

# Learn Catalan by speaking with artificial intelligence

**Conversation Guide with ChatGPT  
for Language Reception**

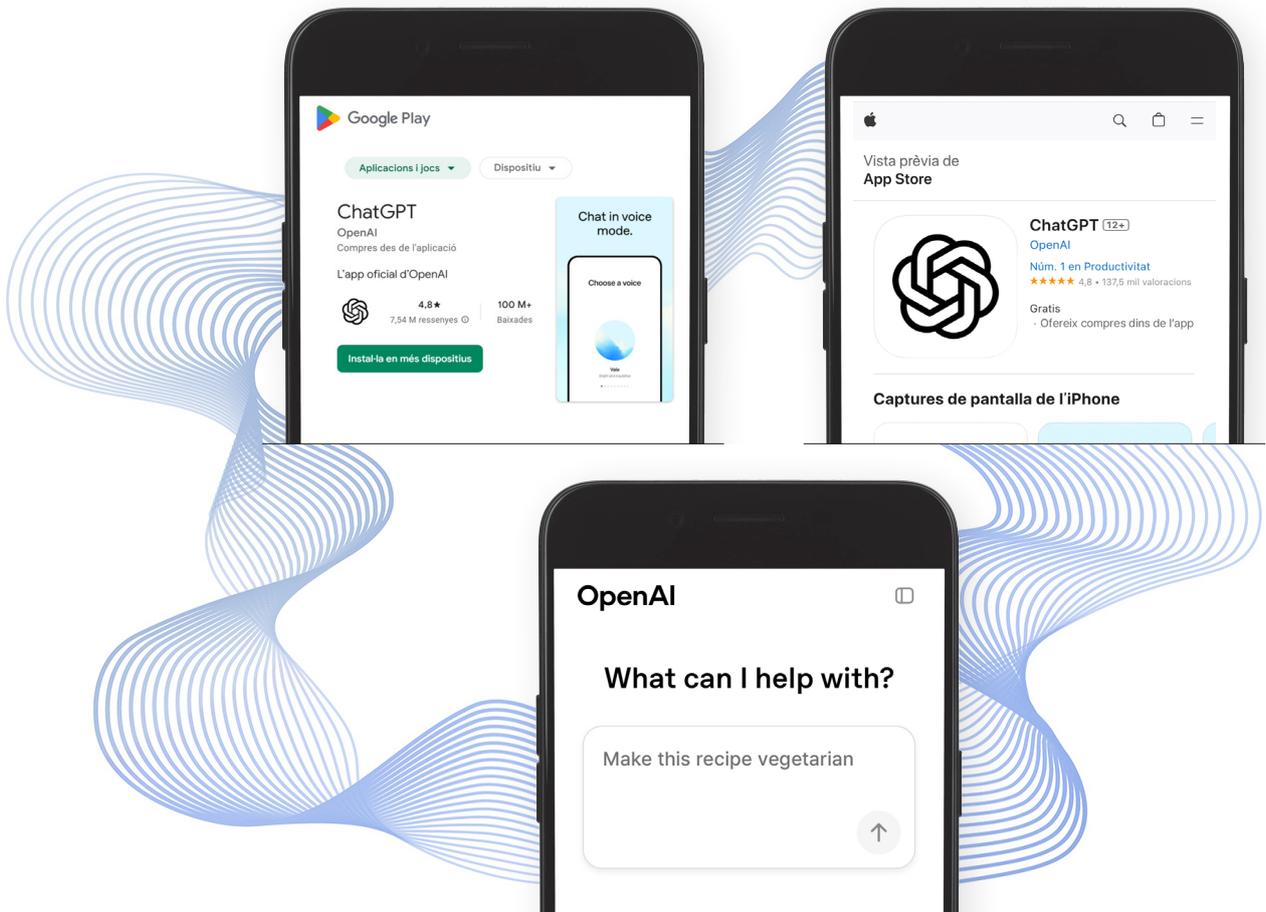


# Summary

Where to start	page	3
Things to think about before starting the conversation	page	4
Oral chat to learn catalan	page	6
To get information while you talk	page	12
Dive in like John!	page	15
Credits	page	17

# Where to start

There are lots of AI tools available. Take a look and choose one. If you choose Chat GPT you can download the app to your mobile device and register for free. You can also access ChatGPT and register for free on the [openai.com](https://openai.com) website.



