

## SPANISH

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### NOTE ONE: SPANISH NAMES STRUCTURE

The following guidelines about Spanish names construction does not try to be absolutely complete or precise. There are always exceptions and particular uses. However, they will help you to quickly recognize and construct consistent names of almost any common type.

#### 1) General Spanish-names structure

In Spain a normal name is formed by a first name and two surnames:

- a) Nomb: "Nombre" (First name)
- b) AP: "Apellido paterno" (the first surname of the father)
- c) AM: "Apellido materno" (the first surname of the mother)

Name = Nomb AP AM

e.g. Ramón González Rodríguez

All official identification cards, passports, and commercial transactions must be signed with the first name and the two surnames.

#### 2) Composed surnames

Either AP or AM, or both, may be formed by two basic surnames separated by "de" (meaning "of"). In this case, AP and AM are separated by "y" (meaning "and") to distinguish them clearly. It is not so common but not rare.

Name = Nomb AP1 de AP2 y AM; E.g. Ramón López de Uribe y Requejo

Name = Nomb AP y AM1 de AM2; E.g. Ramón Requejo y López de Uribe

#### 3) Surnames with the preposition "de"

Some Spanish surnames begin with "del", or "de la", or "de los" (meaning approximately "from" or "of"). The different versions are male, female, or neutral gender respectively. The proper form is chosen depending on the genre of the word used as surname (which may be of course different from the person's genre).

Name = Nomb [del|de la|de los] AP [del|de la|de los] AM

e.g. María del Valle Gómez

e.g. Juan Blanco de la Madrid

e.g. Lucía de la Granja del Olmo

e.g. Juan de los Hoyos García

#### 4) Composed first names

There are first names composed of two or even several normal ones. The most common combinations are based in catholic relevant characters and saints, but there are many others based on the most common first names. There are also many male names formed by any common male first-name followed by the name of the Virgin Mary. Some female names are formed following the same guidelines.

e.g. Jesús María (Male)

e.g. Luís María (Male)

e.g. Ana María (Female)

e.g. María Isabel (Female)

e.g. Francisco Javier (Male)

e.g. José Manuel (Male)  
e.g. Jorge Javier (Male)  
e.g. Luís Antonio (Male)  
e.g. Antonio Jesús (Male)

A special very common female name is formed by the name of the Virgin Mary and Jesus:

e.g. María Jesús (Female)

### **5) First names including the preposition "de"**

The first name may also contain two parts separated by "de" or "de la" or "de los". This is typical in female names based in the Virgin Mary name (based in the name of a famous local image or in the virgin attributes).

e.g. María de los Dolores  
e.g. María de la Concepción  
e.g. María del Valle

Colloquially and even formally, the particles in the middle are easily lost:

e.g. María Dolores (colloquial or formal)  
e.g. María Concepción (colloquial or formal)  
e.g. Mari-Valle (only colloquial)

Moreover, it is normal that people with these names do not use their full names, except for identification upon authorities request. In normal life they only use the second part of it:

e.g. Dolores  
e.g. Valle  
e.g. Concepción

This use was so common that nowadays, many female children are given official names with only the second part. Some of them are common, others have never lost the original "Maria" first part. Some examples of common names which are now typically found alone:

e.g. Concepción  
e.g. Esperanza  
e.g. Piedad

### **6) The most frequent Spanish names usually have well known colloquial abbreviations or substitutions, sometimes not related to the original name. Some examples:**

e.g. Francisco = Paco (or its diminutive "Paquito")  
e.g. José = Pepe (or its diminutive "Pepito")  
e.g. (María de los) Dolores = Lola (or its diminutive "Lolita")  
e.g. (María de la) Concepción = Concha (or its diminutive "Conchita", or even "Conchi")

### **7) Marriage and heritage**

In modern Spain normal people keep their surnames (with their own "apellido paterno" and "apellido materno") no matter if they get married or not. Women are never using the husband surname or surnames. Only nobility and conservative old aristocratic families keep such uses.

