

I'm not a robot



























up, you are getting in line for something. It's a very straightforward word and is quite common in British English. American English prefers the word "line". Examples of "Queue" used in sentences: As soon as the doors opened, shoppers began to queue for the new phone. Everyone joined the queue to buy tickets. We queued up for popcorn during the movie intermission. Which to Use and When? Deciding whether to use que or queue depends on what you're trying to say. Is it part of a borrowed French or Spanish phrase? Stick with que. If you're talking about a line or getting in line, then queue is your word. Think about the context. If you are referring to a line of people at a concert, what word feels right? You'd use queue, right? What if you're quoting a famous line from a song? You'd likely use que if it's in another language. Why Does This Matter? Knowing which word to use can help you avoid confusion. It also makes your writing clearer and more precise. Isn't it better when people understand exactly what you mean? Sometimes, people mix these words up because they sound similar. But just imagine using the que when you mean a line of people! It would not only confuse those reading or listening, but it can also cause a bit of embarrassment. Final Thoughts The English language is full of words borrowed from other languages, which makes it rich and interesting. There is a right place and time to use each word. Remember, que is generally seen in fixed phrases from other languages, while queue is what you stand in when waiting your turn. By choosing your words wisely, you ensure everyone knows what you're talking about. Next time you are writing or speaking, think about these points. It helps to know you're using the right word in the right place, doesn't it? Unlock the Secrets of English! Subscribe now and transform your language skills with insider tips, tricks, and exclusive content! Have conversations faster, understand people when they speak fast, and other tested tips to learn faster. More info The Spanish word que may appear small and insignificant, but don't be fooled by appearances! If you read or listen to anything in Spanish, we assure you that you will find que or que everywhere. These two words are among the fundamental Spanish terms that every speaker needs to understand clearly! Qué and que are homonyms, meaning that they're pronounced exactly the same way. It's vital to recognize the difference between que v qué, however, depending on whether the final e takes an accent mark called a tilde. In past posts, we've explored other Spanish homonyms whose main difference comes down to an accent, including por que vs porque, cuanto vs cuánto, donde vs dónde and como vs cómo. Today's post will be devoted to seeing in detail how que and qué work, and in which situations we should use each one. Que and Qué: Meanings The Spanish que without an accent mark may be translated as that, what, which, or who. It can act as a relative pronoun, a subordinating conjunction, and in comparisons. We will look at each of these uses in the following sections. The other word we're looking at is qué in Spanish, with the tilde. Qué mainly functions as an interrogative pronoun, and can be translated as what or how. We'll get into these uses further down in this post. Once we've finished with que, Recommended: How to Learn Spanish Fast in 2025 Que in Spanish Let's first go through the various uses of the unaccented word que in Spanish. Que as a relative pronoun Relative pronouns are used to link two or more ideas that could otherwise be expressed in two different sentences. We explain these in detail in our post on Spanish relative pronouns. As a relative pronoun, que in Spanish may be translated as that, who, whom, or which. It's invariable, so there's no need to match the gender or number of the noun it refers to. My teacher asked me about the book that I read - Mi profesora me preguntó sobre el libro que leí. Did you see the flowers that were falling from the trees. - Has visto las flores que caían de los árboles. I like the table [that] we bought yesterday. - Me gusta la mesa que compramos ayer. They are the firemen [who] they hired last year. - Ellos son los bomberos que contrataron el año pasado. I forgot the restaurant in which we had dinner. - Yo olvidé el restaurante en el que cenamos. Note that in English the relative pronouns can often be omitted, whereas in Spanish the que is obligatory. Que as a subordinating conjunction Que is used to introduce subordinate clauses in a similar way to the English conjunction that in sentences like "He said that it's true." Unlike its French counterpart, que in English, however, cannot be omitted, just like we saw with que as a relative pronoun. My sister says [that] she's not coming today. - Mi hermana dice que no va a venir hoy. The kids know [that] their dad is happy. - Los niños saben que su papá está feliz. It was so much fun that I couldn't stop laughing. - Fue tan divertido que no pude dejar de reír. It seems like it's going to snow. - Parece que va a nevar. Que in comparisons Que is an essential component in phrases where we make comparisons. This use of que in English is translated as than. When