

I'm not a bot



Whats the difference between qu 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 dont 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 qu a small accent makes a big difference!QUEMeans that or is used in some sentences in form of wishes that require a use of the subjunctive mode. Lets take a quick look at some examples:Elena dice que no quiere comer carne Elena says that she doesnt want to eat meat.Que tengas un da estupendo! - I wish you spend a fantastic dayIts 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 Im leaving cause Ive got a lot of things to do.Need more examples? Here you go!Que descanses! - Sleep wellQue aproveche! - Enjoy your meal!Ojo! sometimes, especially in social media or different kind of forums, you can see phrases like Qu 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 doesnt mean he never commits any error, especially while writing fast.QUMeans what, sometimes how, everything depend on a sentence and his context. Given that in the majority of cases its used as interjection of is a part of a question, you should put an accent on it.Lets see how it works in practice:Qu mono! - How cute!Qu sorpresa! - What a surprise!Qu guapa ests hoy!- the literal translation would be "How beautiful you look today!" even if "qu" doesn't really mean "how".Qu tienes en la mano? - What do you have in your hand?Qu tal? - Whats up?Can we use qu and que in one sentence?Of course we can! We can even build a little dialogue!Paco: Yoli! Qu sorpresa! Qu haces t por aqu?Yoli: Hola Paco! Pues aqu pasando con mi hijoPaco: Uy! Qu mono! Y t qu guapa tmbin!Yoli: Gracias, eres muy amable, Y tQu tal todo?Paco: Bien, he ido a hacer la compra ahora que hoy trabajo de noche.Yoli: Qu tienes en la bolsa? Qu es eso? Salchichas de tofu? Te has vuelto vegetariano? Qu fuerte, to!Paco: S y estn muy ricas!Yoli: Qu dices! Paco: Pues digo que estn muy ricas! De hecho me voy a comer una ahora. Quieres un poco?Yoli: No, gracias. Que aproveche!Paco: Bueno, pues me voy que luego no me da tiempo de hacerlo todo, ya hablamos entonces, adis! que vaya bien!Difference between que and qu in Spanish - Exercises1. Fill the gaps with que or qu:Sabas Paula haba dejado su trabajo la semana pasada? - dices! tal? Cmo andas?Me voy a dormir - descanses!..... quieres decir? No entiendo nada..... haces t aqu a estas horas?Sabes? me voy y no vuelvo!Sabel dice Miguel tiene 18 aos, pero yo creo se equivoca.Concha quiere se lo explique ahora.Seor Lpez qu hace? Agu no se puede aparcar.Sabes me han dado una beca para estudiar en Londres? - guay! Enhora!buenal S has trabajado muy duro para obtenerla. Difference between que and qu in Spanish - Exercises - Answer keySabas que Paula haba dejado su trabajo la semana pasada? - Qu dices! Qu tal? Cmo andas?Me voy a dormir - Que descanses!Qu quieres decir? No entiendo nada.Qu haces t aqu a estas horas?Sabes qu? Que me voy y no vuelvo!Sabel dice que Miguel tiene 18 aos, pero yo creo que se lo equivoca.Concha quiere que se lo explique ahora.Seor Lpez qu hace? Agu no se puede aparcar.Sabes que me han dado una beca para estudiar en Londres? - Qu guay! Enhora!buenal S que has trabajado muy duro para obtenerla.Qu quieres muy duro para obtenerla. Did you know?Que and qu are not the only words that have accent free and accent version. Check also the difference between si and s as well as the difference between t 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 youre a beginner, you might also like the article How to say goodbye in Spanish. Its a question almost as old as time itselfs it que or queue? Or maybe its cue. The good news is that all three options are real words. The bad news is that theyre not interchangeable and you need to know the difference. In fact, one of them only works if youre speaking Spanish.If youre looking to use a queue management system in your stores, the first thing to know is whether youre spelling queue correctly. You dont want to fall at the first hurdle because of a lousy misspelling. So, without further ado, lets clear a few things up.Que vs QueueWhether you should use the spelling queue or que ultimately depends on the context. For instance, if youre 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. Its easy to see how we reached the phrase queueing in line then, although queueing in tail would admittedly have been more fun.Qu, however, is the Spanish word for what. Que is also an abbreviation for Quebec. That said, these likely arent the words youre looking for unless youre trying to showcase your world knowledge. Que is a homophone, meaning that its 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 youre describing a line of people waiting in line. However, things can get complicated again if youre trying to use the -ing suffix.For example, you may be understandably tempted to write something like, Ive been queueing at the bank for a long time. Fortunately, this isnt wrong per seIts just the British English way of spelling the word.If you want to use the traditionally American spelling, its queueing.