

Curso FS-01 THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SPANISH GRAMMAR FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS

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This course is taught in Spanish but is for students who have not taken Spanish before.

Objectives

This Course is designed for students from abroad who aim to acquire sufficient knowledge of the Spanish language whereby commonplace situations in everyday life become manageable for them. While the thorniest aspects of the grammar of Spanish will be dealt with, the main objective of the Course is to familiarize students with the basic rules of how the language functions so that they become adept at using them in a competent way in keeping with their level of linguistic competence.

Methodology

The subject-matter and technicalities of the grammar of Spanish will be explained from a communicative standpoint and syllabus content will be investigated on a step-by-step basis in terms of the working level established. Teaching will be of a practical kind: using specific exercises as a point of departure, explanations will be provided of those aspects of the Spanish language which tend to raise problems for students. As part of the Course, additional activities will include: (a) dictations; (b) listening comprehension activities; (c) reading comprehensions; (d) written exercises; (e) vocabulary exercises.

Syllabus

1. Orthography. Accentuation.
2. Basic Sentence Structure in Spanish.
 - 2.1. The Sentence and its Constituents.
 - 2.2. The Structure of the Sentence: Identifying Subject and Object.
 - 2.3. Sentence Classification according to Communicative Use.
 - 2.4. Word Order.
3. The Noun Phrase:
 - 3.1. Substantives: Gender and Number.
 - 3.2. Definite and Indefinite Articles and their Use.
 - 3.3. Demonstratives and their Use.
 - 3.4. Adjectives and their Use.
 - 3.5. The Possessive Case and Ways of Expressing Possession in Spanish..
 - 3.6. Agreement in Gender and Number of Articles, Demonstratives, Possessives, and Adjectives, with Nouns.
4. The Verb Phrase:
 - 4.1. The Paradigm of Verb Forms in Spanish.
 - 4.2. The Use of Verb Forms in Spanish:
 - 4.2.1. Uses of the Present Tense.
 - 4.2.2. Uses of the Past Simple and the Imperfect Tenses.
 - 4.2.3. Uses of the Past Simple and the Present Perfect / Pluperfect Tenses.
 - 4.2.4. Uses of the Future Tense.
 - 4.2.5. The Conditional.
 - 4.2.6. The Subjunctive.

- 4.3. Uses of the verbs „ser” and „estar”.
- 4.4. Auxiliary Verbs and Modal Periphrasis.
- 5. Relational Elements: Prepositions.
 - 5.1. Uses and Basic Meanings.
 - 5.2. Constructions that depend on Prepositions

Bibliography

(i) Handbooks:

- ALONSO, R., *et al.* *Gramática básica del estudiante de español*. Barcelona: Difusión, 2005.
 BUESO, I. y R. VÁZQUEZ. *Gramática básica del español*. Madrid: Edinumen, 1999.
 DOMÍNGUEZ, P. y P. BAZO. *Claves del español. Gramática práctica*. Madrid: Santillana, 1994.
 GÓMEZ TORREGO, L. *Gramática didáctica del español*. Madrid: SM, 1997.
 HERNÁNDEZ ALONSO, C. *Gramática Funcional del Español*. Madrid: Gredos, 1996.
 HILL, S. y W. BRADFORD. *Bilingual Grammar of English-Spanish Syntax*. Lanham: University Press of America, 1997.
 MATTE BON, F. *Gramática comunicativa del español. Tomo I*. Madrid: Difusión, 1992.
 SECO, M. *Diccionario Breve de Dudas y Dificultades de la Lengua Española. Guía Práctica del Español Actual*. Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 2005.

(ii) Teaching and Learning Material:

- CASTRO, F. *Uso de la gramática española: Elemental*. Madrid: Edelsa, 1996.
 -----. *Uso de la gramática española: Intermedio*. Madrid: Edelsa, 1997.
 GONZÁLEZ, A, J.R. CUENOT y M. SÁNCHEZ. *Curso práctico: Gramática de español lengua extranjera*. Madrid: Edelsa, 1996.
 MARTÍN GARCÍA, J. *Ejercicios de Gramática. Nivel Inicial*. Madrid: Anaya, 2001.
 MARTÍN PERIS, E., P. MARTÍNEZ GILA, N.S. BAULENAS. *Gente 1. Libro Trabajo y Resumen Gramatical*. Barcelona: Difusion, 2000.
 MARTÍNEZ MENÉNDEZ, P. *Ejercicios de léxico. Niveles Inicial e Intermedio*. Madrid: Anaya, 2001.

(iii) Dictionaries:

LAROUSSE

COLLINS *diccionario español-inglés, inglés-español = Collins Spanish-English, English- Spanish Dictionary*. Barcelona: Grijalbo; Glasgow: HarperCollins, 2001.

Assessment

Students will participate in an on-going system of assessment which will involve their performance in classroom sessions and their assimilation of communicative skills in Spanish. Moreover, students will be expected to sit two exams, one mid-way through the Course and the other at its conclusion.

Final Grades will be based as follows:

- attendance at sessions and active class participation: 20 %
- class presentation of an assignment on a current topic of interest: 20 %
- mid-term and final exam (2): 60%

Grading Scale: FAIL (0 - 4,9); PASS (5 - 6,9); VERY GOOD (7 - 8,9); EXCELLENT (9); EXCELLENT, WITH DISTINCTION(10)