we compare things, animals, or people in this way, we normally use the following structures: más / menos + adjective + que más / menos + adverb + que Sometimes you use direct translations of más and menos in English, as more and less, though in most instances you use superlatives. For more detail, check out our full post on comparisons in Spanish. My brother is taller than me. - Mi hermano es más alto que yo. My mom says that boys are less intelligent than girls. - Mi madre dice que los niños son menos inteligentes que las niñas. He sold more books in February than in March. - Vendí más libros en febrero que en marzo. The teacher speaks faster than the student. - El profesor habla más rápido que el estudiante. Now that we've covered the different uses of que, let's move on to the second word in our comparison of que v qué in Spanish. Qué in Spanish Qué in Spanish, with a tilde, means what? or what sort of?. We can use it in both direct questions and indirect interrogative statements. In addition, qué in Spanish can also be used as an interjection in exclamative sentences. Let's now look at each qué meaning in turn. Qué in questions meaning What Whenever we need to ask about something where we're looking for a definition, a description, or to find out some information, we use qué in Spanish just like you use what in English. What is love? - ¿Qué es el amor? What will happen tomorrow? - ¿Qué sucederá mañana? What do you mean by that? - ¿Qué quieres decir con eso? What time is it? - ¿Qué hora es? Qué is just one of the Spanish question words. For the rest of them, along with a deeper exploration of how to pose questions in Spanish, check out our dedicated post on the Spanish interrogatives. Qué in indirect interrogative statements Interrogative statements are affirmative statements that express interrogation or ignorance. We use qué in these indirect questions, which usually also translates into English as what. He didn't know what to ask you. - No supo qué preguntarte. I asked him what movie he watched. - Le pregunté qué película vio. I don't know what you want for dinner. - No sé qué quieres de cenar. We never knew what they really needed. - Nunca supimos qué necesitaban de verdad. Qué in exclamative sentences Exclamative sentences in Spanish are used to express emotions or feelings. We use qué in such exclamations to emphasize adjectives or adverbs. This use of qué a great option whenever you need to praise someone's beauty or express amazement. Note that the English translations with this use may vary, as long as they still express the emphasis we intend. What a lovely day! - ¡Qué día tan hermoso! Gosh, it's late! - ¡Qué tarde se ha hecho! They really dance well! - ¡Qué bien bailan! What a beautiful landscape! - ¡Qué belleza de paisaje! For a deeper look at phrases like these, take a look at our dedicated post on Spanish exclamations and interjections. We can also recommend our post on Spanish compliments, which frequently take advantage of this same construction. Qué in some idiomatic expressions Idiomatic expressions are a vital part of any language. Spanish qué appears in many expressions that are used in common situations. In this section we list some of the idiomatic expressions with qué that are used by native speakers. English expression Spanish expression How are you? ¿Qué tal estás? What's Juan like as a father? ¿Qué tal es Juan como padre? What do you think of it? ¿Qué te parece? What on earth are you doing that for? ¿A santo de qué haces eso? What do I care? So what? ¿A mí qué?, ¿Y qué? Pardon? ¿Qué? What's the point of that comment? ¿A qué viene ese comentario? What's that all about? ¿De qué va la cosa? What about the books that I lent you? ¿Y qué de los libros que te presté? Conclusion: Que v qué ¿Qué tal? At this point in our lesson, we're sure that you've come to understand the importance of que and que in Spanish. What's more, now you know how to differentiate between que v qué in Spanish, so you're ready to express yourself like a pro! In a nutshell, que in Spanish may function as a relative pronoun, as a subordinating conjunction, and as part of a comparative structure in Spanish. On the other hand, qué in Spanish is normally used in questions, interrogative statements, and exclamative sentences, while also appearing in a number of common idiomatic expressions. To see how well you've grasped the differences between que v que, why not put your knowledge to the test with the following exercises? Exercises Based on the context of each sentence, choose que or qué accordingly. Answers and translations are below. 1. No sé que / qué hora es. 2. La película que / que vimos se llama "La sociedad de la nieve." 3. ¿Qué / Que significa "ubícutu"? 4. La nieve es más fría que / qué la lluvia. 5. ¿Que / Qué te pareció el libro? 6. Los críticos dicen que / que este es el mejor libro del año. 7. No sabemos que / que hay en la caja. Answers 1. No sé que hora es. - I don't know what the time is. 2. La película que vimos se llama "La sociedad de la nieve." - The name of the movie [that] we watched is "The Society of the Snow." 3. ¿Qué significa "ubícutu"? - What's the meaning of "ubícutous"? 