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 look to something and wordlessly tell them to stop speaking.Bottom line, cue and queue arent interchangeable words either.Recapping the que vs queue vs cue debate!Admittedly, thats a lot of queueing for one day so to wrap things up, well 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, but you might 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:Spanish to EnglishPossible Results:See the entry forque.RelATED ARTICLESSpanish Exclamatory Words and Expressions With over 10 years of experience, HSA is where your goals merge with our teachers passion: to improve your Spanish fluency. Custom-tailored to fit your needs, you choose your program, schedule, favorite teachers, pace of learning, and more..Learn More Have conversations faster, understand people when they speak fast, and other tested tips to learn faster. More info The Spanish word quemay appear small and insignificant, but it does not be fooled by appearances! If you read or listen to anything in Spanish, we assure you that you will find queer queuereverywhere. These two words are among the fundamental Spanish terms that every speaker needs to understand clearly!Quand queare homonyms, meaning that theyre pronounced exactly the same way. Its vital to recognize the difference between quev qu, however, depending on whether the final -etakes an accent mark called a tilde.In past posts, weve explored other Spanish homonyms whose main difference comes down to an accent, including por que vs porqu, cuantos cunto, donde vs dndeand as v cmo. Todays post will be devoted to seeing in detail how queand quwork, and in which situations we should use each one.Que and Qu: MeaningsThe Spanish quewithout 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 were looking at is quin Spanish, with thetilde. Qumainly functions as an interrogative pronoun, and can be translated as whator how. Well get into these uses further down in this post once weve finished with que.Recommended: How to Learn Spanish Fast in 2025Que in SpanishLets first go through the various uses of the unaccented word quein Spanish.Que as a relative pronounRelative 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, quein Spanish may be translated as that,who, whom, or which. Its invariable, so theres no need to match the gender or number of the noun it refers to.My teacher asked me about the book thatI read Mi profesora me preguntó sobre el libro quele.Did you see the flowers thatwere falling from the trees. Ha visto las flores quecaen de los rboles.I like the table [that]we bought yesterday. Me gusta la mesa quecompramos ayer.They are the firemen [who] they hired last year. Ellos son los bomberos quecontrataron el ao pasado.I forgot the restaurant in whichwe had dinner. Yo olvidé el restaurante en el quecenamos.Note that in English the relative pronouns can often be omitted, whereas in Spanish the queis obligatory. Que as a subordinating conjunctionQueis used to introduce subordinate clauses in a similar way to the English conjunction thatin sentences like He said thatits true.Unlike is often the case with thatin English, however, quecannot be omitted, just like we saw with queas a relative pronoun.My sister says [that]shes not coming today. Mi hermana dice quenó va a venir hoy.The kids know [that]their dad is happy. Los nios saben queun pap es feliz.It was so much fun thatI couldnt stop laughing. Fue tan divertido que no pude dejar de rer.It seems likets going to snow. Parece que va a nevar.Que in comparisonsQueis an essential component in phrases where we make comparisons. This use ofquein English is translated as than.When we compare things, animals, or people in this way, we normally use the following structures:ms / menos + adjective + quems / menos + queSometimes you use direct translations of msand menosin English, as moreand less, though in most instances you use superlatives. For more detail, check out our full post on comparisons in Spanish.My brother is taller thanme. Mi hermano es ms alto queyo.My mom says that boys are less intelligent thangirls. Mi madre dice que los nios son menos inteligentes que las nias.He sold more books in February thanin March. Vendí más libros en febrero queen marzo.The teacher speaks faster thanthe student. El profesor habla más rápido queel estudiante.Now that weve covered the different uses of que, lets move on to the second word in our comparison of que v quin Spanish.Qu in SpanishQuin Spanish, with a tilde, means what?or What sort of? We can use it in both direct questions and indirect interrogative statements.In addition, quin Spanish can also be used as an interjection in exclamative sentences.Lets now look at each quemeaning in turn.Qu in questions meaning WhatWhenever we need to ask about something where were looking for a definition, a description, or to find out some information, we use quin Spanish just like you use whatin English.What is love? Qu es el amor?What will happen tomorrow? Qusuceder maana?Whatdo you mean by that? Ququieres decir con eso?Whattime is it? Quhora es?Qu 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.Qu in indirect interrogative statementsInterrogative statements are affirmative statements that express interrogation or ignorance. We use quin these indirect questions, which usually also translates into English as what.He didnt know whatto ask you. No supo preguntarte.I asked him what movie he watched. Le pregunté qué película vio.I dont know whatyou want for dinner. No sé qué quieres de cenar.We never knew whatthey really needed. Nunca supimos queecesitaban de verdad.Qu in exclamative sentencesExclamative sentences in Spanish are used to express emotions or feelings. We use quin such exclamations to emphasize adjectives or adverbs. This use of qu a great option whenever you need to praise someones 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! Qu