

Materiales / Ejercicios Worksheets Learning Guide

Hello my friends:

Today we are very pleased to announce you that Spanishpodcast has started to make available complementary Support Exercises for our episodes. Some time ago many of you suggested to us that we add complementary exercises to help you to generalize and to reinforce what you learned in each episode.

For this reason we have designed a series of materials for learning Spanish as a Second Language that will allow you to expand and reinforce your work with our episodes.

These are exercises that you can:

* **see** in your computer screen

* **print** out or

* **listent to**

Being able **to listen to them** is **a big innovation!** You can do this either on your computer or on your MP3 player. Because they are **AUDIOEXERCISES** you can just listen to them (if you don't have much time) or you can use the usual method and listen while looking at the transcript on the computer screen or on paper.

As you all know, every week we provide you with:

- A new **episode**

plus (+)

- A **Learning Guide in PDF** with the complete **transcription** of the episode and an explanation of the grammatical and communication issues

plus (+)

- A thorough explanation of **the vocabulary** including **every day expressions** that are used in the episode

For this reason the **materials** that we have made available **expand and diversify** your work on:

- grammar
- communication issues
- vocabulary and
- every day expressions presented in each episode.

We have designed the format of the new Learning Support Materials with the goal of providing additional materials that will be useful in **accelerating your progress in the learning of Spanish**.

The new materials should **double the speed** of your progress and in the same way that the Spanishpodcast do:

- teaching,
- motivation and
- entertaining.

The **new materials** are both written and audio and they cover other aspects of learning.

I will list them now with a brief explanation and return to them later with more detail:

1. A description of the Situation, the Grammar, the Communication Objectives of the episode and Vocabulary list.

2. An Expanded Listening Comprehension Practice for the main points of each episode.

We have titled this:

Práctica de Ampliación

(Expanded Listening Practice)

The Mp3 is titled:

Ampliación
(Audio Immersion)

3. A **Listening Comprehension Quiz** about the main ideas with in the episode using multiple choice questions.

We have titled this:

Práctica de Comprensión Auditiva-Elección de Respuesta
(Listening Comprehension Quiz– Multiple Choice)

The Mp3 is titled:

Elección
(choice)

4. The **Correct Answers**, with their own audio file for each question that we have asked.

This section is called:

Comprensión Auditiva-Elección. Soluciones
(Answers for the Listening Comprehension Quiz)

The Mp3 is titled:

Elección Soluciones
(Multiple Choice – Answers)

5. A **Listening Comprehension Quiz** about the main ideas dealt with in the episode using open-ended questions, in other words, you yourself will explain your answer depending on what you have learned.

This section is called:

Práctica de Comprensión Auditiva-Respuesta Abierta
(Auditory Comprehension-Open-ended Questions)

The Mp3 is titled:

Abiertas
(Open-ended)

6. You will have **Audio Answers** to the open-ended questions.

This section is called:

Comprensión Auditiva-Respuesta Abierta. Soluciones
(Answers to Open-ended Questions)

The Mp3 is titled:

Abiertas-Soluciones
(Answers to Open-ended)

7. A **Pronunciation** exercise in which we choose the most important words, expressions and sentences and pronounce them very clearly so that you can hear them easily and repeat at your own speed.

The section is titled:

Ejercicios de Pronunciación
(Pronunciation Exercises)

Audio files or Mp3 are titled:

Pronunciación
(Pronunciation)

8. A Listening **Practice** based in the transcript dialogue of each episode. We will leave out a few important words, expressions or from the script so you can remember them and either say or write them down.

This section is titled:

Diálogo con blancos – Práctica Oral
(Fill in the blanks - Oral Practice)

9. We provide the **Complete Transcript of the Dialogue** in case you need it before or after filling in the blanks.

Next, we´ll review each section in detail.

1) Description of the Grammatical and Communication Objectives of the episode (Text only).

This provides a **thorough description of the grammatical as well as the communication objectives** of each episode. Here we explain the main learning goals and some of the secondary ones as well (it doesn´t have an audio component because we thought that it was unnecessary).

2) Expanded Listening Comprehension Practice (text and mp3)

This provides a **broader application** of the grammatical and communication aspect of the episode. This is achieved by means of **examples** in which the characters, the themes and the settings are different from those in the episode. The examples will use little analogues placed in very common settings so that you can generalize your learning to the greatest extent possible.

You can open these listening practice exercises (inmersión auditiva) in PDF and print them or look at them on your computer screen. You can also listen to them on your computer or on your MP3 player.

3. Listening Comprehension Quiz-Multiple Choice Questions (text and mp3)

This is a **Listening Comprehension Quiz** about the topics dealt with in the episode using multiple choice questions.

Here we ask **10 comprehension questions** about the episode and we give three possible answers for each question from which you choose one. If you add it up you can see that you'll listen to 30 possible answers from which you'll choose 10.

This exercise helps you to undo mistakes, to remember the most significant points, to rule out possible wrong answers and to recognize by ear and cognitively the points that have previously been made. This helps to develop a selective listening skill for the most important parts of the episode.

You can see all of the questions and possible answers on your computer screen or you can listen to them on your computer or on your MP3 player.

4. Answers to the Listening Comprehension Multiple Questions (Text and mp3)

Here you will find the correct answers to the Multiple Choice Listening Comprehension questions that were described in the third section.

5. Listening Comprehension Quiz Open-ended Questions (Text and Mp3)

This is a **Listening Comprehension Quiz** about what has happened in the episode by means of open-ended questions, in other words, questions whose answers you yourself will explain depending on how much you have understood.

We will asked 10 questions and you will have to explain the answer according to what has happened in the episode. Naturally they are questions about the most significant aspects of each topic so you will have heard, read and worked with them previously.

All the questions are in written and spoken form.

6. Answers to the Listening Comprehension Open-ended Questions (Text and Mp3)

From the material of the episode we will draw up all of the possible responses that one could come up with after working with this material. We'll present all of the answers in written and spoken form.

7) Pronunciation Exercise (writing and Mp3)

In this exercise we provide the most significant words and expressions of the episode recorded in the clearest and most audible way possible. You can listen to them in a relaxed way, understand them and be able to repeat them calmly so you can focus on them. We'll say them two times and give you sufficient time to repeat. This is a phonetic, auditory and oral exercise that can be very useful for hearing the words and sentences with all of their sounds and it gives you the opportunity to memorize better by repeating them immediately after hearing them.

8) Oral Practice to fill blanks in different ways (only text)

We provide the dialogue or the most important part of the episode, if there is no dialogue, from which we have removed some words, grammatical forms or expressions that have appeared in the episode.

This material can be helpful in various ways:

- a) Listening to the episode and filling in the spaces as a from dictation.
- b) If it is a dialogged with two or more characters, you can act out roles with your friends who are also studying Spanish or with your Spanish language classmates. With this material each one of you will be able to take the roles of different characters and recall the word or the expression that is missing. Naturally in this listening exercise there is no audio since the original audio is the dialogue of the episode.

9) The Complete Dialogue (ready to print)

We make available the complete transcription of the dialogue so that you can review it before or after doing the oral practice with blank spaces, if you need to.

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Dear friends, we hope that our Support Materials, our exercises, will be exactly that, a support, an aid to your learning of Spanish as a second or third language and that the new format in which we present them (visual, written and spoken) will make it possible to use them in any situation and with the greatest benefit possible in order to speed up your progress in Spanish.