

Spa 3320 - F18
Guide for the Midterm

1. Accents and Punctuation: Do you remember how to divide a word into its basic syllables? Where does the natural accent fall in Spanish? Why are the "sticky" vowels so important? ([Review](#))
2. Verbs:
 - a. Have you reviewed the present tense verbs you learned in the past? How many of them are stem-changers ([1, 2](#)) or irregular verbs? How many have spelling changes to accommodate consistency in pronunciation? See: p. 7.
 - b. How many different time references does a present tense verb refer to? For example, "right now", "habitually", etc.
 - c. Can you fill-in the blanks in a cloze paragraph using verbs and verb conjugations? See: "Rutina de Pablo".
 - d. Have you studied the differences between "ser," "estar," and "haber"? What does "hay" mean in Spanish? When do you use "hay" instead of "ser" or "estar"? When do you use "estar" versus "ser"? How many rules of use are there for "ser" and "estar"? How does SER or ESTAR change the meaning of adjectives like "nervioso" or "listo"?
 - e. Why is the "gustar" verb so special? What does it really mean? Why do we call it a backwards verb? What are indirect object pronouns and how do you use them with the "gustar" verb?
 - f. What is a periphrastic verb conjugation? How many compound verb structures can you recall from the past (for example, "tener ganas de", "tener que", "ir a", "poder", "deber", and "necesitar")? How many new periphrastic verb conjugations have we learned? See: p. 5.
 - g. Have you studied all the verbs related to weather expressions? See: p. 23.
 - h. Can you recall all the idiomatic expressions formed by the verb "tener"? See p. 22.
 - i. What copulative or linking verbs have we studied? Can you create a descriptive simile using them? Careful! Since these verbs link the subject to the adjective, you need to be careful and pay particular attention to the agreement between the subject and its compliment.
 - j. Can you group all the present tense verbs you have learned into pairs of synonyms? See: Act B (7).
3. Adjectives:
 - a. Have you reviewed the rules for adjective agreement (pluralization, gender, etc.)?
 - b. Are you aware of how the placement of adjectives can alter their meaning?
 - c. How many adjectives of place have we learned? See: Act H (36)
4. The Personal "a":
 - a. What happens in Spanish, when a person becomes the direct object?
 - b. How does our ideological/psychological perception influence the grammar of the sentence?
 - c. In what types of sentences should you overlook the "[personal a](#)" (exceptions to the rule)?

5. Negative and indefinite words:
 - a. How many negative and indefinite words are there in Spanish?
 - b. Can you pair these words in groups of opposites?
 - c. Do you know how to construct indefinite and negative sentences?
 - d. Is there anything you should know about negative sentences? In which of these sentences do you need to use the double-negative? Why?
6. Question words:
 - a. How many questions words have we learned [\(1, 2\)](#)?
 - b. What is the question word for "do" in Spanish?
 - c. Can you create a question with each word?
 - d. When do you use "qué" versus "cuál"?
 - e. Which verb conjugation accompanies "quién" or "quiénes"?
7. Description and Semantics:
 - a. What are the five senses in Spanish? How can they help us describe something/someone more vividly?
 - b. If you had to describe a situation or event, what types of questions could you raise to help write a good descriptive narrative?
 - c. How can a good working knowledge of semantic meaning, semantic fields, and a dictionary help improve our descriptions?
8. Syntax:
 - a. Can you break a sentence down into its syntactic parts (grammatical elements)?
 - b. Can you identify each syntactic element in Spanish?
 - c. What syntactic elements should you isolate first when reading or writing?
9. Morphology:
 - a. What is morphologic structure?
 - b. How does it help us recognize word meaning?
 - c. How does it help us conjugate and understand verb meaning?
 - d. Can you create an adverb from an adjective using a suffix in Spanish? When do you have to change the adjective's ending to A before linking it to -MENTE?