datan hermosos!Gosh, its late! Qué tarde se ha hecho!They really dance well! Qué bien bailan!What a beautifulandscape! Qu bellazade 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.Qu in some idiomatic expressionsIdomatic expressionsare a vital part of any language. Spanish queappears in many expressions that are used in common situations. In this section we list some of the idiomatic expressions with quthat are used by native speakers.English expressionSpanish expressionHow are you?Qu taley?Whats Juan like as a father?Qu tal es Juan como padre?What do you think of it?Qu te parece?What on earth are you doing that for?A santo de qu haces eso?What do I care??. So what?A m qu?. Y qu?Pardon?Qu?Whats the point of that comment?A qu viene ese comentario? Whats that all about?De qu va la cosa?What about the books that I lent you?Y qu de los libros que te presté?Conclusion: Que v quQu tal? At this point in our lesson, were sure that youve come to understand the importance of queand quin Spanish. Whats more, you now know how to differentiate betweenque v quin Spanish, so youre ready to express yourself like a pro!In a nutshell, quein Spanish may function as a relative pronoun, as a subordinating conjunction, and as part of a comparative structure in Spanish. On the other hand, quin 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 youve grasped the differences between qu v que, why not put your knowledge to the test with the following exercises?ExercisesBased on the context of each sentence, choose queer quaccordingly. Answers and translations are below.1. No s que / quhora es.2. La película que / quimos se llama La sociedad de la nieve.3. Qu / Quesignifica ubicuo?4. La nieve es ms frage / qula lluvia.5. Que / Quite parecí el libro?6. Los críticos dicen qu / queeste es el mejor libro del ao.7. No sabemos que / quhay en la caja.Answers1. No sé que hora es. I dont know whattbe 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 ubicuo? Whats the meaning of ubiquitous?4. La nieve es más fría que la lluvia. The snow is colder thanthe rain.5. Quite parecí el libro? What do you think of the book?6. Los críticos dicen queeste es el mejor libro del ao. Critics say thatthis is the best book of the year.7. No sabemos qué hay en la caja. We dont know whatis in the box. When we come across the words que and queue, you might wonder if they mean the same thing or if they are used in different contexts. Lets find out how these two words work in English.Que and queue are often confused, but they have different meanings and uses. Que is not a recognized English word; it's a common misspelling of queue. Queue refers to a line of people or things waiting their turn. For example, There was a long queue at the movie theater.Its important to use queue correctly in sentences. Saying I joined the que at the bank is incorrect. Instead, you should say, I joined the queue at the bank. This correct usage shows you know how to properly describe waiting in line, which is essential in everyday English.Understanding QueThe word que can be confusing because its not an English word. Its actually borrowed from French and Spanish. In both languages, que means that or what.So how does this fit into English conversations or texts? Youll mostly see que used in borrowed phrases from French or Spanish, such as que ser, ser (whatever will be, will be). Its not a standalone English word and is not used in English sentences other than within these phrases.Examples of Que in borrowed phrases: Que sera, sera This phrase means what will be, will be. Caf que cest bon This is a mix of French and English meaning Caf that is good.Understanding QueueOn the other hand, queue is a full-fledged English word originating from French, but its use has been fully adapted into English. It means a line of people or things waiting their turn. For example, you might stand in a queue at the supermarket.This word can also be used as a verb. When you queue up, you are getting in line for something. Its 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 youre trying to say. Is it part of a borrowed French or Spanish phrase? Stick with que. If youre 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? Youd use queue, right? What if youre quoting a famous line from a song? Youd likely use que if its 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 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 ThoughtsThe 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 youre talking about. Next time you are writing or speaking, think about these points. It helps to know youre using the right word in the right place, doesnt it? Unlock the Secrets of English! Subscribe now and transform your language skills with insider tips, tricks, and exclusive content! 