To speak with ChatGPT, use the black audio icon at the bottom right corner of the screen. **The application automatically detects the language in which you speak.** You can explore the various options that ChatGPT offers you, including, for example, listening back to the answers it gives you.



# Things to think about before starting the conversation



If you want to get good answers from ChatGPT, you should give it context: tell it what role it should adopt, who you are, what your objectives are, etc. Nevertheless, make sure that you do not provide sensitive information, and especially not personal details. Remember that you have the option to manage what you want ChatGPT to remember about you.



If you still need to become familiar with Catalan, you can give ChatGPT instructions in your usual language (English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Basque, etc.). **Bear in mind that you can instruct ChatGPT to respond in a language other than the one you use to communicate with it.** When you feel confident enough to start using Catalan, simply do so. If you can't express yourself properly, ChatGPT will try to guess what you mean.

## Examples

- As I still can't speak much Catalan, I will communicate with you in French for the time being.
- I already feel much more confident in the use of Catalan; from now on I will start using it in conversations with you.
- I want you to answer me always in Catalan; I need to familiarise myself with the language. You will help me to immerse myself in Catalan so that I can follow classes in this language at university.
- Even if I give you instructions in Romanian, you must always answer me in Catalan, unless I tell you otherwise.



Sometimes ChatGPT forgets some of the rules you have set for the conversation (e.g. some aspect of its role, the level of language difficulty of its answers or the language it should use) and you have to remind it about them.

## Examples

- You seem to have forgotten that you are a Catalan language volunteer, haven't you?
- I see that you have switched to answering in another language without me telling you. Remember to always answer me in Catalan.
- Don't forget that I need you to use simple language, typical of a basic level of Catalan.

- You can take advantage of the fact that **ChatGPT also shows you a conversation transcript so you can see the correspondence between written and spoken Catalan.**
- ChatGPT saves the conversations, so you can resume previous dialogues. This is a useful option because you can talk to a ChatGPT trained in the conversation topic and get more refined answers.
- Don't be satisfied with ChatGPT's first answer. You can ask a question in different ways, or ask for different answers to go deeper into what you are interested in. If your questions are very generic, the answers will also be generic, and you may find the information incomplete.

#### Examples

—I'll rephrase my question...

—Could you give me a more accurate answer?

# Oral chat to learn catalan



ChatGPT can make language mistakes. It does not use the language as a Catalan speaker does; it analyses many texts, extracts patterns and applies them in conversations. Although the volume of data with which it has been trained in Catalan is large enough, it is not as large as in other languages such as English, a language in which it makes fewer errors. Moreover, it might not give accurate answers to questions that seek to elicit reflections about the language. It is advisable to check the answers with the opinion of real speakers, and to consult specific language tools. If you ask ChatGPT to correct your texts, keep in mind that some of the errors may go unnoticed and that it has a general tendency to want to please you and tell you that you are doing well.



In your first interaction with ChatGPT, you should give it instructions to help you learn Catalan through conversation and also tell it what your specific learning objectives are.

## Examples

- I am a basic level (A2) Catalan language learner. You want to teach me the language, and I want to make progress in learning Catalan through conversations with you.
- Put yourself in the role of a Catalan language volunteer, that is, someone who wants to help another person learn the language through simple conversations. If you see that I make mistakes, correct me and offer suggestions for improvement without breaking the rhythm of the conversation.
- You are an expert language teacher. Can you tell me what the contents of levels A1, A2 and B1 of the Council of Europe for language learning are?



Ask for help to determine your learning objectives.

## Example

- I am studying a basic level of Catalan. Can you give me some realistic objectives for learning Catalan by talking to you?

- Ask ChatGPT to guide you in the oral conversation practice you want to do.

**Example**

—Can you prepare a detailed work plan with topics, contents, activities and a timetable to guide me in my oral conversation practice? I can dedicate two hours a week to conversation in Catalan for the next two months.

