



En contacto

Gramática en acción

Sexta edición



Mary McVey Gill

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Teresa Méndez-Faith

Contains
Free Audio
Compact Disc



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Gramática en acción

Sexta edición

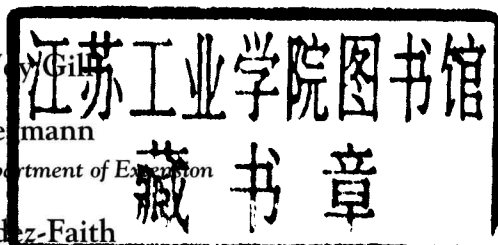
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Preface

The Program

En contacto is a complete intermediate Spanish program designed to put the English-speaking student in touch with today's Hispanic culture through its language and literature. The program includes a review grammar that stresses communication (*Gramática en acción*) and an accompanying instructor's edition, a reader that emphasizes the acquisition of reading skills as well as text comprehension (*Lecturas intermedias*), a workbook/lab manual (*Cuaderno de ejercicios y laboratorio*), and an audio program. Since the acquisition of vocabulary is as important to the intermediate student as the review of grammar, each of the twelve chapters of each component is coordinated with the other components by theme, grammar topic, and high-frequency core vocabulary. The program is arranged for flexibility: the grammar text (and exercise manual) can be used in courses in which reading is not emphasized, and the reader can be used independently in intermediate courses stressing reading, literature, or conversation. The twelve chapter themes were chosen to appeal to the contemporary student and to introduce cultural materials and stimulating topics for discussion or composition.

Changes in the Sixth Edition

While the basic scope and sequence of the book were maintained in the sixth edition, the following features are new:

- Two new chapter themes: ecology (Chapter 9, **Un planeta para todos**) and communications, including Internet communication (Chapter 11, **¡Adiós, distancias!**).
- A new end-of-chapter section called **¡A comunicarnos!**, with pair and small-group activities, games, and guided writing.
- Increased use of authentic material, such as excerpts from magazine articles and literary selections, particularly in the **Presentación del tema** sections, many of which were rewritten to provide new perspectives on the chapter themes.
- New exercises in the grammar sections to provide increased personalization.
- Full-color design with color photos and all-new line art.

For more information, see the new Instructor's Edition of *En contacto: Gramática en acción*.

The Review Grammar: *Gramática en acción*

Organization

Presentación del tema

Each chapter begins with a short presentation of the chapter theme, which is recorded on an audio CD. Students can listen at home, or the instructor can present this section in class. These sections are recorded in order to give students more practice in improving aural comprehension. Discussion questions follow. Next comes the **Vocabulario útil**, an active vocabulary list. The words listed are used immediately by students in the exercises and activities that follow, promoting true vocabulary acquisition. Also included in the **Presentación del tema** section and on the audio CD is **Para escuchar**, a section of recorded conversations that introduce the chapter's theme, vocabulary, grammar, and language functions in a natural context. These conversations give students practical, functional language. The listening comprehension exercises in this section can be done in class or assigned as homework. They consist of global listening first (listening for main ideas), followed by more discrete listening tasks to improve students' aural comprehension. The audio CD for the **Presentación del tema** is included with each grammar text; extra copies and the tapescript are available from the publisher.

Gramática y vocabulario

The grammar explanations that follow are designed to go beyond the grammar presented in a first-year text without introducing too much detail. The Spanish examples practice the chapter vocabulary and in many cases provide cultural information about the Hispanic world. The exercise sections, **Práctica**, contain a wide variety of oral and written activities arranged in order of increasing difficulty. They are based directly on the chapter theme and vocabulary. Instructors are encouraged to use these as pair and small-group activities whenever possible. One or sometimes two **Vocabulario útil** sections are included in each **Gramática y vocabulario** section, and the vocabulary is made immediately active by practice in the exercises.

En otras palabras

These sections focus on two or more language functions and provide explanations, examples, and exercises. They are based on notional-functional methodology and therefore are largely independent of the grammatical syllabus. They focus on the communicative use of language for specific purposes or functions. Since the sections are optional, the material they contain is not "tested" in subsequent grammar sections; that is, it is not considered active knowledge essential for doing later grammatical exercises. The authors hope that these sections

will be used for fun as well as to help the students achieve communicative competence. The important thing throughout the **En otras palabras** sections is that students make an effort to communicate.