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, its both. Lets straighten out the differences and similarities between those two! Que or queue whats the difference? The distinction between que and queue is that que 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 /kjʊ/ 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. The other word were looking at is quin Spanish, with thetilde. Qumainly functions as an interrogative pronoun, and can be translated as whator how. Well get into these uses further down in this post once weve finished with que.Recommended: How to Learn Spanish Fast in 2025Que in SpanishLets first go through the various uses of the unaccented word quein Spanish.Que as a relative pronounRelative 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, quein Spanish may be translated as that,who, whom, or which. Its invariable, so theres no need to match the gender or number of the noun it refers to.My teacher asked me about the book thatI read Mi profesora me preguntó sobre el libro quele.Did you see the flowers thatwere falling from the trees. Ha visto las flores quecaen de los rboles.I like the table [that]we bought yesterday. Me gusta la mesa quecompramos ayer.They are the firemen [who] they hired last year. Ellos son los bomberos quecontrataron el ao pasado.I forgot the restaurant in whichwe had dinner. Yo olvidé el restaurante en el quecenamos.Note that in English the relative pronouns can often be omitted, whereas in Spanish the queis obligatory. Que as a subordinating conjunctionQueis used to introduce subordinate clauses in a similar way to the English conjunction thatin sentences like He said thatits true.Unlike is often the case with thatin English, however, quecannot be omitted, just like we saw with queas a relative pronoun.My sister says [that]shes not coming today. Mi hermana dice quenó va a venir hoy.The kids know [that]their dad is happy. Los nios saben queun pap es feliz.It was so much fun thatI couldnt stop laughing. Fue tan divertido que no pude dejar de rer.It seems likets going to snow. Parece que va a nevar.Que in comparisonsQueis an essential component in phrases where we make comparisons. This use ofquein English is translated as than.When we compare things, animals, or people in this way, we normally use the following structures:ms / menos + adjective + quems / menos + queSometimes you use direct translations of msand menosin English, as moreand less, though in most instances you use superlatives. For more detail, check out our full post on comparisons in Spanish.My brother is taller thanme. Mi hermano es ms alto queyo.My mom says that boys are less intelligent thangirls. Mi madre dice que los nios son menos inteligentes que las nias.He sold more books in February thanin March. Vendí más libros en febrero queen marzo.The teacher speaks faster thanthe student. El profesor habla más rápido queel estudiante.Now that weve covered the different uses of que, lets move on to the second word in our comparison of que v quin Spanish.Qu in SpanishQuin Spanish, with a tilde, means what?or What sort of? We can use it in both direct questions and indirect interrogative statements.In addition, quin Spanish can also be used as an interjection in exclamative sentences.Lets now look at each quemeaning in turn.Qu in questions meaning WhatWhenever we need to ask about something where were looking for a definition, a description, or to find out some information, we use quin Spanish just like you use whatin English.What is love? Qu es el amor?What will happen tomorrow? Qusuceder maana?Whatdo you mean by that? Ququieres decir con eso?Whattime is it? Quhora es?Qu 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.Qu in indirect interrogative statementsInterrogative statements are affirmative statements that express interrogation or ignorance. We use quin these indirect questions, which usually also translates into English as what.He didnt know whatto ask you. No supo preguntarte.I asked him what movie he watched. Le pregunté qué película vio.I dont know whatyou want for dinner. No sé qué quieres de cenar.We never knew whatthey really needed. Nunca supimos queecesitaban de verdad.Qu in exclamative sentencesExclamative sentences in Spanish are used to express emotions or feelings. We use quin such exclamations to emphasize adjectives or adverbs. This use of qu a great option whenever you need to praise someones 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! Qu datan hermosos!Gosh, its late! Qué tarde se ha hecho!They really dance well! Qué bien bailan!What a beautifulandscape! Qu bellazade 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.Qu in some idiomatic expressionsIdomatic expressionsare a vital part of any language. Spanish queappears in many expressions that are used in common situations. In this section we list some of the idiomatic expressions with quthat are used by native speakers.English expressionSpanish expressionHow are you?Qu taley?Whats Juan like as a father?Qu tal es Juan como padre?What do you think of it?Qu te parece?What on earth are you doing that for?A santo de qu haces eso?What do I care??. So what?A m qu?. Y qu?Pardon?Qu?Whats the point of that comment?A qu viene ese comentario? Whats that all about?De qu va la cosa?What about the books that I lent you?Y qu de los libros que te presté?Conclusion: Que v quQu tal? At this point in our lesson, were sure that youve come to understand the importance of queand quin Spanish. Whats more, you now know how to differentiate betweenque v quin Spanish, so youre ready to express yourself like a pro!In a nutshell, quein Spanish may function as a relative pronoun, as a subordinating conjunction, and as part of a comparative structure in Spanish. On the other hand, quin 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 youve grasped the differences between qu v que, why not put your knowledge to the test with the following exercises?ExercisesBased on the context of each sentence, choose queer quaccordingly. Answers and translations are below.1. No s que / quhora es.2. La película que / quimos se llama La sociedad de la nieve.3. Qu / Quesignifica ubicuo?4. La