

This .pdf accompanies the blog post [Spanish Film for Spanish Students](#). Use it without reference to the post, expect to be badly misled.

Table heading abbreviations:

ID = Intelligible dialogue. My subjective take on how easy it is for a Spanish student to understand what the characters are saying, from "1" for toughest to "5" for easiest.

Subtitles = Does the DVD offer subtitles in Spanish, English or both? I must mark '?' for films seen on RTVE's [Versión Española](#) page, available free to viewers inside Spain, and for films "checked out" with my Madrid library card for online viewing from the 'CineMadrid' link at [madrid.ebiblio.es](#).

CS = Do I think the movie is culturally significant? I might add a check mark for 'yes' because Spaniards regard the film as a classic, or because the film sheds light on an important aspect of Spain history or culture. My subjective, debatable, frequently uninformed opinions.

Table row highlighted in light blue = I liked the movie. Tastes differ. Many of the movies I didn't highlight were well-made and would appeal to others.

Movies in both sections are listed roughly in order of their potential value to language learners. Intelligible dialogue matters most, followed by inclusion on the DVD of subtitles, especially subtitles in Spanish. "Did I like it?" is a factor in the second section, not the first.

TITLE	YEAR	COUNTRY	ID	SUBTITLES	CS	ABOUT/NOTES
Truman	2015	Spain	5	Spanish, English		A Spain expat returns to Madrid to visit an old friend dying of cancer.
Handia	2017	Spain	5	Spanish, English	✓	Historical film on nineteenth century circus performer <i>Giant from Altzo</i> . See note below.
El ciudadano ilustre	2016	Argentina, Spain	5	Spanish		A Nobel Prize winner returns to his home town in rural Argentina.
Crimen Ferpecto	2004	Spain	4	Spanish, English		A handsome, narcissistic salesman is blackmailed into marriage.
100 Metros	2016	Spain	4	Spanish, English		Based on the life of Ramón Arroyo, who ran a triathlon despite multiple sclerosis.
Campeones	2018	Spain	4	Spanish, English		A pro basketball coach trains disabled adults as community service after a DUI arrest.
Camino	2008	Spain	4	Spanish	✓	Based on true story of a teen canonized by her church after death from spinal cancer.
V.O.S.	2009	Spain	4	Spanish, English		Actors play actors playing relationship-entwined Barcelonians in this surrealistic film.
Los Girasoles Ciegos	2008	Spain	4	Spanish, English	✓	A lecherous deacon pursues a young mother hiding her husband from Francoist police.
Lasa y Zabala	2014	Spain	4	Spanish	✓	Kidnapping of Basque separatists by state-sponsored GAL death squad. See note below.
El Día de la Bestia	1995	Spain, Italy	4	Spanish, English		Comedy. A priest plots to kill the antichrist by converting to satanism.
Nuestros Amantes	2016	Spain	5	English		Love story filmed in Zaragoza.
La Comunidad	2000	Spain	4	English		Comedy: a real estate saleswoman stumbles into a fortune and fights to keep it.
El Método	2005	Spain	4	English		Intrigues between seven candidates vying for an executive slot with a multinational.

