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Language spoken in Mallorca

Spanish language is a global language with 483 million native speakers, mainly in the Americas and Spain, and about 558 million speakers in total, including second-language speakers.

In Mallorca they speak **Spanish** and **Catalan**, and **Mallorquín**, also known as **Mallorcan**, is a **dialect of the Catalan language that is spoken on the island of Mallorca in the Balearic Islands of Spain.**



When Franco was in power in Spain (from 1939 to 1975), he wanted everyone in the country to speak only Spanish. He didn't want people to speak other languages like Catalan, Basque, or Galician, which are also spoken in different parts of Spain.

In Mallorca, many people spoke a kind of Catalan called Mallorquí, but Franco's government tried to stop them from using it. **Catalan was banned from schools, newspapers, government, and even street signs.** People weren't allowed to speak it in public, and some were even punished if they did.

Because of this, many young people only learned Spanish, and Catalan started to be used less and less. Even though it was banned, some families kept speaking Catalan at home, so it didn't disappear completely.

After Franco died, Spain became a democracy again, and people were allowed to speak their own languages. **Now in Mallorca, both Spanish and Catalan are official languages, and schools teach in both.** There are also TV shows, books, and signs in Catalan again. A lot of people are trying to keep the language alive and protect their culture. Like for example in Spanish Hello is Hola, but in Mallorquín they say **Bon dia**, or in Spanish you say Adiós which means Goodbye, but in Mallorquín they say **Adéu**, and in Spanish you say ¡Hace mucho calor! But in Mallorquín they say **Quina calor que fa!**

And there are Mallorquín sayings that they use for example **Sa padrina sempre té raó.** After translation into English its Grandma is always right, it's a joking way of saying don't argue with grandma. In Mallorca, both Spanish and Catalan are really important parts of life. Most people grow up learning both languages and use them every day.

Catalan is part of the island's culture and history, while Spanish connects Mallorca to the rest of Spain and the world. You can see both languages on signs, in schools, on TV, and even in government offices.

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Basic vocabulary:

- **Sí** – Yes
- **No** – No
- **D'acord** – Agreed
- **Bé** – Good
- **Malament** – Bad

- **Moltes gràcies** – Thank you very much
- **Moltes** – Very much
- **Poc** – Little
- **Un poc** – A little
- **De res!** – You're welcome

- **Per favor** – Please
- **Perdó** – Sorry
- **Me sap greu** – I am so sorry

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