- Ask it to indicate resources for learning and practicing Catalan based on your objectives.

**Examples**

—I study at a Catalan university. I am interested in resources or activities to learn Catalan and you are an expert in this matter.

—Are there any online Catalan courses that will allow me to learn the language?

—Can you recommend three free resources for learning basic Catalan vocabulary and provide me with a brief description of each?

- **Ask it to adapt the grammatical structures and vocabulary to your level.**

**Example**

—I have a B1 level of Catalan. Please talk to me with structures and vocabulary that are not above this level.

- Ask it to indicate conversation topics appropriate to your language level.

**Example**

—What are the most common topics of conversation at a basic language level? Choose one and let's talk!

- Ask it for examples of oral conversations that have specific characteristics that you are interested in so that they can help you in your real conversations.

#### Example

—Can you please act out a dialogue between two students in a classroom before taking an exam? They must use a basic level of Catalan. One of them has prepared very well for the exam and the other has not had time to study and expects to fail.

- Ask it to give you examples of different types of simple oral texts, suitable for your level and your profile, to serve as a model or inspiration.

#### Examples

—You visit your faculty's academic management office. You make a brief oral complaint to the person in charge that you do not appear on the class lists of the subjects you have registered for. What would that complaint be like?

—You have a basic level of Catalan and want to learn more. You call the language service of your university and ask for information about the courses. You use vocabulary and structures typical of your level of Catalan and talk clearly, directly and politely.

- **Ask it to draw up a list of simple structures in Catalan for specific communicative situations, with the equivalence in your language.**

#### Examples

—Give me a list of basic Catalan expressions that I can use if I want to order a coffee at a bar. Give me the equivalence of each structure in Spanish.

—Give me a list of short sentences that I can use to introduce myself in Catalan to some friends in a clear, direct and simple way. Then translate them into English, please.

—Prepare a list of simple sentences in Catalan so I can ask a lecturer for clarification about an exam. Give me the equivalents in Italian.

—Prepare a list of simple sentences that I can use to ask for directions to a specific place within a university campus.

- Ask it to rework or vary the conversations you have. Ask it to summarise them totally or partially, to offer alternative answers, or to translate fragments. All this will provide you with different versions of the same text and help you improve your oral comprehension in Catalan.

#### Example

—Could you summarise your answer in a couple of easy-to-understand sentences?

- Suggest role-play activities. You can ask ChatGPT to speak as the character you indicate and with the register or style you set.

#### Examples

—Let's do a role-playing game. Imagine that you are a waiter in a restaurant. I am going to order some food and you are going to answer with short and simple sentences in basic Catalan. Use sentences that are appropriate to the situation. Correct any language mistakes I make.

—You are a language teacher giving a basic level conversation class. We are going to do a role play: I will be student A and you will be student B in a simple dialogue. You can start with a short sentence and wait for my answer before continuing. If I make a mistake, correct me clearly and simply.

- **Ask it to develop listening comprehension activities from the conversations you have already had.** Ask it to suggest different types of questions (for example, open-ended, true or false, or fill-in-the-blanks) and provide you with the answers or correct the answers you give.

#### Examples

—We have just had an interesting conversation about my family. Can you tell me a made-up story about another family and then ask me true or false questions about it? Tell me if my answers are wrong.

—I really enjoyed our conversation on different famous Catalan people. I will post a picture of a Barça player that I like very much. Can you give me a physical description, with simple vocabulary, typical of a basic or elementary level? Then ask me open-ended questions about the description you have given.

—I love traditional tales. Can you tell me a simple story, using easy vocabulary, and then ask me questions about it? Please tell me whether my answers are correct.

- Ask it for games to practise the language.

#### Examples

- I want to play a word guessing game. Think of a basic word in Catalan that describes an action or an object. I will ask you short questions to guess it. Don't tell me the solution until I guess it. Then we will switch roles and you will have to guess the word that I have chosen.
- I will upload a picture of a room for you. I want you to give me definitions of the objects that appear. I will try to guess the name of the object from the definition. Don't give me the solution until I guess the word.
- Tell me five basic level Catalan words related to food and add an unrelated word. I will try to guess what that word is.

