



Spanish for Non Speakers I
Zoraida Rivera-Tañón
Classroom: Lares

¡Hola! Welcome to a new school year! We are very lucky to have a text series that is very well put together with the end goal of helping all students reach a basic level of proficiency. My goal is that each student be able to understand, write and speak at a beginning novice level by the end of the first three to four weeks of instruction. Students beginning with little or no experience in the target language should achieve novice- mid level proficiency (according to ISBE guidelines) by the end of the course. This means that students should be able to use the content covered to communicate in limited and formulaic expressions. Those expressions that are spontaneous will contain errors, but will communicate the desired message. Students will not be able to maintain a native level conversation, but will be able to exchange information with a sympathetic listener, some one who understands the student's limited linguistic knowledge. The student's comprehension of the written or spoken language will rely on use of familiar language, visual cues and context. In other words, students should be able to communicate about the things we've studied at a basic level.

The following is some important information:

Teacher contact information:

Zoraida Rivera-Tañón

Text me: 312.532.8134

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website: <https://sites.google.com/a/pedroalbizucamposhs.org/spanish-department/Home/basic-spanish>

Textbook: Realidades 1, Pearson (2008)

Workbook copies will be provided as well as some practice handouts.

The website www.phschool.com is the textbook website for homework practice. The codes will be provided at class.

Help sessions

Official day and time is Tuesday after school, but I can be available just about any day before or after school as long as I do not have a required meeting as well as during lunch. Most questions can be cleared up rather quickly. Please ask if something is not clear; come in for help with homework before it's due.

Class materials

You will be expected to have the following with you every class period:

- folder- 2 pocket,
- 3 prong binder, 1 inch
- pens (blue/black) or pencils
- notebook paper (loose leaf)
- a red or green writing utensil for correcting homework
- a composition book

Grading policy:

Grades will be determined each nine weeks using the following weighted scale. Each category is described below.

- Tests 25%
 - Projects 25% (rubric provided at time of assignment)
 - Quizzes 20%
 - Homework 10%
 - Class Participation 10%
 - Warm up/ In class work 10%
- *Tests*- at the end of each chapter and/ or topic there will be a test covering the material from that chapter. Tests will be announced at least 2 class meetings prior. All students have the reviews for all chapter tests in their textbooks and detailed practice available online.
- *Projects*- there will be a written project for each theme. Presentation of these projects will be in written or oral format or both. They are an opportunity for students to show off their talents while polishing the Spanish vocabulary and structure covered in each chapter. Students will be given a detailed description of the project along with a rubric for grading. Major projects will lose one letter grade for each **day**, not class meeting, late. If you have a late project, you must bring it to me the very next day.
- *Quizzes*- Quizzes will cover smaller chunks of material and provide me with an idea of students' progress. In addition, they will give students an opportunity to prepare more thoroughly for chapter tests by allowing them to know what they need to study more.
- *Homework*- is an opportunity for students to practice what they learn in class. Practice doesn't have to be perfect; it does have to be complete and attempted with full effort. Each page of homework is worth 3 points: 1 for being attempted on TIME!, 1 point for correcting the work in red or green and 1 point for being complete by the end of the unit when work is collected. If a student is absent from class on the day an assignment is due, s/he will receive the "on-time" point when I see his/ her excused admit. Late work will NOT be accepted.
- Note: students are responsible for getting their homework from the class bin under the bulletin board; homework must be drop at the same bin when it is instructed to do so.***
- *Class participation*- effective participation consists of several components. First a student must be physically prepared for class. This means being in class on time with all materials and homework. Next a student must be mentally prepared. This means he/she needs to be focused on class activities. Finally, a student of language has to be willing to take academic risks. This means trying to speak and using the language as much as possible. Every student will start with an average grade in participation or a 75% C. During the course of the nine weeks, each student will need to earn 25 more points for a 100% A. Each time a student volunteers to speak in Spanish or is "caught" diligently working on the task at hand, he/ she will receive a participation coupon. It is the student's responsibility to hold on to his/ her coupons for the nine weeks. I suggest a Ziploc baggie for storage, and each student will be required to write his/ her name on the back when each coupon is received. Students will lose coupons for any off task or disrespectful behavior. If a student does not have the coupons available to hand over at the time of the infraction, he/ she will lose the amount from the 75 point base.
- *Compositions books*- Students will need a composition book for all openers and class work. Openers will be done from the front of the composition book and class work from the back. Each activity will be labeled with the date, page and activity number as appropriate. Work will be checked at the end of the nine weeks. If a student is absent, it is his/ her responsibility to find out what activities were missed and make them up.

Classroom rules

1. Upon entrance, be seated immediately
2. Follow directions the first time they are given.
3. No eating or drinking during class. That includes chewing gum.
4. No use of electronics devices: Mp3, iPods & phones, as stipulated in the school handbook.
5. No talking while the teacher is talking
6. All classroom work is evaluated as part of your grade, finishing on time will be a positive element for your final grade.

7. Always bring paper, pen and your folder to class.
8. RESPECT, items, and furnishings of this room.
9. Respect your peers: no swearing, no burping or bullying.
10. Last but not least: practice good manners, be kind and respectful, and you will see that everyday will be a good day!!!

This is a general idea of our schedule for the year. Completing all material through chapter 4a is optimistic, but if we make it that far it will be great! As I stated before, there is a vocabulary review and a test review at the end of each chapter (2 chapters per theme) that very closely correlates to the objectives stated at the beginning of each chapter.

- ★ Week 1- 4 Latina American geography, Alphabet, numbers
- ★ Weeks 4-8- Para Empezar- introductory material for recognition only
- ★ Weeks 5-9- Theme 1a
- ★ Weeks 10-13- Theme 1b
- ★ Weeks 14-17- Theme 2a
- ★ Weeks 18-23 – Theme 2b (includes exam week and review)
- ★ Weeks 24-27- Theme 3a
- ★ Weeks 28-31- Theme 3b
- ★ Weeks 32- 34- Chapter 4a
- ★ Weeks 35-36- catch up, clean up, review and finals
- ★ Dates are subject to change and obviously we will have quizzes and tests along the way.
- ★ With each theme, students will do listening, speaking, reading and writing activities and performance based projects.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____