4. La nieve es más fría que la lluvia. - The snow is colder than the rain. 5. ¿Qué te pareció el libro? - What do you think of the book? 6. Los críticos dicen que este es el mejor libro del año. - Critics say that this is the best book of the year. 7. No sabemos qué hay en la caja. - We don't know what is in the box. Que or queue? For English language learners, encountering some words always leaves them perplexed. Sometimes it is caused by an absurd pronunciation or spelling. Sometimes, like in the case of que and queue, it's both. Let's straighten out the differences and similarities between those two! Que or queue - what's the difference? The distinction between que and queue is that only one of them exists in the English language. Although que seems less strange, it is the word queue as an entry in English dictionaries. The French origin of the term is why its spelling and pronunciation /kju:/ leave much to be desired. This word appears odd because the spelling has not been changed so that it would properly match the pronunciation in English. Queue - what does it mean? The word queue has its place among both nouns and verbs. As a noun, it is a synonym for the American line, which refers to the people or things standing one behind another, waiting for something. It might also be a list of things a machine or a person has to do. To queue or to line up means to wait in line, wish to do something, or arrange some data to be taken care of. Que or queue - now it's all clear! Examples of queue in sentences Though a string of withdrawals had thrown surprise opportunities the way of those above him in the queue, the TV screen looked set to be the closest Daly would get to Crooked Stick that week. Jack Bantock, Cable News Network A pair of contradictory federal court rulings Friday over the abortion pill mifepristone will almost certainly queue the issue up for the Supreme Court (...). The first was the sheer size of the queuing crowds. Some speculated it was the largest funeral crowd ever. Stephen Reichler, The Guardian 1. Que (pronoun): A word used in various languages, including Spanish, French, and Portuguese, as a relative pronoun meaning "that," "which," or "who." 2. Que (noun): A word that can represent a line or sequence of people or items waiting for their turn, often shortened from "queue" in English. 3. Que (interjection): An expression of disbelief, confusion, or inquiry, similar to "What?" in English, particularly in Spanish. The term "que" is multifaceted, appearing in various languages and contexts. It is an essential component of communication in languages like Spanish and French, serving as a pronoun, conjunction, or interjection. In English, "que" may refer to a line of waiting individuals or objects. Its versatility and ubiquity make it a fascinating subject for deeper exploration. "Que" Definition: What Does "Que" Mean? The word "que" is widely used across different languages, each with unique meanings and applications. Below, we delve into its definitions and contexts. Definition of "Que": Pronoun in Spanish and French In Spanish and French, "que" functions as a relative pronoun meaning "that," "which," or "who." This use is integral to forming complex sentences and linking clauses smoothly. Definition of "Que": Line or Sequence As a noun, "que" is a variation of "queue," referring to a line or sequence of people or items waiting. This usage is informal but common in English. Definition of "Que": Expression of Inquiry In conversational Spanish, "que" is often used as an interjection expressing confusion or surprise, translating to "What?" in English. Parts of Speech The word "que" operates as a pronoun, conjunction, and interjection in languages like Spanish and French. It connects clauses, questions, or exclamations, making it versatile in grammar. Its usage as a noun in English, meaning a line, is less common and often informal. How to Pronounce "Que"? Pronunciation varies depending on the language and context in which "que" is used. Below is an explanation for common usages: In Spanish and French, "que" is pronounced as /keh/, with a short and crisp vowel sound similar to "k" in "kettle." In English, when referring to a "queue," it is pronounced as /kyoo/, rhyming with "view." Phonetic Pronunciation: Spanish/French: /keh/ Synonyms of "Que": Other Ways to Say "Que" Synonyms help enhance understanding and usage flexibility. Here are several alternatives: That (English) Who (English) Who (English) Line (for "queue") What (for "que" as an interjection) Antonyms of "Que": Other Ways to Say "Que" Antonyms provide contrasting meanings. For "que," these may include: Not that Not who Not which Disorganized (opposite of a queue) Silence (opposite of an interjection like "que?") Examples of "Que" in a Sentence To better understand its usage, here are ten sentences featuring "que": My abuela always says, "¡Que calor!" when the weather is hot. (Meaning: How hot!) He asked, "¿Que pasa?" when he saw the commotion. (Meaning: What's happening?) She exclaimed, "¡Que linda!" when she saw the baby. (Meaning: How pretty!) They wondered, "¿Que hora es?" because they were late for the movie. (Meaning: What time is it?) I told him, "Que tengas un buen día," as he left for work. (Meaning: Have a good day.) Note: This is a shortened form of "Te