- Ask it to prepare a list of words relevant to the topic of the conversation, give you definitions for those words, and create activities to practise them. **You can instruct ChatGPT to give you the solution to the activities.**

#### Examples

- I want to talk about a university's sports service and the sports activities that I would like to do on campus. Before we start the conversation, can you tell me twenty key words related to this topic?
- I have to go to the library to look for a book. Can you tell me the usual vocabulary to do this?
- Can you provide me with a list of about twenty words related to emotions and create simple and easy-to-understand sentences with these words?

- Ask it for a bilingual list of words on the conversation topic and for it to give you sample sentences in Catalan with these words.

#### Example

- I study geography at university. Could you prepare a list of the most relevant geography terms in Catalan with their equivalent terms in Russian and an example sentence in Catalan for each term?

- Ask questions about synonyms or other phenomena related to meaning.

**Examples**

- Can you tell me synonyms in Catalan for the words *acollida*, *ajudar*, *voluntari*?
- Can you tell me a Catalan word that is the opposite of *valent*?
- Can you formulate a comparison of the phenomenon we are talking about?
- Can you create a metaphor about collaborative learning?

- Ask it for explanations, paraphrases or definitions of words, concepts or aspects that have appeared in the conversation.

**Examples**

- Give me a paraphrase of the following sentence:  
“El desconeixement d’aquesta normativa universitària no eximeix de complir-la.”
- What is the meaning of the expression “tocar el dos”? Can you define it for me and give me examples in which it appears correctly used, with clear and simple sentences?
- What is meant by “tàndem lingüístic”?

- Ask it to prepare matching activities between words from your language and Catalan words.

**Example**

- Prepare vocabulary exercises in which I can match words in Italian, my language, with Catalan words. Group the exercises by topics such as family, food, hobbies, etc.

## To get information while you talk



You may need information from ChatGPT related to your interests as a newcomer while chatting with it. If you want rigorous, reliable and up-to-date information, you should be cautious. The information provided by ChatGPT is often correct enough, but there may be biases or errors in the answers, or some data may be fabricated. Moreover, in the free version of ChatGPT, the information tends not to be up to date. It is recommended that you always double-check the information provided.



When we talk about language we also talk about culture. You can ask ChatGPT questions about cultural aspects (traditions, folklore, customs, festivals, literature, music, drama, sports, media, all kinds of cultural products, gastronomy, etc.). Except for the fact that some information might not be up-to-date, in general the answers given by ChatGPT to these questions are quite accurate, especially if you ask about specific and well-defined aspects and do not ask it to make lists.

### Examples

- Can you tell me some of the most important traditions in Catalan culture? Can you explain what they consist of?
- What are the typical dishes of Catalan cuisine? Can you tell me what is the most characteristic dessert?
- Can you explain the origin of the Sant Jordi (Saint George's) festival and what it consists of?
- Can you tell me some popular Catalan TV series and briefly tell me the plot of each one?

- If you want to know things about Catalonia (cities, universities, places to visit, iconic landmarks, etc.) or have general questions about social aspects related to the Catalan language (number of speakers, uses of Catalan by areas, etc.) you can ask ChatGPT for information. Normally, on top of the information it provides, ChatGPT gives you links to websites with official and updated information, such as that provided by the government and the main public services.

#### Examples

- How many people speak Catalan in Catalonia?
- How many people have Catalan as their mother tongue?
- Which age group has the most Catalan speakers?
- Is Catalan a language that helps integrate newcomers?
- What are the most iconic landmarks in Catalonia? And in the city of Tarragona?
- What are the most important cultural institutions in the city of Lleida?

- **ChatGPT can provide you with accurate information on general aspects of university language policy.** However, bear in mind that for information on specific aspects it is best to use the university websites and that the university language services can help you to answer all kinds of questions about languages at the university in a completely reliable way.

#### Examples

- Can people with a university education usually speak Catalan in Catalonia?
- What languages are used at Catalan universities?
- Can a student ask a lecturer to change the language in which a subject is taught?
- What is meant by “seguretat lingüística”?
- What is meant by “acollida lingüística” in Catalan universities?
- As a newly arrived student, what linguistic and cultural activities can I engage in to help me integrate into the university?
- What language attitudes would be respectful of the language context of the new university where I will be studying?
- What are the most common prejudices related to language at Catalan universities?



