

Self – evaluation for prospective Spanish 231 students
Department of Language and Thought
Tel. 234 - 3631

Placement in Foreign Language Classes at GRCC

GRCC does not have a test or other placement instruments to help you determine the best placement in our Spanish courses. The Department of Language and Thought and The Counseling Center apply the same general criteria to help you make an academically and financially good decision for you. Those criteria are listed here:

GRCC is an “open enrollment” institution. We do not use testing to place students in foreign language classes. The students place themselves. In order to help them with the decision as to where they should be, we have the following guidelines.

This is what we recommend to students:

- A. 1-2 years of High school Spanish you can take 101 for review or take 102.
- B. 2-3 years of high school Spanish and you should start in SP 102.
- C. If you have completed 3-4 years of high school you should enroll in SP 231.
- D. If you have 4 or more years of high school or if you are a native speaker with some educational background in a Spanish speaking country you should take SP 232.
- E. If you are a native speaker but have never studied in high school or grammar school here or in a Spanish speaking country you should start in SP 102.
- F. If you have had family exposure to the language and can talk and understand but you have never written or read the language, depending on your interests and reasons for taking the language, you should start in SP 101.

The following questions and translations are intended to help you make a determination as to your placement in Spanish courses at GRCC.

If you have completed three or four years of high school Spanish you may think you are ready for SP 231. When doing the self-evaluation, it is important to be realistic and fair to yourself. If you do not know the answers to the questions or if you cannot do the translations without help, you should begin in SP 102.

If you do not answer the questions with an asterisk next to them correctly, you should not enroll in SP 231. The questions with an asterisk are topics that are covered in SP 102 at GRCC. If you cannot answer them or translate them correctly you will be behind in SP 231 .

Conjugate the verbs by filling the blank:

1. *Yo he _____ (jugar) el baloncesto.
2. Ayer ella _____ (comer) comida China.
3. Mañana nosotros _____ (conocer) a los amigos de Pepe.
4. La semana próxima ustedes _____ (caber) en el coche.
5. Cuando eras joven tú siempre _____ (pensar) que sí?
6. La semana pasada ellos _____ (destruir) la casa.
7. El semestre pasado él _____ (hacer) su tarea.
8. *Ellos habían _____ (escribir) una carta.

Translate:

1. Creo que mañana hará sol.
2. ¿Cuál es tu instrumento musical favorito?
3. Me gustaría saber quien eres.
4. *¿Dónde estarán mis llaves?
5. Quiero salir a jugar con mis amigos.
6. *Antes de viajar se debe dormir.
7. *Supe que ella está en Chicago.
8. *No quise ir de compras.
9. Se lavó la cara Juana.

Please answer the following questions completely. (Completely means that the answer must contain a verb.)

1. ¿Cuál es tu restaurante favorito?
2. ¿Te gusta practicar deportes?
3. ¿Qué ropa llevas normalmente cuando vienes a la universidad?
4. *¿Qué se vende en una farmacia?
5. ¿Con qué frecuencia usas la computadora?
6. ¿Qué es lo que más te gusta de tu casa?
7. *¿Qué piensas hacer después de graduarte?
8. ¿Qué haces si encuentras dinero en la calle?
9. ¿A qué hora te levantaste?

Matching. Match the following numbers with the corresponding letters to make grammatically correct sentences:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Ése es el hombre | a) lo que necesito para la clase de matemáticas. |
| 2) No traje | b) a algún medicamento. |
| 3) ¿Es usted alérgico _____? | c) es caro pero es muy bonito. |
| 4) Don Francisco lleva a los estudiantes a comer | d) al restaurante de una amiga. |
| 5) El suéter que Javier acaba de comprar | e) las siete y media en punto. |
| 6) El autobús va a salir mañana a | f) que arregló mi lavadora. |

Reading -

SP 231 is the course where you will learn to read and understand sentences, paragraphs then stories. Read the following paragraphs and answer the questions. This section represents what would normally be done orally in class. We read aloud and students answer questions by the professor about what was read.

If you successfully answer 7 or more questions you have been well prepared and should enjoy success in SP 231.

If you successfully answer 4-6 questions you should be successful in the class but you will have to work harder at the grammar, vocabulary and translations.

If you successfully answer 0-3 questions correctly you may want to consider taking SP102.

The first selection comes from a collection of stories called El pequeño Nicolás, a pop lit reader, and represents one type of story we read.

Pero Eudes me dijo que aún era temprano y además a mí me gusta mucho jugar a las bolas, juego muy bien, apunto y ¡bang!, casi siempre gano. Entonces dejé las flores en la acera y empecé a jugar con Eudes, y es estupendo jugar a las bolas con Eudes, porque pierde a menudo. El fastidio es que cuando pierde no está muy contento y me dijo que yo hacía trampas y le dije que era un mentiroso, entonces me empujó y me caí sentado en el ramo, y eso no fue muy bueno para las flores.

Preguntas: (The “yo” is Nicolás, the narrator of the stories.)

1. ¿Qué juega Nicolás muy bien?
2. ¿Dónde dejó Nicolás las flores?
3. ¿Por qué le gusta jugar a las bolas a Nicolás?
4. ¿Cómo se pone Eudes cuando pierde a las bolas?
5. ¿Quién se cayó y se sentó en el ramo?

