

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español 332!



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Materiales:

- Libro de texto y cuaderno: *Así se dice 2*
- Binder or notebook with folder for handouts
- Paper, pens and pencils
- Spanish pocket dictionary (*suggested*)

EXPECTATIVAS:

- **Puntualidad** – Students are expected to arrive to class on time and be seated and ready to work when the bell rings. If a student is late to class three times in a marking period, it will be reflected in their grade.
- **Preparación** – Students are to bring all necessary materials to class on a daily basis. Failure to do so will negatively affect the student's grade. Another aspect of preparation involves reviewing and **memorizing** vocabulary, grammar, or cultural content in order to be able to actively participate in class.
- **Participación** – Students should take advantage of class time to **practice** the necessary skills and **speak Spanish** out loud, share opinions and ideas, with partners, in small groups, and with the teacher **every single day**.
- **Aquí se habla español** – In class, Spanish will be the only means of communication. Any clarification or question in English can be addressed either **before** or **after** class, or during an office hours (extra help) appointment. **Speaking in English both to the teacher and with classmates during class will negatively affect the student's participation grade.**
- **Tarea** – Homework will be assigned most days and will be checked in class. Assignments will be posted on our class web page (srweldon.yolasite.com). Homework must be completed **thoroughly** and **thoughtfully** and never copied from another student or the Internet. A student who has missed class legally **must hand in the assignment on his or her return to class**. Late and incomplete homework will have an adverse effect on a student's grade and **cutting class will result in a zero** for that day's assignment.

• **Asistencia** – Students are expected to attend class every day. If a student is legally absent on the day of a test, he or she must make up the test within 2 school days upon return to class. **It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements to make up any work or exams.** Students who cut class will receive a zero for any graded work that day including exams, homework and oral presentations. It is always better to come to class and discuss special circumstances with the teacher rather than cut a test or presentation.

• **Honestidad** – Copying another student’s work, borrowing material from the Internet or other sources, using a digital translator, having someone else do your project for you, looking at another student’s test answers or cheating of any kind during an exam are all examples of dishonesty. **Students will receive a zero for dishonest work,** their parents will be notified and, as School policy dictates, the department chair and the dean will be notified. The principal will meet with the parents of a repeat offender.

• **Respeto** – In order for the class to run smoothly, all students must be respectful towards each other and the teacher. Please raise your hand to participate, do not interrupt while someone else is speaking, listen politely to different opinions, be open to personal and cultural differences and remember to **encourage and support** your fellow students.

• **¡Ayúdame!** – As soon as you feel you need extra help or realize you need clarification and explanation, take the initiative to **make an appointment** with the teacher. The teacher’s free periods are posted in the classroom and outside his office (406).

• **Evaluación** - The grading policy for this class is as follows:

- Participation and Preparation – **15%**
- Homework – **10%**
- Quizzes – **25%**
- Exams, Presentations, and Projects – **50%.**

Final grade - Each quarter will weigh 21% and the final assessment and portfolio makes up the remaining 16%.

Please sign below and have your parent or guardian sign attesting that they have reviewed the expectations, grading policy, and student guide and advice for this class.

Student’s Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Student Guide and Advice for Spanish 332

Sr. Weldon

How to improve your Spanish (and your grade!)

1. Be brave and speak

Some of us love to speak in class and others dread having to say a word. It makes it that much more complicated when we are required to do this in a language that is not our own. It requires some courage to put ourselves out there and take a risk and it requires a safe environment where we feel supported and encouraged by those around us. My goal is to ensure that you feel positively about practicing Spanish and speaking in class and that everyone around you contributes to those positive feelings. I also want you to realize that not only are you allowed to make mistakes, but that making constant mistakes is an inherent and normal part of the language learning process. The only way to improve, the only way forward, is to open up your mouth and try to speak. I guarantee that if you make a pledge to yourself to try and communicate in Spanish in class with the teacher and with your classmates every single day, your confidence and ability will grow, communication will be easier with each passing week, and your grade will definitely improve. Not only will I give you 100% for your participation (15% of grade), but speaking each day in class will also help improve your grade on all kinds of assessments and presentations.

2. Memorize

Memorization is a key component. Avoid trying to memorize a whole list of vocabulary or a grammar concept a night or two before an assessment. It is more effective to memorize and practice material a little each night. This way it is easier to participate in class (15% of your grade), use class time to continue practicing, and internalize the material well in advance of an assessment. **5-10 minutes of practice every night makes a major difference.**

3. Tips for memorization

The process of the internalization of information is very individualized, so experiment and find what works for you. Our goal is deeper than just being able to recognize or become familiar with a word or phrase. The objective is to internalize the words, make them your own, commit them to memory, so that they become a part of your repertoire and you are able to draw on them in order to communicate.

- a. **Say it aloud:** the physical act of pronouncing the words aloud not only helps with your pronunciation and your ability and confidence when speaking, but it is also a very effective way of committing words to memory. Some learners are visual, so look at the words, read them aloud and repeat them several times. You can even say them in rhythm or build them into a chant, a rap, a song, etc.
- b. **Write it down:** another physical act that helps your body and mind commit the words to memory is the act of writing, which also helps with spelling and expressing your ideas on paper. Make flash cards, fold a paper in half and write the Spanish words down in columns or categories. Look at the English definitions and then try to write down all

the Spanish words without peeking. Pay attention to which words are more difficult for you and spend more time with them. Many students like to make quizlets on the computer, which can be effective, but do not underestimate the power of the physical act of writing the words down.

4. Grammar help

There are several steps to mastering a grammar concept:

- a. **Structure:** understand how the concept works structurally, what the necessary parts are, and where they go. This information is typically explained in class, but also available on power points, which I post on our webpage.
- b. **When to use it:** you must understand and memorize when to use the concept.
- c. **Examples in context:** it is important to see examples of the concept in use in order to become more familiar with it and to try to imitate the usage.
- d. **Practice:** once you understand the concept, it is time to practice and memorize. The repetition helps solidify your understanding, helps with memorization so that you can apply the concept on your own when speaking and writing in class and on all kinds of assessments.

When you are unsure about a grammar concept, ask for clarification in class or make an appointment with me outside of class. In addition to the power points I post on our webpage, there are links to grammar help at srweldon.yolasite.com. When at home, google the name of any grammar concept and view YouTube video explanations, power points, examples in context, practice, etc.

5. Listen up

Aural comprehension is an integral part of language learning and it takes time and practice. It is very easy to tune out when someone is blabbering on in a language that is not your own. My advice is to make the effort to actively listen, try to get the gist of what is being said, and seek clarification when you know you missed something important (*Señor, ¿podría repetirlo por favor? / Señor, repítalo, por favor*). The more you listen the easier it gets. Practice listening at home by linking to audios, podcasts, radio, television, movies, videos in Spanish via the Internet. Choose topics that truly interest you and that you care about. Start with my webpage for some ideas: srweldon.yolasite.com

6. Read for pleasure

My best advice for expanding ones vocabulary and comprehension is to read about something that you are interested in, something you care about. Read to try to understand the main ideas, the gist of the text. Use the words you know and the context to guess the meaning of unknown words. Underline words or phrases that prevent you from gleaning the meaning and look them up in the dictionary. The more you read, the easier it gets.