

# SO, YOU'RE HOSTING A STUDENT FROM SPAIN.

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## Thank you for hosting with AYA!

We understand that this is not only a very exciting time for you, but you may also be feeling nervous. Fear not! **Here are some helpful hints to help make your year a successful one.** *(Please note: while this information is mostly typical of a culture, it does not apply to all students. Every personality is different, so keep that in mind!)*

## Please be Aware...

Spain has strong regional identities (Catalonia, Basque Country, Galicia, etc.). Your student may speak a second language at home and feel pride in their region. Respect this diversity — not all Spanish students identify with the same cultural symbols.

Spain is less individualistic than the U.S. Family bonds are very strong, and your student may stay in frequent contact with their parents or siblings. This doesn't mean they're not adjusting — it's just a part of the culture.

## 1 Expressive Communication

Spanish communication tends to be passionate and expressive. It's common for teenagers to speak with emotion and gestures. Speaking loudly doesn't mean they're upset - it's just enthusiasm!

## 2 Friendliness

Spanish teens often form close bonds quickly and may ask personal questions as a way of building connection. They are used to warm social environments where humor, teasing and affectionate nicknames are common - all signs of inclusion.

## 3 Academics

The Spanish education system places strong emphasis on exams and rote learning. Your student may be used to a more formal or rigid academic style and could take time to adapt to American participation-based classrooms.

## 4 Food Habits

Typical Spanish diet includes fresh foods, daily bread, and a light breakfast. Teens may not be used to heavy breakfasts or early dinners. They may skip breakfast, or prefer a late-night snack. Be patient with meal routines.

## 5 Flexible Time

Spanish culture is often more relaxed about punctuality, especially in informal situations. Don't be surprised if your student is less rigid with time. However, for school and official events, timeliness is still expected.