

BASIC SPANISH CONVERSATION

A Functional Approach

Juan Kattán-Ibarra

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*Students at outdoor cafe
in Salamanca, Spain.*

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Preface

Basic Spanish Conversation is a functional course designed to develop oral language skills at the beginning and intermediate levels. This book may be used as 1) the principal text in a Spanish conversation class, 2) a text to provide valuable reinforcement of oral skills in a more general Spanish course, or 3) a text for individuals studying on their own who wish to improve their conversational skills or brush up on their Spanish.

Each of the 18 units in this book focuses on specific language functions (activities) of everyday life, for example, asking and giving personal information, describing places and their location, asking and giving simple directions. The language and structures needed to perform these language functions successfully constitute the basis of each unit. The material in the text is presented in order of difficulty, progressing from the more simple and frequently used forms such as the present tense to more complex structures, including the compound and subjunctive tenses.

The units are each divided into sections A and B. Individual sections in a unit deal with different aspects of a common language function and cover a range of themes, such as school, work, travel, leisure activities, daily routine, shopping, eating out, public services, and many others. The aims of each section are clearly stated at the beginning, so that you will know beforehand the kind of communicative competence you are expected to achieve.

New material is presented through a variety of formats. These include dialogues, interviews, reading passages, letters, brief articles from newspapers, written instructions, questionnaires, photographs, maps, notices, advertisements, timetables, and official forms. Each of these is followed by a set of individual, paired, or group activities requiring the use of spoken Spanish. The instructions preceding each exercise explain the theme or situation and the type of activity involved. Role-playing exercises are an important feature of this conversation text.

Oral practice is often related to everyday surroundings and experience. You are asked to talk about your family, home, studies, likes, dislikes, interests, vacations, or plans for the future.

Words and idioms used in *Basic Spanish Conversation* are listed in the alphabetical Spanish-English Vocabulary at the end of the book. Much of this vocabulary will be elicited in the practice section.

The *Unit Summary* that follows Section B in every unit contains a list of the main language functions that have been practiced, each with examples taken directly from that Unit. This summary is a useful reminder of what you should be able to do with the language after finishing the Unit. It is desirable to refer to the *Unit Summary* and to the *Structure and Vocabulary Review* that follows to study specific points of grammar and usage or to review the entire Unit before moving on to the next one.

A Teacher's Guide that accompanies *Basic Spanish Conversation* for use with this text in school settings contains general information about the book as well as detailed suggestions for presenting new material to classes and guidelines for conducting the varied activities recommended in the book.

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1 Me llamo Carlos

A. In Section A of this Unit, you will learn to give information about yourself and to ask other people about themselves.

1. Study this conversation between Catherine and Carlos. Carlos is a Mexican student.



CATHERINE ¿Cómo te llamas?

CARLOS Me llamo Carlos Miranda, ¿y tú?

CATHERINE Soy Catherine Larson.

CARLOS Mucho gusto.

CATHERINE Hola. Eres mexicano, ¿verdad?

CARLOS Sí, soy mexicano. Soy de Guadalajara. Y tú, ¿de dónde eres?

CATHERINE Soy de Chicago. Soy norteamericana. ¿Qué haces aquí en Chicago?

CARLOS Estudio inglés. Soy alumno de un Instituto de Idiomas. Hablas bastante bien el español.

CATHERINE Gracias. Estudio español en el colegio. ¿Hablas bien el inglés?

CARLOS No muy bien. El inglés es un poco difícil para mí. Pero comprendo bastante.

Preguntas

- a. ¿De dónde es Carlos?
- b. ¿De dónde es Catherine?
- c. ¿Qué estudia Carlos en Chicago?
- d. ¿Dónde estudia?
- e. ¿Dónde estudia español Catherine?
- f. ¿Habla bien el español Catherine?
- g. ¿Habla bien el inglés Carlos?
- h. ¿Comprende bien el inglés?

2. Fill in this form with information about yourself.

Nombre			
Apellido			
Profesión			
Dirección			
Población		Distrito Postal	
Teléfono		Estado	
Nación			

Rogamos ESCRIBAN EN LETRA DE IMPRENTA O A MÁQUINA*

*Please print or type

3. Answer these questions according to the information given in the form on the previous page.

- a. ¿Cuál es su nombre?
- b. ¿Cuál es su apellido?
- c. ¿Cuál es su profesión o actividad?
- d. ¿Cuál es su dirección?
- e. ¿De dónde es usted?
- f. ¿Cuál es su número de teléfono?

4. John meets Pablo, who is from Mexico. Fill in the blank spaces in this dialogue with John's questions.

JOHN

PABLO Mi nombre es Pablo.

JOHN

PABLO Mi apellido es Carrasco.

JOHN

PABLO Calle Zapata, número 324.

JOHN

PABLO Mi teléfono es el tres, veintiuno, treinta y seis, cero, dos.

JOHN

PABLO No, no hablo nada de inglés.