nieve es ms frage / qula lluvia.5. Que / Quite parecí el libro?6. Los críticos dicen qu / queeste es el mejor libro del ao.7. No sabemos que / quhay en la caja.Answers1. No sé que hora es. I dont know whattbe 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 ubicuo? Whats the meaning of ubiquitous?4. La nieve es más fría que la lluvia. The snow is colder thanthe rain.5. Quite parecí el libro? What do you think of the book?6. Los críticos dicen queeste es el mejor libro del ao. Critics say thatthis is the best book of the year.7. No sabemos qué hay en la caja. We dont know whatis in the box. When we come across the words que and queue, you might wonder if they mean the same thing or if they are used in different contexts. Lets find out how these two words work in English.Que and queue are often confused, but they have different meanings and uses. Que is not a recognized English word; it's a common misspelling of queue. Queue refers to a line of people or things waiting their turn. For example, There was a long queue at the movie theater.Its important to use queue correctly in sentences. Saying I joined the que at the bank is incorrect. Instead, you should say, I joined the queue at the bank. This correct usage shows you know how to properly describe waiting in line, which is essential in everyday English.Understanding QueThe word que can be confusing because its not an English word. Its actually borrowed from French and Spanish. In both languages, que means that or what.So how does this fit into English conversations or texts? Youll mostly see que used in borrowed phrases from French or Spanish, such as que ser, ser (whatever will be, will be). Its not a standalone English word and is not used in English sentences other than within these phrases.Examples of Que in borrowed phrases: Que sera, sera This phrase means what will be, will be. Caf que cest bon This is a mix of French and English meaning Caf that is good.Understanding QueueOn the other hand, queue is a full-fledged English word originating from French, but its use has been fully adapted into English. It means a line of people or things waiting their turn. For example, you might stand in a queue at the supermarket.This word can also be used as a verb. When you queue up, you are getting in line for something. Its 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 youre trying to say. Is it part of a borrowed French or Spanish phrase? Stick with que. If youre 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? Youd use queue, right? What if youre quoting a famous line from a song? Youd likely use que if its 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 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 ThoughtsThe 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 youre talking about. Next time you are writing or speaking, think about these points. It helps to know youre using the right word in the right place, doesnt it? Unlock the Secrets of English! Subscribe now and transform your language skills with insider tips, tricks, and exclusive content! 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, its both. Lets straighten out the differences and similarities between those two! Que or queue whats the difference? The distinction between que and queue is that que 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 /kjʊ/ 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. The other word were looking at is quin Spanish, with thetilde. Qumainly functions as an interrogative pronoun, and can be translated as whator how. Well get into these uses further down in this post once weve finished with que.Recommended: How to Learn Spanish Fast in 2025Que in SpanishLets first go through the various uses of the unaccented word quein Spanish.Que as a relative pronounRelative 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, quein Spanish may be translated as that,who, whom, or which. Its invariable, so theres no need to match the gender or number of the noun it refers to.My teacher asked me about the book thatI read Mi profesora me preguntó sobre el libro quele.Did you see the flowers thatwere falling from the trees. Ha visto las flores quecaen de los rboles.I like the table [that]we bought yesterday. Me gusta la mesa quecompramos ayer.They are the firemen [who] they hired last year. Ellos son los bomberos quecontrataron el ao pasado.I forgot the restaurant in whichwe had dinner. Yo olvidé el restaurante en el quecenamos.Note that in English the relative pronouns can often be omitted, whereas in Spanish the queis obligatory. Que as a subordinating conjunctionQueis used to introduce subordinate clauses in a similar way to the English conjunction thatin sentences like He said thatits true.Unlike is often the case with thatin English, however, quecannot be omitted, just like we saw with queas a relative pronoun.My sister says [that]shes not coming today. Mi hermana dice quenó va a venir hoy.The kids know [that]their dad is happy. Los nios saben queun pap es feliz.It was so much fun thatI couldnt stop laughing. Fue tan divertido que no pude dejar de rer.It seems likets going to snow. Parece que va a nevar.Que in comparisonsQueis an essential component in phrases where we make comparisons. This use ofquein English is translated as than.When we compare things, animals, or people in this way, we normally use the following structures:ms / menos + adjective + quems / menos + queSometimes you use direct translations