The second selection comes from Imaginación y fantasía and represents the second type of story that we read. If you have the impression that this selection is harder, you are right! The syntax (sentence organization) and vocabulary are considerably more difficult.

Pedro is the central character and Hebe is his wife.

Muy temprano fue al potrero. Caminaba con pasos contenidos porque ya sabía que en cuanto taconeara iría dando rebotes por el corral.(1) Arremangó la camisa, acomodó un tronco, cogió el hacha y asestó el primer golpe. Y entonces, rechazado por el impulso de su propio hachazo, Pedro levantó vuelo. (2) Prendido todavía del hacha, quedó un instante en suspensión, levitando allá, a la altura de los techos; y luego bajó lentamente, bajó como un tenue vilano de cardo.(3)

Acudió su mujer cuando Pedro ya había descendido y, con una palidez de muerte, temblaba agarrado a un tronco.

-- ¡Hebe! ¡Casi me caigo al cielo!

-- Tonterías. No puedes caerte al cielo. Nadie se cae al cielo. ¿Qué te ha pasado?

(1) en corral: as soon as he put his heels down, he would start bouncing all over the yard

(2) levantó vuelo: took off (as in flight)

(3) como un tenue vilano de cardo: tenuously as if he were thistle down

Preguntas:

6. ¿Qué hizo Pedro muy temprano?
7. ¿Por qué caminaba con “pasos contenidos”?
8. ¿Qué hizo cuando llegó al potrero?
9. ¿Hasta que altura levitó?
10. ¿Quién “temblaba”?
11. ¿Qué le pasó a Pedro?

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Answers

Conjugate the verb by filling in the blank:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Jugado | 5. Pensabas |
| 2. Comió | 6. Destruyeron |
| 3. Conoceremos | 7. Hizo. |
| 4. Cabrán | 8. Escrito |

Translate:

1. I think that it will be sunny tomorrow.
2. What is your favorite musical instrument?
3. I would like to know who you are.
4. I wonder where my keys are, or, where would my keys be?
5. I want to go out to play with my friends.
6. Before traveling one should sleep.
7. I found out that she was in Chicago.
8. I refused to go shopping.
9. Juana washed her face.

Answer to the questions: The words in *italics* are suggested answers. The words in parentheses and in bold face type are the translation of the beginning of the answer.

1. Mi restaurante favorito es... *San Chez* (**Mi favorite restaurant is...**)
2. Si, me gusta practicar deportes./ No, no me gusta practicar deportes. (**Yes, I like to practice/play sports./ No, I don't like to practice/play sports.**)
3. Normalmente llevo ... (*name an article of clothing*) (**Usually I wear...**)
4. En una farmacia se vende... (*pastillas, medicamento etc*). (**In a pharmacy they sell...**)
5. Uso la computadora *cada dia*. (**I use the computer every day.**)
6. Lo que mas me gusta de mi casa es... *mi cuarto* (**What I like the most about my house is...**)
7. Después de graduarme pienso... *trabajar* (**After graduating I plan to...**)
8. Si encuentro dinero en la calle, yo... *comeré en San Chez*. (**If I find money in the street, I...**)

Matching: 1-f, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d, 5-c, 6-e.

Answers to the questions on the readings. **The translation of the question is in bold.**

The answers are in plain type. *The translations of the answers are in italics.*

First Reading

1. **What does Nicolás play very well?**

Nicolás juega a las bolas muy bien. *Nicolás plays bocce (las bolas) very well.*

2. **Where did Nicolás leave the flowers?**

Dejó las flores en la acera. or Las dejó en la acera. *He left the flowers on the sidewalk. or He left them on the sidewalk.*

3. Why does Nicolás like to play bocce?

Le gusta porque casi siempre gana. *He likes to play because he almost always wins.*

4. What happens to Eudes when he loses at bocce?

Eudes no está contento. *He is not happy.*

5. Who fell and sat on the bouquet?

Nicolás se cayó y se sentó en el ramo. *Nicolás fell and sat on the bouquet.*

Second Reading.

6. What did Pedro do very early?

Fue al potrero. *He went to the pasture.*

7. Why was he walking with restrained steps?

Porque iría dando rebotes por el corral. *Because he would start bouncing all over the corral.*

8. What did he do when got to the pasture?

Arremangó la camisa, acomodó un tronco, cogió el hacha y asestó el primer golpe.
He rolled up his sleeves, arranged a log, picked up the axe and gave the first blow.

9. How high did he go (levitate)?

Llegó hasta la altura de los techos. *He reached the rooftops*

10. Who was trembling?

Pedro temblaba. *Pedro was trembling.*

11. What happened to Pedro?

Pedro se cayó al cielo. *Pedro fell to the sky.*

The excerpt comes from a short story about Pedro who suffers an illness that causes him to lose density. That is why when he hits the log with his axe the counterforce sends him into the air. (For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.) The story does not end well for Pedro. Despite of all of his efforts, he loses more and more density and the story ends with him floating off into the sky with Hebe seeing him become smaller and smaller.

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