B. In Section B of this Unit, you will have more practice giving and asking personal information. You will also learn to give information about other people.

1. Read this text about Luisa Díaz, a Venezuelan.

Luisa Díaz es venezolana y vive en Caracas en la Calle Simón Bolívar 137, apartamento 25. Es enfermera y trabaja en el Hospital de Niños en la capital venezolana. Luisa tiene 26 años, está casada y tiene dos hijos, Juan y Carmen, de 6 y 4 años, respectivamente.

Preguntas

- a. ¿De dónde es Luisa?
- b. ¿Dónde vive?
- c. ¿Cuál es su ocupación?
- d. ¿Dónde trabaja?
- e. ¿Cuántos años tiene?
- f. ¿Está casada o soltera?
- g. ¿Cuántos hijos tiene?
- h. ¿Cómo se llaman los hijos?

2. Study this information about Manuel Santibáñez.

Nombre	<u>Manuel Santibáñez Díaz</u>		
Compañía	<u>Compañía de Acero Pacífico, S.A.</u>		
Dirección	<u>Avenida Providencia, 721</u>		
Ciudad	<u>Santiago</u>	Código Postal	<u>4</u>
Prov. o Estado	<u>Santiago</u>	País	<u>Chile</u>
Firmado	<u>Manuel Santibáñez</u>	Fecha	<u>30 de abril de 198</u>

Favor de marcar su ocupación o profesión:

☐ Fabricante*	☐ Funcionario de Gobierno	☐ Banco o Caja Agraria
☐ Agente o Comerciante	☐ Importador	☐ Hacendado
☒ Distribuidor o Concesionario	☐ Biblioteca	☐ Ganadero
☐ Ingeniero Agrónomo	☐ Universidad o Escuela	☐ Agricultor
☐ Médico Veterinario	☐ Agrícola	☐ Avicultor
	☐ Estación Experimental	☐ Consultor

*All occupations and professions listed on this form are explained in the Vocabulary at the back of this book.

Now answer these questions according to the information in the form.

- a. ¿Dónde trabaja Manuel?
- b. ¿Cuál es su ocupación?
- c. ¿Cuál es su dirección?
- d. ¿En qué ciudad vive?
- e. ¿En qué provincia vive?

3. You have been invited to attend a reception for people from foreign countries. A young man comes up to chat with you. Provide your response in Spanish.

JOVEN Buenas tardes.

USTED (*Greet him.*)

JOVEN Ud. es de Inglaterra, ¿no?

USTED (*Say you're not from England. You're American.*)

JOVEN Ah, perdone Ud. Soy argentino. Me llamo José.

USTED (*Introduce yourself.*)

JOVEN Mucho gusto.

USTED (*Pleased to meet you.*)

JOVEN ¿De qué parte de Norteamérica es Ud.?

USTED (*Say where you come from.*)

JOVEN Ah, ¡qué interesante! Soy de Buenos Aires.

USTED (*Ask him if he is a student.*)

JOVEN No, no soy estudiante. Soy actor.

USTED (*An actor! How interesting!*)

JOVEN Mi esposa también es actriz.

USTED (*Oh, you're married.*)

JOVEN Sí, estoy casado y tengo dos hijos.

4. Briefly describe a member of your family or a friend. Include the following information: his/her name, address, occupation, place of work, and age. Mention whether the person is married or single. If married, tell whether he/she has children, their names, and their ages.

5. Give a brief oral description of yourself. Vary the guidelines above according to your own situation.

Unit Summary

Asking and giving personal information:

1. Name

¿Cómo se llama Ud.?

Me llamo (Carlos).

¿Cuál es su nombre?

Mi nombre es (Carlos).

Soy (Carlos Miranda).

2. Nationality

¿Es Ud. (mexicano)?

Sí, soy (mexicano).

¿Es (canadiense) John?

Sí, es (canadiense).

3. Origin

¿De dónde es?

Soy de (Guadalajara).

¿De dónde es Teresa?

Es de (Barcelona).

4. Address

¿Dónde vive?

Vivo en (Guadalajara).

¿Cuál es su dirección?

Mi dirección es (Avenida Bolívar,
625).

5. Occupation

¿Cuál es su ocupación?

Soy (estudiante).

¿Cuál es su profesión?

Soy (profesor).

6. Age

¿Cuántos años tiene?

Tengo (26) años.

¿Cuántos años tiene Roberto?

Tiene (32) años.

7. Marital Status

¿Está casado?

Estoy casado.

¿Está soltera María?

Está soltera.

Structure and Vocabulary Review

1.

(yo) (tú) (Ud.)	soy eres es	Catherine Larson norteamericana de Chicago estudiante
-----------------------	-------------------	--

2.

tengo tienes tiene	26 años dos hijos
--------------------------	----------------------

3.

estoy estás está	casado soltero
------------------------	-------------------

4.

(yo)	(no)	hablo comprendo escribo	bien	el español
------	------	-------------------------------	------	------------