of msand menosin English, as moreand less, though in most instances you use superlatives. For more detail, check out our full post on comparisons in Spanish.My brother is taller thanme. Mi hermano es ms alto queyo.My mom says that boys are less intelligent thangirls. Mi madre dice que los nios son menos inteligentes que las nias.He sold more books in February thanin March. Vendí más libros en febrero queen marzo.The teacher speaks faster thanthe student. El profesor habla más rápido queel estudiante.Now that weve covered the different uses of que, lets move on to the second word in our comparison of que v quin Spanish.Qu in SpanishQuin Spanish, with a tilde, means what?or What sort of? We can use it in both direct questions and indirect interrogative statements.In addition, quin Spanish can also be used as an interjection in exclamative sentences.Lets now look at each quemeaning in turn.Qu in questions meaning WhatWhenever we need to ask about something where were looking for a definition, a description, or to find out some information, we use quin Spanish just like you use whatin English.What is love? Qu es el amor?What will happen tomorrow? Qusuceder maana?Whatdo you mean by that? Ququieres decir con eso?Whattime is it? Quhora es?Qu 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.Qu in indirect interrogative statementsInterrogative statements are affirmative statements that express interrogation or ignorance. We use quin these indirect questions, which usually also translates into English as what.He didnt know whatto ask you. No supo preguntarte.I asked him what movie he watched. Le pregunté qué película vio.I dont know whatyou want for dinner. No sé qué quieres de cenar.We never knew whatthey really needed. Nunca supimos queecesitaban de verdad.Qu in exclamative sentencesExclamative sentences in Spanish are used to express emotions or feelings. We use quin such exclamations to emphasize adjectives or adverbs. This use of qu a great option whenever you need to praise someones 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! Qu datan hermosos!Gosh, its late! Qué tarde se ha hecho!They really dance well! Qué bien bailan!What a beautifulandscape! Qu bellazade 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.Qu in some idiomatic expressionsIdomatic expressionsare a vital part of any language. Spanish queappears in many expressions that are used in common situations. In this section we list some of the idiomatic expressions with quthat are used by native speakers.English expressionSpanish expressionHow are you?Qu taley?Whats Juan like as a father?Qu tal es Juan como padre?What do you think of it?Qu te parece?What on earth are you doing that for?A santo de qu haces eso?What do I care??. So what?A m qu?. Y qu?Pardon?Qu?Whats the point of that comment?A qu viene ese comentario? Whats that all about?De qu va la cosa?What about the books that I lent you?Y qu de los libros que te presté?Conclusion: Que v quQu tal? At this point in our lesson, were sure that youve come to understand the importance of queand quin Spanish. Whats more, you now know how to differentiate betweenque v quin Spanish, so youre ready to express yourself like a pro!In a nutshell, quein Spanish may function as a relative pronoun, as a subordinating conjunction, and as part of a comparative structure in Spanish. On the other hand, quin 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 youve grasped the differences between qu v que, why not put your knowledge to the test with the following exercises?ExercisesBased on the context of each sentence, choose queer quaccordingly. Answers and translations are below.1. No s que / quhora es.2. La película que / quimos se llama La sociedad de la nieve.3. Qu / Quesignifica ubicuo?4. La nieve es ms frage / qula lluvia.5. Que / Quite parecí el libro?6. Los críticos dicen qu / queeste es el mejor libro del ao.7. No sabemos que / quhay en la caja.Answers1. No sé que hora es. I dont know whattbe 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 ubicuo? Whats the meaning of ubiquitous?4. La nieve es más fría que la lluvia. The snow is colder thanthe rain.5. Quite parecí el libro? What do you think of the book?6. Los críticos dicen queeste es el mejor libro del ao. Critics say thatthis is the best book of the year.7. No sabemos qué hay en la caja. We dont know whatis in the box. When we come across the words que and queue, you might wonder if they mean the same thing or if they are used in different contexts. Lets find out how these two words work in English.Que and queue are often confused, but they have different meanings and uses. Que is not a recognized English word; it's a common misspelling of queue. Queue refers to a line of people or things waiting their turn. For example, There was a long queue at the movie theater.Its important to use queue correctly in sentences. Saying I joined the que at the bank is incorrect. Instead, you should say, I joined the queue at the bank. This correct usage shows you know how to properly describe waiting in line, which is essential in everyday English.Understanding QueThe word que can be confusing because its not an English word. Its actually borrowed from French and Spanish. In both languages, que means that or what.So how does this fit into English conversations or texts? Youll mostly see que used in borrowed phrases from French or Spanish, such as que ser, ser (whatever will be, will be). Its not a standalone English word