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La Mano Invisible	2016	Spain	4	English, other		Laid-off workers practice past crafts in a mysterious "human zoo" improvisational theatre.
La Caza	1966	Spain	5	none		Friction between Civil War veterans on a rabbit hunt.
Las Heridas del Viento	2017	Spain	5	?		David seeks out the mysterious gay man who sent love letters to his late father.
Loreak (Flores)	2014	Spain	5	?		Ana receives weekly bouquets from a mysterious admirer. Dubbed from Euskera.
Viridiana	1961	Spain, Mexico	5	none		Moral turmoil of a novice nun after moving onto her wealthy uncle's estate.
Muerte de un Ciclista	1955	Spain	4	none		Lovers deal with moral aftermath of a hit-and-run. Dubbed voice of actress Lucia Bosé.
Calle Mayor	1956	Spain	4	none	✓	A handsome bachelor cruelly baits a naive spinster. Dubbed voice of actress Betsy Blair.
Historias de Lavapiés	2014	Spain	4	?	✓	A teacher's life and trials in Madrid's famed Lavapiés district. Realistic school scenes.
Juana la Loca	2001	Spain, Italy, Portugal	4	none	✓	Historical, based on the tragic life of Queen Joanna of Castile.
¡Ay, Carmela!	1990	Spain	4	none	✓	Trials of a musical troupe during the Spanish civil war.
La Soledad	2007	Spain	4	?		Story of two families and a terrorist attack. Slow-paced, often grim, not for everyone.
23-F	2011	Spain	4	?	✓	Story of the attempted 1981 coup d'état by Spain Civil Guard officers.
En la Ciudad	2003	Spain	4	none		Loves and infidelities of thirty-somethings in turn-of-the-millennium Barcelona.
El Verdugo	1963	Spain, Italy	4	none		An undertaker marries an executioner's daughter and is lured into her father's business.
Calabuch	1956	Spain	4	none		A rocket scientist disappears in a coastal village. Significant dubbing.
Marcelino, Pan y Vino	1955	Spain	4	none	✓	Monks in rural Spain adopt an orphan.
Amanece, Que No Es Poco	1989	Spain	4	none		A comic look at small-town life in Spain.
La Lengua de las Mariposas	1999	Spain	4	none		Coming-of-age story of a boy in Galicia during the Spanish Civil War.
SPECIAL MENTION: (<i>I work in a plug for less-easily-understood movies that I liked, or think are important.</i>)						
Te Doy Mis Ojos	2003	Spain	3	Spanish, English		A young mother contends with her abusive spouse in residential Toledo, Spain.
Mientras Dure la Guerra	2019	Spain	3	Spanish, English	✓	Mostly-accurate history of Unamuno's Civil War travails with Franco's nationalists.
Hombre de las mil Caras	2016	Spain	3	Spanish, English	✓	International espionage highjinx of a Spanish secret agent; based on a true story.
Todo Sobre Mi Madre	1999	Spain	3	Spanish		After the death of her teenage son, Manuela searches Barcelona for his transgender dad.
Superlópez	2018	Spain	3	English		70s Superman parody comes to the silver screen in this family-friendly comedy.
Abre los Ojos	1997	Spain	3	English		Rich, handsome César contends with life after disfigurement in a car crash.
Abracadabra	2017	Spain	3	English		Comedy; a Carabanchel laborer is possessed by the spirit of an urbane psychopath
Ocho Apellidos Vascos	2014	Spain	2	Spanish, English	✓	Comedy; a light-hearted look at Basque nationalism and regional stereotypes.

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Ocho Apellidos Catalanes	2015	Spain	2	Spanish, English	✓	Sequel, this time with a focus on Catalan nationalism.
Mujeres al Borde de un Ataque de Nervios	1988	Spain	2	Spanish		Comedy about the jealousies of Madrileñas enamored of the same man.
Toc Toc	2017	Spain	2	Spanish, English		Comedy: interplay between OCD patients who meet in a psychiatrist's office.
El Reino	2018	Spain	2	English	✓	Thriller: a political operative refuses to be made the fall guy in a purge of his party.
Carmen y Lola	2018	Spain	1	English	✓	Lesbian love story set in gypsy communities of Madrid's <i>suburbios</i> .
Atraco a las Tres	1962	Spain	3	none		Clerks conspire to rob their bank after a favorite manager is dismissed.
Nacida para Ganar	2016	Spain	3	?		Comedy; a Móstoles mattress saleswoman is lured into a USA-style pyramid scheme.
Anacleto, Agente Secreto	2015	Spain	3	?		Comedy; secret agent Anacleto strives to protect his deadbeat son from the evil Vázquez.
El Sur	1983	Spain	3	none		Coming-of-age story of a girl affected by her father's emotional problems in 1940s Spain.
Un Cuento Chino	2011	Argentina	3	?		Argentine comedy. A bitter Falklands war veteran shelters a monolingual Chinese refugee.
Las Distancias	2018	Germany	3	?		Spanish thirty-somethings visit Berlin to surprise an old friend, with unforeseen results.
La Buena Estrella	1997	Spain	2	none		A butcher rescues a homeless woman, contends with her abusive boyfriend.
¡Bienvenido, Mr. Marshall!	1953	Spain	2	none	✓	A small town in Spain dreams of a Marshall Plan windfall in this well-known comedy.
Mar Adentro	2004	Spain, France, Italy	2	none		Based on life of quadriplegic Ramón Sampedro, who fought for the right to euthanasia.
Familia	1996	Spain	2	none		An eccentric recluse celebrates a birthday with actors hired to play family members.
La Herida	2013	Spain	2	?		The day-to-day life of suicidal, self-harming Ana. Not a cheery movie.
Ispani	2011	Spain, Switzerland	2	?	✓	A Francoist single mother falls in love after joining Spain Loyalists fleeing to Russia.
Los Santos Inocentes	1984	Spain	1	none	✓	Tenant farmers suffer at the hands of rich landowners in Franco-era Extremadura.
Barrio	1998	Spain	1	none	✓	The lives of three teenagers in a poor neighborhood in Madrid.
Los Lunes al Sol	2002	Spain	1	none	✓	The lives of unemployed shipyard workers in Vigo, Spain.

Note for *Handia* and *Lasa y Zabala*: The original dialogue is in both Euskera (the Basque language) and Spanish. Viewers who select 'Spanish' on the DVD menu will hear dubbed Spanish in the portions originally in Euskera.