

The history of Spanish

Latin gets everywhere 2/6

Narrator:

The history of Spanish in about 6 minutes. Chapter 2: Latin Gets everywhere or 'Don't be vulgar with me'

There are two main types of Latin – Classical – used in writing, politics and poetry. And Vulgar – which was mainly spoken. Spanish comes from Vulgar Latin. We get 'casa' – from the Vulgar for hut, not the Classical for House. But more on that 'mañana' – which is from 'manaena', meaning at the early hour and not from the Latin 'cras' meaning tomorrow.

As their Empire expanded the Romans arrived at the Peninsula around 200BC – and after a couple of hundred years of war – conquered it. Latin was around for centuries, giving us most of the Spanish lexicon. Even Siesta comes from Latin for Sixth Hour - the hottest time of the day.

But remnants of the old indigenous languages still survived mixing with Latin as it evolved.

From 7th Century, the varieties of Latin spoken on the peninsular were gradually becoming very different from that spoken in other areas. But we have to wait until 1492 to see the first grammar of a Romance Language published, written by humanist Antonio de Nebrija