and is not used in English sentences other than within these phrases.Examples of Que in borrowed phrases: Que sera, sera This phrase means what will be, will be. Caf que cest bon This is a mix of French and English meaning Caf that is good.Understanding QueueOn the other hand, queue is a full-fledged English word originating from French, but its use has been fully adapted into English. It means a line of people or things waiting their turn. For example, you might stand in a queue at the supermarket.This word can also be used as a verb. When you queue up, you are getting in line for something. Its 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 youre trying to say. Is it part of a borrowed French or Spanish phrase? Stick with que. If youre 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? Youd use queue, right? What if youre quoting a famous line from a song? Youd likely use que if its 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 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 ThoughtsThe 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 youre talking about. Next time you are writing or speaking, think about these points. It helps to know youre using the right word in the right place, doesnt it? Unlock the Secrets of English! Subscribe now and transform your language skills with insider tips, tricks, and exclusive content! 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, its both. Lets straighten out the differences and similarities between those two! Que or queue whats the difference? The distinction between que and queue is that que 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 /kjʊ/ 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. The other word were looking at is quin Spanish, with thetilde. Qumainly functions as an interrogative pronoun, and can be translated as whator how. Well get into these uses further down in this post once weve finished with que.Recommended: How to Learn Spanish Fast in 2025Que in SpanishLets first go through the various uses of the unaccented word quein Spanish.Que as a relative pronounRelative 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, quein Spanish may be translated as that,who, whom, or which. Its invariable, so theres no need to match the gender or number of the noun it refers to.My teacher asked me about the book thatI read Mi profesora me preguntó sobre el libro quele.Did you see the flowers thatwere falling from the trees. Ha visto las flores quecaen de los rboles.I like the table [that]we bought yesterday. Me gusta la mesa quecompramos ayer.They are the firemen [who] they hired last year. Ellos son los bomberos quecontrataron el ao pasado.I forgot the restaurant in whichwe had dinner. Yo olvidé el restaurante en el quecenamos.Note that in English the relative pronouns can often be omitted, whereas in Spanish the queis obligatory. Que as a subordinating conjunctionQueis used to introduce subordinate clauses in a similar way to the English conjunction thatin sentences like He said thatits true.Unlike is often the case with thatin English, however, quecannot be omitted, just like we saw with queas a relative pronoun.My sister says [that]shes not coming today. Mi hermana dice quenó va a venir hoy.The kids know [that]their dad is happy. Los nios saben queun pap es feliz.It was so much fun thatI couldnt stop laughing. Fue tan divertido que no pude dejar de rer.It seems likets going to snow. Parece que va a nevar.Que in comparisonsQueis an essential component in phrases where we make comparisons. This use ofquein English is translated as than.When we compare things, animals, or people in this way, we normally use the following structures:ms / menos + adjective + quems / menos + queSometimes you use direct translations of msand menosin English, as moreand less, though in most instances you use superlatives. For more detail, check out our full post on comparisons in Spanish.My brother is taller thanme. Mi hermano es ms alto queyo.My mom says that boys are less intelligent thangirls. Mi madre dice que los nios son menos inteligentes que las nias.He sold more books in February thanin March. Vendí más libros en febrero queen marzo.The teacher speaks faster thanthe student. El profesor habla más rápido queel estudiante.Now that weve covered the different uses of que, lets move on to the second word in our comparison of que v quin Spanish.Qu in SpanishQuin Spanish, with a tilde, means what?or What sort of? We can use it in both direct questions and indirect interrogative statements.In addition, quin Spanish can also be used as an interjection in exclamative sentences.Lets now look at each quemeaning in turn.Qu in questions meaning WhatWhenever we need to ask about something where were looking for a definition, a description, or to find out some information, we use quin Spanish just like you use whatin English.What is love? Qu es el amor?What will happen tomorrow? Qusuceder maana?Whatdo you mean by that? Ququieres decir con eso?Whattime is it? Quhora es?Qu 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.Qu in indirect interrogative statementsInterrogative statements are affirmative statements that express interrogation or ignorance. We use quin these indirect questions, which usually also translates into English as what.He didnt know whatto ask you. No supo preguntarte.I asked him what movie he watched. Le pregunté qué película vio.I dont know whatyou want for dinner. No sé qué quieres de cenar.We