deseo que tengas..." The server asked, "¿Que desea usted?" when taking our order. (Meaning: What do you want/wish?) She replied, "Que me traiga la cuenta, por favor." (Meaning: That you bring me the bill, please.) Note: "Que" introduces the subordinate clause expressing her desire. He said something like, "Que lastima," when he heard the bad news. (Meaning: What a pity/shame.) The children shouted, "¡Que divertido!" while playing in the park. (Meaning: How fun!) I thought to myself, "Que interesante..." during the lecture. (Meaning: How interesting...) Frequency of Use The frequency of "que" varies significantly by language. In Spanish and French, it is one of the most commonly used words, appearing in nearly every sentence. In English, as a variant of "queue," it is far less frequent but remains recognizable in casual contexts. Variants of "Que" "Que" has several variations, depending on the language or context. Qué (Spanish): Used as "what" in interrogative sentences. Queue (English): Refers to a line or sequence. Queer (English): In some contexts, shortened to "que" informally. Related Terms to "Que" Exploring related terms can expand understanding. Quebec (Place name) Queuing (The act of forming a line) Qu'est-ce que (French phrase meaning "What is it?") Etymology: History and Origins of "Que" The word "que" originates from Latin, where it means "and" or "that." Its evolution into Romance languages such as Spanish and French has given it a central role in grammar. The English use of "que" as a line derives from the Old French word cue, meaning tail, eventually evolving into the modern "queue." Derivatives and Compounds of "Que" Here are key derivatives and compounds: Queuing: The act of forming a line or sequence. Qu'est-ce que: A French phrase meaning "What is it?" Question: Derived from the root word "que." Common Misspellings of "Que" Common errors in spelling can arise due to pronunciation or lack of familiarity: 10 Idioms Similar to "Que" Here are idioms that express related concepts: What's up? Que sera, sera (What will be, will be) In line Hold the line At the end of the line Get in the queue Quee up What's the story? Out of the queue All in a line 10 Common Questions About "Que" 1. What does "que" mean in Spanish? It means "that," "which," or "who" as a relative pronoun, and "what" as an interjection. 2. How do you pronounce "que" in French? It is pronounced /keh/ with a short vowel sound. 3. What is the English equivalent of "que" in a line? In English, "queue" is often a variant spelling of "queue." 4. Is "que" used in English grammar? No, "que" is not used in standard English grammar but may appear in informal contexts. 5. How is "que" used in French phrases? In French, "que" is integral to expressions like "Qu'est-ce que," meaning "What is it." 6. Does "que" have multiple pronunciations? Yes, it varies by language and context, such as /keh/ in Romance languages and /kyoo/ in English. 7. Can "que" mean "why" in any language? In certain contexts, "que" can imply "why" when combined with other words, as in Spanish "¿Por qué?" 8. What role does "que" play in sentence structure? It connects clauses as a relative pronoun in languages like Spanish and French. 9. Is "que" used in mathematics? No, "que" does not have a specific mathematical use, unlike words like "difference." 10. What are common phrases featuring "que"? Examples include "Que sera, sera" (What will be, will be) and "Qu'est-ce que" (What is it?). Conclusion The word "que" is a dynamic term with applications in multiple languages and contexts, from grammar to casual conversation. Understanding its usage enriches communication skills and cultural knowledge. Explore further definitions and contexts to deepen your appreciation of language. It's a question almost as old as time itself—is it que or queue? Or maybe it's cue. The good news is that all three options are real words. The bad news is that they're not interchangeable and you need to know the difference. In fact, one of them only works if you're speaking Spanish.If you're looking to use a queue management system in your stores, the first thing to know is whether you're spelling queue correctly. You don't want to fall at the first hurdle because of a lousy misspelling. So, without further ado, let's clear a few things up.Queue vs QueueWhether you should use the spelling queue or que ultimately depends on the context. For instance, if you're trying to talk about people waiting in line, the word is queue. ("Louise waited in a virtual queue to speak to a fashion expert").The word queue originates from the Old French word cue, coe or queue, translating as "tail". It's easy to see how we reached the phrase "queueing in line" then, although "queueing in tail" would admittedly have been more fun.Qué, however, is the Spanish word for "what". Que is also an abbreviation for Quebec. That said, these likely aren't the words you're looking for unless you're trying to showcase your world knowledge. Que is a homophone, meaning that it's a word that sounds like many other words, even though the spelling is different.How do you spell "queue"?By now, you likely already know how to spell queue (q-u-e-u-e) when you're describing a line of people waiting in