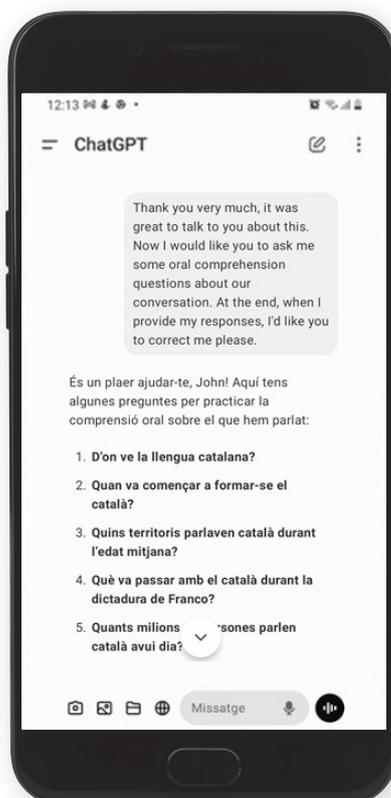
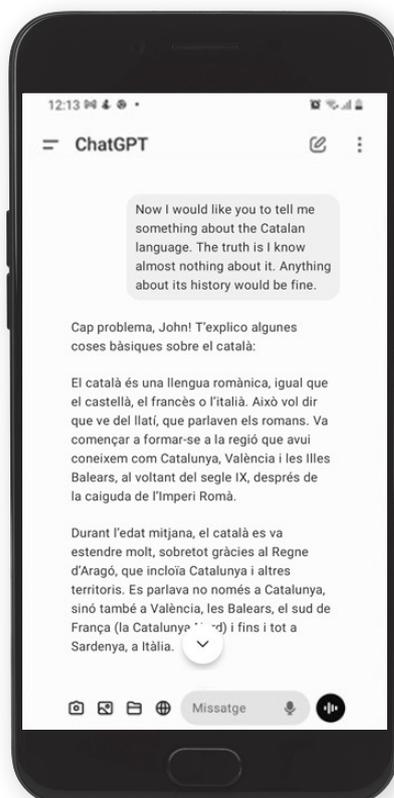
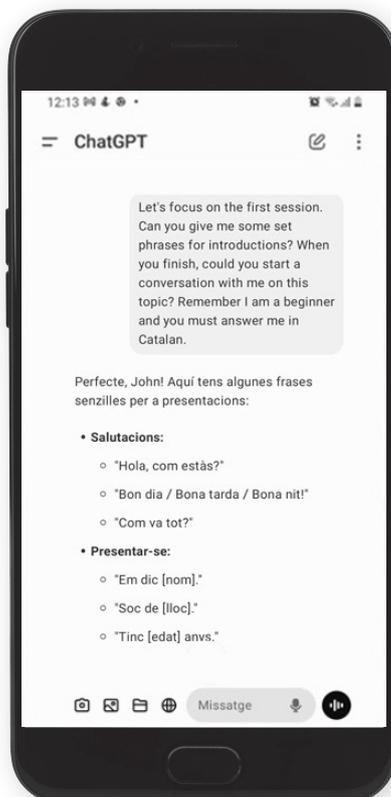
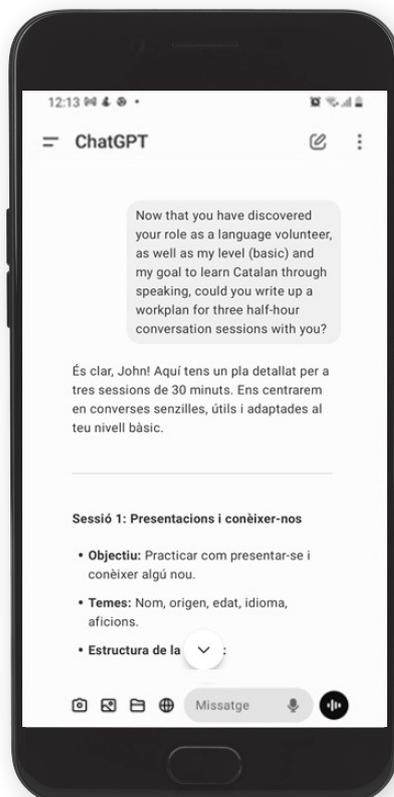
Remember that ChatGPT always tends to give one answer or another, more or less correctly. Sometimes it does not answer direct questions about an issue, but it will if you make it take on a specific role. For example: **if you want to find out about controversial topics such as political issues, it can give you several points of view according to the role you give it.**