never knew whatthey really needed. Nunca supimos queecesitaban de verdad.Qu in exclamative sentencesExclamative sentences in Spanish are used to express emotions or feelings. We use quin such exclamations to emphasize adjectives or adverbs. This use of qu a great option whenever you need to praise someones 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! Qu datan hermosos!Gosh, its late! Qué tarde se ha hecho!They really dance well! Qué bien bailan!What a beautifulandscape! Qu bellazade 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.Qu in some idiomatic expressionsIdomatic expressionsare a vital part of any language. Spanish queappears in many expressions that are used in common situations. In this section we list some of the idiomatic expressions with quthat are used by native speakers.English expressionSpanish expressionHow are you?Qu taley?Whats Juan like as a father?Qu tal es Juan como padre?What do you think of it?Qu te parece?What on earth are you doing that for?A santo de qu haces eso?What do I care??. So what?A m qu?. Y qu?Pardon?Qu?Whats the point of that comment?A qu viene ese comentario? Whats that all about?De qu va la cosa?What about the books that I lent you?Y qu de los libros que te presté?Conclusion: Que v quQu tal? At this point in our lesson, were sure that youve come to understand the importance of queand quin Spanish. Whats more, you now know how to differentiate betweenque v quin Spanish, so youre ready to express yourself like a pro!In a nutshell, quein Spanish may function as a relative pronoun, as a subordinating conjunction, and as part of a comparative structure in Spanish. On the other hand, quin 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 youve grasped the differences between qu v que, why not put your knowledge to the test with the following exercises?ExercisesBased on the context of each sentence, choose queer quaccordingly. Answers and translations are below.1. No s que / quhora es.2. La película que / quimos se llama La sociedad de la nieve.3. Qu / Quesignifica ubicuo?4. La nieve es ms frage / qula lluvia.5. Que / Quite parecí el libro?6. Los críticos dicen qu / queeste es el mejor libro del ao.7. No sabemos que / quhay en la caja.Answers1. No sé que hora es. I dont know whattbe 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 ubicuo? Whats the meaning of ubiquitous?4. La nieve es más fría que la lluvia. The snow is colder thanthe rain.5. Quite parecí el libro? What do you think of the book?6. Los críticos dicen queeste es el mejor libro del ao. Critics say thatthis is the best book of the year.7. No sabemos qué hay en la caja. We dont know whatis in the box. When we come across the words que and queue, you might wonder if they mean the same thing or if they are used in different contexts. Lets find out how these two words work in English.Que and queue are often confused, but they have different meanings and uses. Que is not a recognized English word; it's a common misspelling of queue. Queue refers to a line of people or things waiting their turn. For example, There was a long queue at the movie theater.Its important to use queue correctly in sentences. Saying I joined the que at the bank is incorrect. Instead, you should say, I joined the queue at the bank. This correct usage shows you know how to properly describe waiting in line, which is essential in everyday English.Understanding QueThe word que can be confusing because its not an English word. Its actually borrowed from French and Spanish. In both languages, que means that or what.So how does this fit into English conversations or texts? Youll mostly see que used in borrowed phrases from French or Spanish, such as que ser, ser (whatever will be, will be). Its not a standalone English word and is not used in English sentences other than within these phrases.Examples of Que in borrowed phrases: Que sera, sera This phrase means what will be, will be. Caf que cest bon This is a mix of French and English meaning Caf that is good.Understanding QueueOn the other hand, queue is a full-fledged English word originating from French, but its use has been fully adapted into English. It means a line of people or things waiting their turn. For example, you might stand in a queue at the supermarket.This word can also be used as a verb. When you queue up, you are getting in line for something. Its 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 youre trying to say. Is it part of a borrowed French or Spanish phrase? Stick with que. If youre 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? Youd use queue, right? What if youre quoting a famous line from a song? Youd likely use que if its 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 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 ThoughtsThe 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 youre talking about. Next time you are writing or speaking, think about these points. It helps to know youre using the right word in the right place, doesnt it? Unlock the Secrets of English! Subscribe now and transform your language skills with insider tips, tricks, and exclusive content! 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, its both. Lets straighten out the differences and similarities between those two! Que or queue whats the difference? The distinction between que and queue is that que 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 /kjʊ/ 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