¡A comunicarnos!

This section includes pair and group activities, games related to the chapter's theme and grammar, and a **Composición estructurada** or guided composition activity.

Para escuchar: Suplemento

Following Chapter 12 is **Para escuchar: Suplemento**. This optional supplement to the **Para escuchar** sections consists of authentic selections from **Radio Española**, shortened but unsimplified. These passages will provide students with challenging yet interesting listening-comprehension practice. The scripts are included in the tapescript.

Appendixes

Following **Para escuchar: Suplemento** are the appendixes, which cover capitalization, punctuation, and word stress; information on numbers, dates, and time; use of prepositions after certain infinitives; answers to selected exercises; and verb charts. In addition, there is a complete Spanish-English end vocabulary.

Pair and Small-Group Activities

Many of the exercises and activities of this book lend themselves to pair and small-group work, and the authors encourage instructors to use them as such whenever possible. With group or pair activities, students have more opportunities to practice the language, and shy students in particular benefit tremendously. Also, the instructor has more time to answer questions and help those who need extra attention.

The authors recommend that in using group or pair activities the instructor:

1. set very clear time limits, to encourage efficient use of the time by the students
2. make sure the directions are absolutely clear to the students, which may involve explicit demonstration, and that students are convinced of the value of the activity
3. move around the room to answer questions, listen to what is happening, and occasionally participate in the work
4. follow up the activity with a meeting of the class as a whole, preferably with some of the pairs or groups reporting in some way on what they did

Workbook/Lab Manual

Each chapter of the combination workbook/lab manual contains all new exercises not found in the review grammar text. The exercises in the workbook section provide additional writing practice, while the lab section and accompanying audio program provide extra oral practice. The lab section contains listening discrimination exercises, comprehension exercises, dictations, songs, and practice of grammatical structure. The exercise manual is based on and carefully coordinated with the review grammar text.

Tapescript and Recordings

A tapescript to accompany the review grammar is available from the publisher. It includes the chapter opening passages and the **Para escuchar** sections, as well as the tapescript for the lab program. An audio CD containing the **Presentación del tema** and **Para escuchar** sections is packaged with the student text and the Instructor's Edition. The lab program is available on cassettes or on audio CDs.

Videomundo Video, Viewer's Manual, and Video Transcript and Viewer's Manual Answer Key

The Holt, Rinehart and Winston intermediate Spanish **Videomundo** video, with a viewer's manual and the transcript to the videos and viewer's manual answer key, can be used with the **En contacto** program if desired. The Instructor's Edition for **En contacto: Gramática en acción** includes a chapter-by-chapter correlation.

Web Site

The Web site for **En contacto** includes interactive Web activities and links to related sites, chapter by chapter. See the Holt, Rinehart and Winston Web site at <http://www.hrwcollege.com>.

The following symbols, or icons, are used throughout this text:



The material is on the audio CD accompanying the book.



The Web site contains related activities.



This activity works well with pairs.



This activity works well with small groups.

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Materias

CAPÍTULO UNO

Diversiones y fiestas 1

Presentación del tema 2

Vocabulario útil: Las fiestas 4

Para escuchar: En la fiesta 6

Gramática y vocabulario 7

Subject Pronouns; The Present Indicative Tense (1) 7

Vocabulario útil: Algunas actividades del fin de semana 9

The Present Indicative Tense (2) 10

Vocabulario útil: Los deportes y otras diversiones 12

The Personal *a* 14

Nouns and Articles 15

Definite and Indefinite Articles 18

The Reflexive (1) 21

En otras palabras: Saludos y presentaciones;
Para iniciar una conversación 23

¡A comunicarnos! 24

CAPÍTULO DOS

Vejez y juventud 28

Presentación del tema 29

Vocabulario útil: La familia 31

Para escuchar: En el autobús 33

Gramática y vocabulario 34

The Preterit Tense: Regular Verbs; Use of the Preterit 34

The Preterit Tense: Irregular Verbs 37

Vocabulario útil: La vida y la muerte 39

The Imperfect Tense 41

The Preterit versus the Imperfect 45

Hacer + Time Expressions 49

En otras palabras: Para hablar de la familia;
Expresiones de cortesía; Despedidas 52