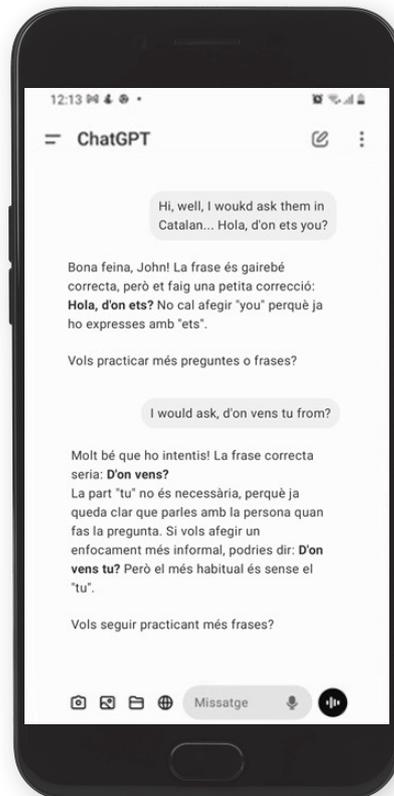
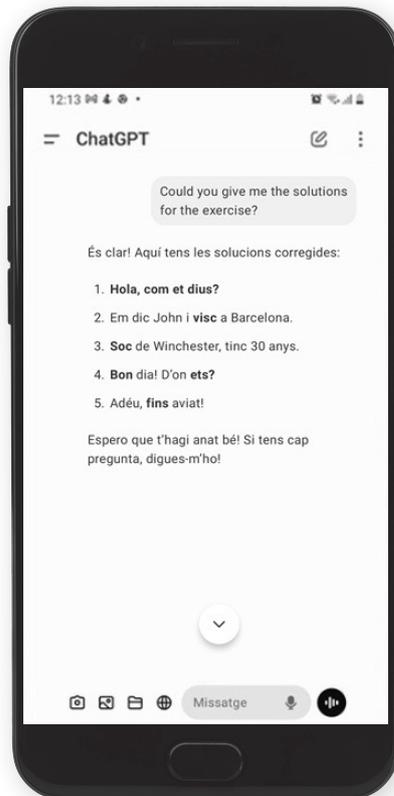
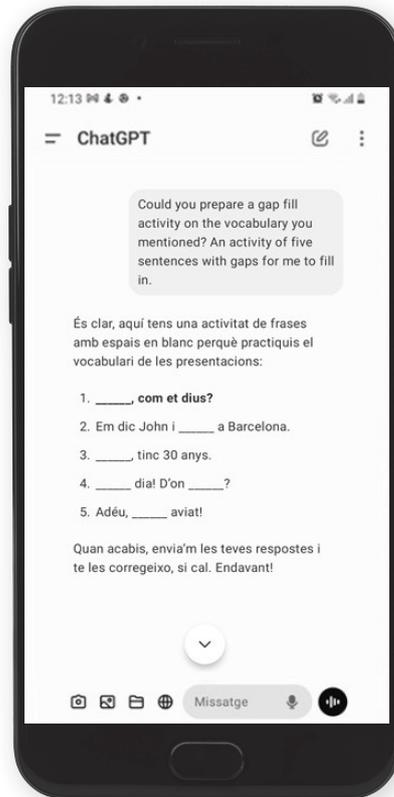
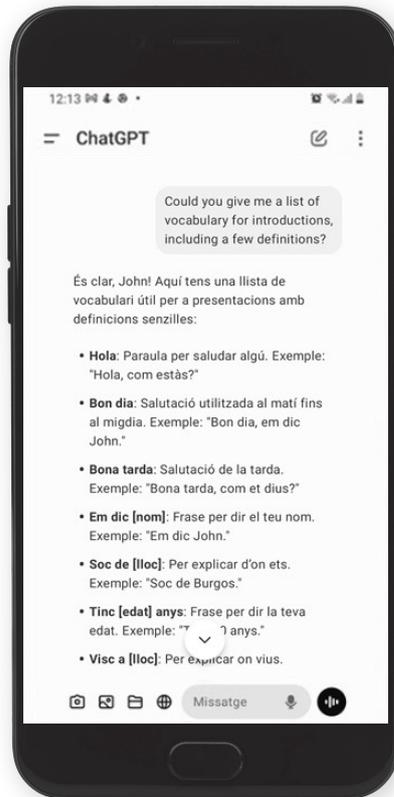
#### Examples