Sometimes, in special cases mainly related to the heritage of an important wealth or signature belonging to the mother, some people may ask the authorities to reverse the order of their surnames. This allows heirs of

the second generation to use the surname associated with the heritage. The surnames of the mother are otherwise lost in the second generation.

In special situations people may ask the central authorities for a complete change in their surnames, although it is uncommon.

### 8) Using only one surname unofficially

In non-formal situations people may use only one "apellido" for brevity. Indeed, it is typical that sports, political and cultural celebrities are known by only one surname, typically the first one.

### 9) Using dashed surnames abroad

A dash is not used to separate surnames in Spain. Only in very exceptional cases the parts of a composed surname are joined by a dash.

However, a dash is used sometimes when Spanish people need to use their names abroad. This avoid other people to get confused and think that the "apellido paterno" is part of the first name:

e.g.

"María García Barbosa" may write her name as "María García-Barbosa" when sending a paper to an international journal, or when attending a conference in England to avoid getting a badge reading: "M.G. Barbosa" instead of "M. García Barbosa".

### NOTE 2

All the names in the following lists marked with an asterisk are either no longer frequent among young people, or somehow restricted to a region of Spain. Some of them are also quite old-fashioned.

#### MALE 1

1. Abelino \*
2. Alejandro
3. Felipe
4. Bonifacio \*
5. Bruno
6. Carlos
7. Adrián
8. Armando
9. Basilio \*
10. Álvaro
11. Julio
12. Leonardo
13. Torcuato \*
14. Abelardo \*
15. Abel
16. Urbano \*
17. Valentín
18. Rufo \* / Rufino
19. Samuel
20. Porfirio \*

#### FEMALE 1

1. Ángeles (María de los) / Mari-ángeles / Nines
2. Cecilia
3. Julia
4. Coral
5. Araceli
6. Amelia \*
7. Milagros (María de los)
8. Claudia
9. Mireia
10. Estela
11. Beatriz
12. Cristina
13. Rebeca
14. Delfina \*
15. Engracia \*
16. Mariana
17. Dora \*
18. Almudena
19. Consolación (María de la) / Consuelo

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**MALE 2**

1. Rafael
2. Moro
3. Nemesio \*
4. Diego
5. Emilio
6. Alberto
7. Francisco / Paco / Paquito
8. Gabriel
9. Agustín
10. Domingo
11. Eduardo
12. Horacio
13. Arturo
14. Augusto
15. Bartolo \*
16. Eladio \*
17. Gerardo
18. Enrique / Quique
19. Néstor
20. Ramiro

**FEMALE 2**

1. Elisa
2. Blanca
3. Rosalía
4. Camila \*
5. Nelia \*
6. Patricia
7. Anunciación (María de la)
8. Camino (María del) \*
9. Dolores (María de los) / Lola / Lolita
10. Elena / Helena
11. Mónica
12. Piedad (María de la)
13. Julieta \*
14. Monserrat
15. Natalia
16. Laura
17. Margarita
18. Pilar (María del) / Pili
19. Sara
20. Concepción (María de la) / Concha

**MALE 3**

1. Santiago / Santi
2. Vicente
3. Leoncio \*
4. Andrés
5. Isidro
6. Joaquín
7. Hernando
8. Hugo
9. Ignacio
10. Íñigo
11. Mauricio / Mauri
12. Miguel
13. Nicanor \*
14. Raúl
15. Ricardo
16. Isaac
17. Isidoro \*
18. José / Pepe
19. Juan
20. Marco

**FEMALE 3**

1. Elvira
2. Raqué
3. Sandra
4. Alma \*
5. María
6. Rosa
7. Silvia
8. Rosario (María del)
9. Sofía
10. Esther
11. Josefa / Josefina
12. Adelaida \*
13. Violeta \*
14. Virginia
15. Susana
16. Leticia
17. Tatiana
18. Nieves (María de las)
19. Miriam
20. Esperanza (María de la)