¡A comunicarnos! 54

CAPÍTULO TRES

La presencia latina 56

Presentación del tema 57

Vocabulario útil: Inmigrantes y viajeros 59

Para escuchar: Conversaciones con inmigrantes 61

Gramática y vocabulario 62

Agreement of Adjectives; Adjectives Used as Nouns 62

Position of Adjectives 64

Ser versus Estar; Ser and Estar with Adjectives 67

Vocabulario útil: Adjetivos descriptivos 69

Demonstratives 71

Possessives 75

En otras palabras: Para expresar admiración,
desaprobación, sorpresa 79

¡A comunicarnos! 81

CAPÍTULO CUATRO

Hombres y mujeres 83

Presentación del tema 84

Vocabulario útil: Hombres y mujeres 86

Para escuchar: Dos invitaciones 88

Gramática y vocabulario 89

The Future Tense 89

The Conditional 92

Vocabulario útil: Comparaciones 95

Comparisons of Equality 97
 Comparisons of Inequality 98
 Irregular Comparative Forms; The Superlative 99

En otras palabras: Invitaciones 104

¡A comunicarnos! 105

Vivir y aprender 108

CAPÍTULO
CINCO

Presentación del tema 109

Vocabulario útil: Escuela, colegio (liceo) y universidad 110
 Para escuchar: Un contestador telefónico automático 113

Gramática y vocabulario 115

The Present Subjunctive Mood: Introduction and Formation; The Subjunctive with Impersonal Expressions 115

Vocabulario útil: La vida universitaria 119

The Subjunctive with Verbs Indicating Doubt; Emotion; Will, Preference, or Necessity; Approval, Disapproval, or Advice 121

The Subjunctive versus the Indicative 125

En otras palabras: Para saludar y despedirse por teléfono; Para pedir y dar permiso y para expresar prohibición 130

¡A comunicarnos! 132

De viaje 134

CAPÍTULO
SEIS

Presentación del tema 135

Vocabulario útil: Las vacaciones 138
 Para escuchar: En Cartagena 141

Gramática y vocabulario 143

Direct Object Pronouns 143
 Indirect Object Pronouns 145

Vocabulario útil: En el banco 146
Prepositional Object Pronouns 147
Two Object Pronouns; Position of Object Pronouns 149
Commands 150
Commands with Object Pronouns 154
Vocabulario útil: Algunas actividades turísticas 155

En otras palabras: Direcciones
y sentidos 157

¡A comunicarnos! 159

7 CAPÍTULO SIETE

Gustos y preferencias 161

Presentación del tema 162

Vocabulario útil: La música 164
Para escuchar: En Bogotá 166

Gramática y vocabulario 167

Gustar, Faltar, and Similar Verbs 167
Vocabulario útil: De comidas y bebidas 169
Affirmatives and Negatives 171
Vocabulario útil: La ropa 174
The Subjunctive in Descriptions of the Unknown or Indefinite 177
The Subjunctive with Certain Adverbial Conjunctions 179

En otras palabras: Para expresar acuerdo
y desacuerdo 183

¡A comunicarnos! 185

8 CAPÍTULO OCHO

Dimensiones culturales 189

Presentación del tema 190

Vocabulario útil: Aspectos culturales 192
Para escuchar: Un panorama cultural 194

Gramática y vocabulario 195

The Reflexive (2) 195

The Reflexive with Commands 200

Vocabulario útil: La rutina diaria 201

The Reciprocal Reflexive 202

Vocabulario útil: Saludos y despedidas 203

The Impersonal Se; The Se for Passive 204

En otras palabras: La falta de comprensión 209

¡A comunicarnos! 210

Un planeta para todos 213

CAPÍTULO
NUEVE

Presentación del tema 214

Vocabulario útil: El medio ambiente 216

Para escuchar: El ecoturismo y la ecología 218

Gramática y vocabulario 219

The Imperfect Subjunctive 219

If Clauses (1) 223

Vocabulario útil: Problemas ambientales 225

Adverbs 228

The Infinitive 229

The Verb Acabar 232

En otras palabras: Para dar consejos; Para expresar
compasión o solidaridad o falta de compasión o
solidaridad 233