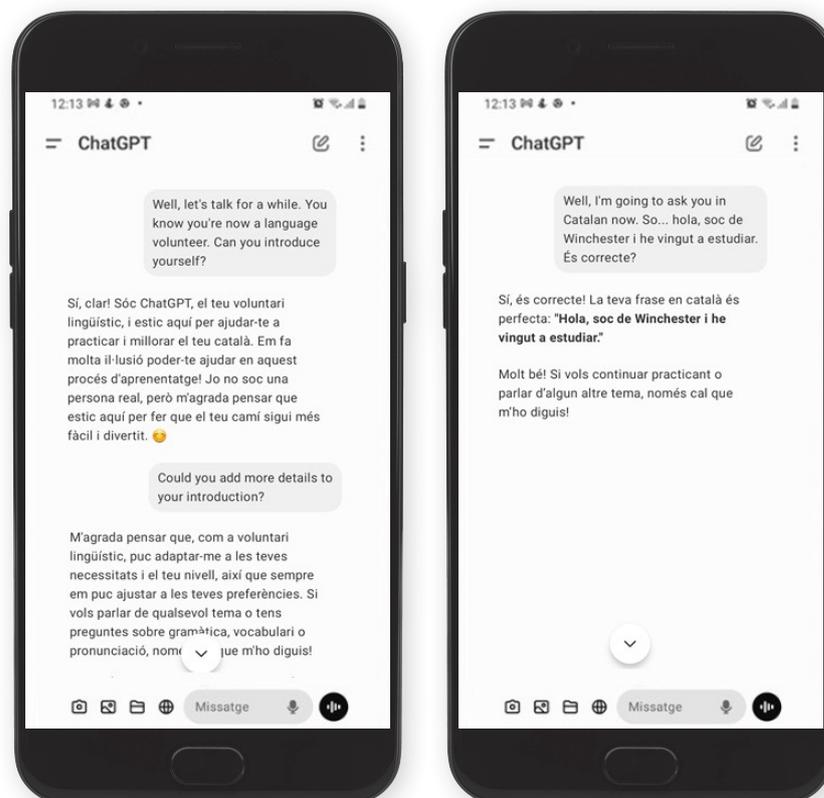
- Imagine that you sympathise with the independence movement in Catalonia. What do you think of the political situation in Catalonia?
- Now imagine that your ideology is in direct opposition to the independence movement. What do you think of the political situation in Catalonia?

# Dive in like John!

Interactions with ChatGPT from someone starting to learn Catalan and wanting to practice through conversation.







## Credits

The language services of the following universities have taken part in this project:



**Coordinators:** Enric Serra and Virgínia Castillo (UAB)

**Content creators:** Eulàlia Planas (UB), Enric Serra and Virgínia Castillo (UAB), Montse Riera (UPC), Elisenda Capmany and Núria Fenoll (UPF), Josep M. Boladeras (UdL), Mar Anton (UdG), Mònica Batet (URV), Oriol Portell (UVic-UCC).

**English translation:** Christian Brassington (URV)

**Consultant:** Íngrid Noguera (UAB)

**Layout:** Txeni Gil

This project has received Interlingua funding (2024) from the Government of Catalonia (Department of Research and Universities)



This material is subject to a [Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) licence from Creative Commons.