line. However, things can get complicated again if you're trying to use the -ing suffix.For example, you may be understandably tempted to write something like, "I've been queueing at the bank for a long time". Fortunately, this isn't wrong per se—it's just the British English way of spelling the word.If you want to use the traditionally American spelling, it's queuing.Cue vs queueAnother common point of confusion is the difference between cue and queue. To be clear, although they sound the same, they have entirely different meanings. Essentially, a cue is usually a signal to do something. For example, you might give a friend a cue or a look to discreetly and wordlessly tell them to stop speaking.Bottom line, cue and queue aren't interchangeable words either.Recaping the que vs queue vs cue debacleAdmittedly, that's a lot of queuing for one day so to wrap things up, we'll leave you with this roundup.QueueA line of people waiting for service."The shopping assistant asked everyone to queue up near the counter."QueAn abbreviation for Quebec or the Spanish for "what"?CueA signal to do something."Miranda shot David a look. He took his cue to leave."Learn about Queue Management Software toolsNow you know how to use queue or que in a sentence, why not take it to the next level and find out more about Queue Management Systems.You can also check out the best Virtual Queue Management apps below: What's the difference between qué and que? When should I put the accent on ? - those are one of the most frequently asked questions I have been hearing for many years now. Indeed, Spanish accents, especially those that don't change word spelling, tend to be quite confusing. Fortunately, there is a solution for every problem ! Below you will find a short and clear explanation of different meaning of the Spanish word que. Que and qué - a small accent makes a big difference QUE Means that or is used in some sentences in form of wishes that require a use of the subjunctive mode. Let's take a quick look at some examples : Elena dice que no quiere comer carne - Elena says that she doesn't want to eat meat. ¡Que tengas un día estupendo! ! - I wish you spend a fantastic day It's hard to translate literally this Spanish construction into English. This is why, instead of concentratingyourself on the English translation, try to remember that when you wish that something happens to another person, you should use the form que + verb in subjunctive mode. Que can be also a shortcut for "porque", especially in spoken and informal language. It expresses the cause. Me voy que tengo que hacer muchas cosas - I'm leaving cause I've got a lot of things to do. Need more examples ? Here you go ! ¡Que descanses! ! - Sleep well ¡Que aproveche! ! - Enjoy your meal ¡Ojo! sometimes, especially in social media or different kind of forums, you can see phrases like ¡Que aproveche! ! Even written by Spanish native speakers they are still incorrect. Social media can be a good way to improve your Spanish but you should never trust them at 100 % And just because someone is a native speaker doesn't mean he never commits any error, especially while writing fast. QUE Means what, sometimes how, everything depend on a sentence and his context. Given that in the majority of cases it's used as interjection of is a part of a question, you should put an accent on it. Let's see how it works in practice : ¡Qué mono! ! - How cute ¡Qué sorpresa! ! - What a surprise ¡Qué guapa estás hoy! !- the literal translation would be "How beautiful you look today!" even if "qué" doesn't really mean "how". ¿Qué tienes en la mano ? - What do you have in your hand ? ¿Qué tal ? - What's up ? Can we use qué and que in one sentence ? Of course we can ! We can even build a little dialogue ! Paco: ¡Yoi! ! ¡Qué sorpresa! ! ¿Qué haces tú por aquí ? Yoli: ¡Hola ! Paco! Pues aquí paseando con mi hijo Paco: ¡Uy! ! ¡Qué mono ! Y tú ¡qué guapa también! ! Yoli: Gracias, eres muy amable. ¿Y tú ? ¿Qué tal todo ? Paco: Bien, he ido a hacer la compra ahora que hoy trabajo de noche. Yoli: ¿Qué tienes en la bolsa ? ¿Qué es eso ? ¿Salchichas de tofo ? ¿Te has vuelto vegetariano ? ¡Qué fuerte, tío! ! Paco: Sí y están muy ricas ... Yoli: ¡Qué dices! ! Paco: ¡Pues digo que están muy ricas ... Yoli: ¡Qué dices! ! ¿Cómo andas ? Me voy a dormir - ¡Que descanses! ! ¿Qué quieres decir? ! No entiendo nada. ¿Qué haces tú aquí a estas horas ? ¿Sabes que? Que me voy y no vuelvo Isabel dice que Miguel tiene 18 años, pero yo creo que se equivoca. Concha quiere se lo expliques ahora. Señor López ¿qué hace? Aquí no se puede aparcar. ¿Sabes que me han dado una beca para estudiar en Londres? - ¡Que guay! ! ¡Enhorabuena! ! Sé que has trabajado muy duro para obtenerla. Did you know ? Que and qué are not the only words that have accent free and accent version. Check also the difference between si and sí as well as the difference between tú and tu. ¡Que vaya bien! ! ¡ que aproveche! ! - are one the most useful expressions when you start studying Spanish. If you want to discover more Spanish expressions for beginners, take a look at the article How to say ok in Spanish - popular Spanish expressions for beginners. If you're a beginner, you might also like the article How to say goodbye in Spanish.