



CATALUNYA  
AT A CLICK

### Wanna know more?

Find Catalan language resources and information on  
Catalan courses at [www.intercat.cat](http://www.intercat.cat)



EVERYTHING  
YOU WANTED TO KNOW  
ABOUT CATALAN

...BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

[www.intercat.cat](http://www.intercat.cat)



In recent years, hundreds of international students have arrived in Catalonia without knowing what the language situation is. **Are you one of them?** Of course, you know about Spanish, a language spoken by more than 300 million people worldwide, but maybe you don't have a clear idea of what Catalan is. Here are some facts that might help you to fill in the blanks.



### — **What is Catalan?**

Catalan isn't a dialect, as is sometimes believed. It's not a secret language either. It's a language in its own right. Got it? Good. Let's continue.

### — **What languages are spoken in Catalonia?**

Catalan is the native language of Catalonia and is used by the government and in public education. Spanish is also widely spoken. Both are official languages. And hey, English and lots of other languages brought by people from many parts of the world are spoken too.

### — **How widely are Catalan, Spanish and English used in the classroom?**

This is something everybody wants to know! There isn't just one answer, but it's safe to say that around 60 per cent of classes are in Catalan and 40 per cent are in Spanish. It depends on every university and school.

### — **Are professors free to choose the language they teach in?**

Yes. Both Catalan and Spanish are official languages at our universities and professors can choose either of the two. So don't be surprised if on the first day of class the professor comes in and starts speaking in Catalan. You can check the language of instruction before you enrol.

### — **Can I choose the language in which I take my exams?**

Sure. Exams and theses can be done in Catalan or Spanish, regardless of the language the classes are taught in. English, by the way, is increasingly used, especially in postgraduate education.



### Is Catalan hard to learn?

Absolutely not. There are no hard-to-learn languages, just reluctant learners. Learning Catalan is no more difficult than learning French, Italian or any other language. You just have to be determined.



### If I know Spanish or another Romance language, will that help?

Of course it will. Catalan, Italian, French and Portuguese all come from Latin and they have a lot in common. Experts say that they share 80% of their vocabulary. You don't believe them? Take a look at the similarities between the words for WINE: VI (Catalan), VIN (French, Romanian), VINO (Italian, Spanish), VINHO (Portuguese).



### What do I gain by learning Catalan?

Well, quite a lot. You might have heard that locals really appreciate foreigners who speak to them in the native language. That's totally true. Speaking Catalan will open doors socially. Catalan is also an essential tool when the time comes for you to look for a job.



### Where can I learn it?

The language services of our universities work hard to offer high-quality Catalan courses. The courses are quite cheap, too, and sometimes even free. How cool is that? There's a good reason for this (there are always reasons in life): the courses are subsidised by the Catalan government.



### Will I have fun?

Oh yeah! Attending a Catalan course is much more fun than you think. Not only will you learn the language the locals speak while they party at the weekend, you will also have the chance to meet people from all over the world.

## Some figures that show that Catalan is not a minority language

Catalan is spoken not only in Catalonia but also in Valencia, Aragon, the south of France, Alghero (in Sardinia), the little country of Andorra and the world-famous Balearic Islands. Impressed?

More than 10 million people in these Catalan-speaking territories can speak Catalan. No small feat! That's similar to Swedish, Greek, Bulgarian and Czech and more than Finnish, Danish, Slovak and Norwegian. It is one of the world's 100 most spoken languages. And you might or might not be surprised to learn that more than 80% of the adult population in Catalonia are competent in Catalan and many of them use it on a daily basis.



The vitality of Catalan can also be seen in the world of culture: a total of 42.9% of the books sold in Catalonia in 2016 were in Catalan and 68.7% of radio listeners listen to programmes in Catalan. The most viewed TV channel is in Catalan, and Catalan is among the 25 most translated languages in the world.

We're no strangers on the World Wide Web either. A total of 9 out of 10 of the most visited websites in Catalonia are in Catalan. And that's not all: Catalan is the 17th and 19th most used language on Wikipedia and Twitter, respectively.

And if that isn't enough, just think about the many famous Catalans who have made their mark on the world, from architect **Antoni Gaudí** to football coach **Pep Guardiola**, from filmmaker **Isabel Coixet** to MotoGP world champion **Marc Márquez**.



#### PHRASES IN CATALAN

Hello  
Good morning  
Good afternoon  
Good night  
Thank you  
You're welcome  
Please  
Goodbye  
See you soon  
See you later  
See you tomorrow  
We'll be in touch  
Take care  
Have a nice weekend  
How are you doing?  
Very well  
Please can you help me?  
What's your name?  
My name is... [Daniel]  
Where are you from?  
I'm from... [Finland]  
What are you studying?  
I'm studying... [physiotherapy]  
Do you like... [the cinema]?  
I like it a lot

*Hola*  
*Bon dia*  
*Bona tarda*  
*Bona nit*  
*Gràcies*  
*De res*  
*Si us plau*  
*Adéu*  
*Fins ara*  
*Fins després*  
*Fins demà*  
*Ja ens veurem*  
*Que vagi bé*  
*Bon cap de setmana*  
*Com va?*  
*Molt bé*  
*Em pots ajudar, si us plau?*  
*Com et dius?*  
*Em dic... [Daniel]*  
*D'on ets?*  
*Soc de... [Finlàndia]*  
*Què estudies?*  
*Estudio... [fisioteràpia]*  
*T'agrada... [el cinema]?*  
*M'agrada molt*

#### UNIVERSITY WORDS

Faculty  
Classroom  
Subject  
Timetable  
Syllabus  
Certificate  
Credit  
To enrol  
Enrolment  
To validate  
Validation  
Student card

*Facultat*  
*Aula*  
*Assignatura*  
*Horari*  
*Programa del curs*  
*Certificat*  
*Crèdit*  
*Matricular-se*  
*Matricula*  
*Convalidar*  
*Convalidació*  
*Carnet d'estudiant*

## A few phrases in Catalan to break the ice.

*Don't be afraid. Use them and see what happens.*

## A few words that can be useful while at university.