 3
Suficiència	Suficiència 1
	Suficiència 2
	Suficiència 3

Prova de nivell

Calendari

gener 2011

di	di	di	di	di	di	di
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Activitats i desenvolupaments

- Activitats i desenvolupaments globals
- Activitats i desenvolupaments d'usuari
- Activitats i desenvolupaments de grup
- Activitats i desenvolupaments de curs

Escuela virtual

Acceso por el profesorado

# 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
<b>Catalan</b>	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.

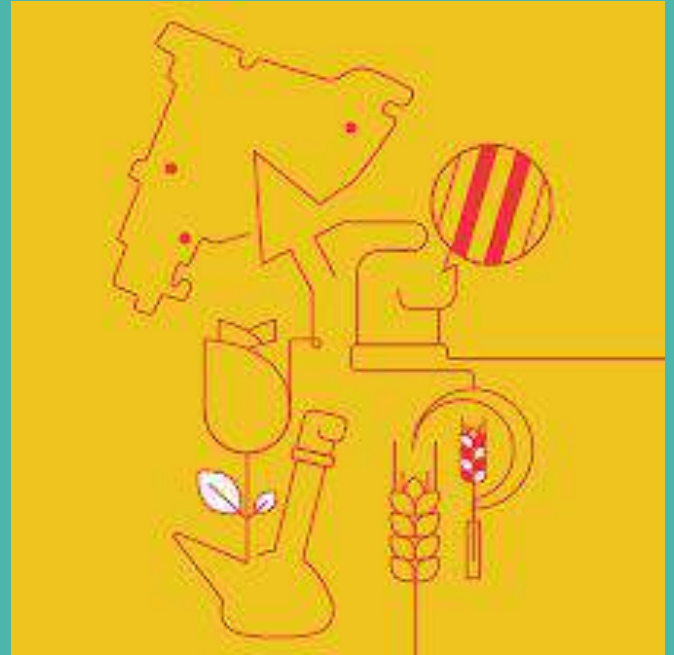
**And in postgraduate studies?** In postgraduate, master's degree and doctoral studies, Spanish is used more and English is increasingly widespread.

**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

Latín

vi

Catalán

vin

Francés

vino

Italiano

vino

Español

vinho

Portugués

vin

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!

- Buongiorno!
- Buon pomeriggio!
- Buona notte!

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

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

- 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'appelles?
- 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 ești?
- 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.



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# Session 2

— Just Arrived —

# 5. An introduction to our language

# Les lletres i els sons catalans

## *The letters and sounds*

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

ES SEPAREN	NO ES SEPAREN
-rr-	-ny-
-l·l-	-qu-
-ss-	-gu-
-tx-	-ll-
-ix-	

# 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**

**Jove**

**Xinès**

**Gent**

**Examen**

**Banc**

**Bar**

**Hivern**

**Zero**

**Després**

**Cotxe**

**Biblioteca**

## Activitat - Lletres:

Lletreja 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 escriuiu 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 <b>el / l'</b>	MASCULÍ - PLURAL <b>els</b>
FEMENÍ - SINGULAR <b>la / l'</b>	FEMENÍ - PLURAL <b>les</b>

# Els noms

## *Nouns*

MASCULÍ - SINGULAR

director

MASCULÍ - PLURAL

directors̄

FEMENÍ - SINGULAR

directorā

FEMENÍ - PLURAL

directores̄

# Activitat - Articles: Posa l'article correcte.

*Activity - Articles: Insert the correct article.*

___ Enric	___ casa	___ bar	___ apunts
___ aeroport	___ begudes	___ Ricard	___ biblioteca
___ aula	___ Eva	___ taula	___ camí
___ nit	___ Òscar	___ matrícula	___ avió
___ fotocòpies	___ idioma	___ targetes	___ 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/elles/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	brasileira
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.





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

50 ANYS  
UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA  
BARCELONATECH sense límits

Mapa del lloc · Contacte · Identificat · Català · Cerca

Serveis i recursos lingüístics. Idiomes a la UPC

Sou a: Inici

- El Servei de Llengües i Terminologia
- Política lingüística UPC
- Acollida lingüística
- Aprèn català
- Aprèn espanyol
- Aprèn anglès i altres idiomes
- Certifica el teu nivell d'idiomes
- Forma't en comunicació
- Traduccions i correccions
- Recursos de redacció

**idiomes UPC**  
Aprèn idiomes a les universitats

Aprofita els acords de la UPC amb les universitats catalanes i accedeix als cursos i exàmens de les seves escoles d'idiomes amb condicions avantatjoses com a membre de la UPC

- formació presencial i virtual
- cursos anuals i intensius
- exàmens d'acreditació
- ajuts PARLA 3 per a cursos i exàmens
- certificats oficials de les universitats
- crèdits ECTS

**Demana SLT**  
Cursos i acreditació

**Encàrrecs**  
Traduccions i correccions

**Centres**  
Els 5 serveis destacats

**Pla de llengües de la UPC**

**Acredita el B2 o altres nivells oficials en un mes!**