¡A comunicarnos! 235

La imagen y los negocios 238

CAPÍTULO
DIEZ

Presentación del tema 239

Vocabulario útil: La imagen y los negocios 241

Para escuchar: Compra y venta 246

Gramática y vocabulario 247

Past Participles as Adjectives 247

The Perfect Indicative Tenses 249

Vocabulario útil: Compra y venta 254

The Present Perfect and Past Perfect Subjunctive 254

The Verb *Haber*; Expressing Obligation 257

The Passive Voice 258

En otras palabras: Para hacer un pedido; Para hacer una compra; Para ofrecer ayuda 261

¡A comunicarnos! 263

CAPÍTULO ONCE

¡Adiós, distancias! 265

Presentación del tema 266

Vocabulario útil: La computadora y la comunicación 268

Para escuchar: En Bucaramanga 270

Gramática y vocabulario 271

Sequence of Tenses with the Subjunctive: Summary 271

If Clauses (2) 274

Conjunctions 277

Por versus Para 279

Vocabulario útil: Expresiones con *por* y *para* 281

En otras palabras: Para expresar alivio, gratitud y comprensión; Para expresar incredulidad y enojo 283

¡A comunicarnos! 285

CAPÍTULO DOCE

La imaginación creadora 287

Presentación del tema 288

Vocabulario útil: La creación humana 291

Para escuchar: El arte y la imaginación 292

Gramática y vocabulario 293

The Present Participle and the Progressive Forms 293

Relative Pronouns 297

Vocabulario útil: El mundo literario 299

The Neuter *Lo*, *Lo Que* (*Lo Cual*) 302

Diminutives 304

En otras palabras: Para disculparse; Para expresar vacilación; Para resumir una idea; Para cambiar de tema 305

¡A comunicarnos! 307

Para escuchar: Suplemento 311

Appendix A: Capitalization, Punctuation, Syllabication, and Word Stress 313

Appendix B: Numbers, Dates, and Time 315

Appendix C: Use of Prepositions 319

Appendix D: Answers to Exercises 321

Appendix E: Regular Verbs 322

Appendix F: Spelling-Changing, Stem-Changing, and Irregular Verbs 326

Vocabulary 341

Índice 379

Credits 383

La Fiesta del Gran
Poder, Bolivia



Diversiones y fiestas

CAPÍTULO
UNO



Presentación del tema

En el calendario hispano hay muchos días de fiesta. Un refrán español dice: «No te pueden quitar lo bailado»; esto significa que hay que gozar de la vida, celebrarla. Hay fiestas religiosas, patrióticas y culturales. En la página anterior, se ve una foto de la fiesta del Gran Poder en Bolivia:

«Para los aymaras, la fiesta del Gran Poder es una de las fechas más importantes. Durante la época colonial, para no volver al trabajo inhumano de las minas, los indígenas inventaron [concebieron la idea] que, de tanto cavar [dig], habían llegado a las puertas del infierno y se habían encontrado con [had met] el diablo. La historia impresionó a los españoles [y]... para recordar el episodio [los indígenas] crearon estos personajes: los **diablos**.»[†]

«Las llamadas» es otra fiesta hispana; se celebra en Uruguay. «La celebración de **las llamadas** se remonta [goes back] a los ritos religiosos y tradiciones de los bantúes de Angola, de Mozambique y del Congo, países de origen de la mayor parte de los negros uruguayos. Con exuberantes cadencias y magní-



La celebración de las llamadas

* This symbol indicates that the section is on cassette. Your instructor may ask you to listen to this section before reading it to practice listening comprehension.

† Daniel Pardon, «La fiesta del Gran Poder», *Geomundo*, mayo de 1996, páginas 467–475.