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**MALE 4**

1. Jorge
2. Benito
3. Casiano \*
4. Félix
5. Fernando
6. Mateo
7. Matías
8. Roberto
9. Julián
10. Leopoldo \*
11. Alfonso
12. Gregorio / Goyo
13. Eleuterio \*
14. Jesús
15. Rodolfo
16. Mario
17. Lorenzo
18. Luís
19. Manuel
20. Rodrigo

**FEMALE 4**

1. Amparo (María del)
2. Celia
3. Emilia \*
4. Luisa
5. Maite
6. Olga
7. Marta
8. Lourdes
9. Herminia \*
10. Ana
11. Belén
12. Carmela \*
13. Angélica
14. Inés
15. Begoña
16. Carmen
17. Carolina
18. Ángela
19. Inmaculada (María) / Inma
20. Eugenia

**MALE 5**

1. Tomás
2. Víctor
3. Rubén
4. Sergio
5. Nicolás
6. Oscar
7. Pablo
8. Pascual
9. Marcos (also a surname)
10. Ismael
11. Jaime
12. Alfredo
13. Guillermo
14. Gustavo
15. Héctor
16. Eugenio
17. Ángel
18. Esteban
19. Fidel
20. Germán

**FEMALE 5**

1. Eva
2. Felisa
3. Genma
4. Aurora
5. Bárbara
6. Henar (María del) \*
7. Isabel
8. Jacinta \*
9. Lucía
10. Mercedes (María de las)
11. Olvido
12. Paloma
13. Teresa
14. Valle (María del)
15. Yolanda
16. Alejandra
17. Alicia
18. Judit
19. Sonia
20. Soraya
21. Veronica / Vero

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### MALE 6

1. Antonio / Toño / Toñín
2. Constantino / Tino
3. Daniel
4. Aquilino \*
5. Bernardo
6. Casimiro \*
7. Argimiro \*
8. Benjamín
9. César
10. Darío
11. David
12. Ernesto
13. Gonzalo
14. Javier
15. Martín (also a surname)
16. Pedro
17. Ramón
18. Teodoro
19. Virgilio \*
20. Zacarías \*

### SURNAMES 1

1. Moreno
2. Rodríguez
3. Serrano
4. Soto
5. Muñiz
6. Prieto
7. Rivera
8. Muñoz
9. Navarro
10. Pastor
11. Montañés
12. González
13. Casado
14. Ferrán
15. García
16. del Castillo
17. Castro
18. Arribas
19. Cela
20. Cortés

### SURNAMES 2

1. Duque
2. Escudero
3. Fernández
4. Garza
5. Gutiérrez
6. Guzmán
7. Hernández
8. Montoya
9. Pena
10. Robledo
11. de la Torre
12. Villanueva
13. Roldán
14. Ruiz
15. Sánchez
16. Morales
17. Santamaría
18. Bueno
19. Abad
20. Flores

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**SURNAMES 3**

1. Galán
2. Torres
3. Vargas
4. Santos
5. de la Rosa
6. Reyes
7. Navas
8. Cano
9. del Campo
10. Molpeceres
11. Ortega
12. Lara
13. López
14. Martín
15. Garzón
16. Cuervo
17. Delgado
18. Medina
19. Gómez
20. Merino

**SURNAMES 4**

1. Ávila
2. Barragán
3. Díaz
4. Gil
5. Martínez
6. Ortiz
7. Paredes
8. del Río
9. Sanz
10. Vega
11. Gallego
12. Crespo
13. Díez
14. Aguilar
15. Calleja
16. Álvarez
17. Carrión
18. Aragón
19. Ferreiro
20. Domínguez

**SURNAMES 5**

1. Galván
2. Arias
3. Blanco
4. del Arco
5. Arranz
6. Barrios
7. Pérez
8. del Pozo
9. Carbajo
10. Jiménez
11. Lagunar
12. Molinero
13. Beltrán
14. Herrera
15. Izquierdo
16. Mendoza
17. del Bosque
18. Alonso
19. Calvo
20. Segundo