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# Preface

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## To the Student

*Fuentes: Conversación y gramática* and *Fuentes: Lectura y redacción*, Fifth Edition, present an integrated skills approach to intermediate Spanish that develops both your receptive (listening and reading) and productive (speaking and writing) skills simultaneously, and also combines the skills in many of the activities you are asked to carry out. For instance, you may be asked to read a list of actions and mark those that you have done, then talk to a classmate to find out which he/she has done, and finally report orally or in writing on the experiences you have in common. In this way, you use multiple skills at once, as in real life, to develop your communicative skills in Spanish.

Learning Spanish also means developing an appreciation of the cultures that comprise the Hispanic world. In *Fuentes: Conversación y gramática*, podcasts, authentic videos made for Spanish speakers by Spanish speakers, feature-length films, and short readings expose you to information about diverse topics from many Hispanic countries. You also will hear directly from Spanish speakers from numerous countries about their opinions, experiences, and individual perspectives in the **Fuente hispana** quotes that appear throughout the chapters. *Fuentes: Lectura y redacción*, the companion volume to *Fuentes: Conversación y gramática*, contains additional readings, as well as writing practice, coordinated with the topics and grammar of each chapter. The magazine and literary selections, as well as informational readings are designed to further enrich your understanding of Hispanic cultures.

As you work with the *Fuentes* program, remember that learning a language is a process. This process can be accelerated and concepts studied can be learned more effectively if you study on a day-by-day basis. What is learned quickly is forgotten just as quickly, and what is learned over time is better remembered and internalized.

More importantly, envision yourself as a person who comprehends and speaks Spanish. Take risks and allow yourself to make errors; it is part of the learning process. Finally, enjoy your study of the Spanish language and cultures as you progress through the course.



## Study Tips for *Fuentes: Conversación y gramática*

The following study suggestions are designed to help you get the most out of your study of Spanish.

### Tips for listening:

- ▶ Read the introduction and think, if only for a second, about the possible content.
- ▶ Read through the while-listening activity in the book or in the Lab prior to listening. This will help focus your attention and increase comprehension.
- ▶ Visualize the speakers in the in-text podcasts and Lab audio.
- ▶ Listen for a global understanding the first time you hear the passage and listen for more specific information the second time, as indicated in the activities.
- ▶ Remember that you do not need to understand every word of each listening passage.
- ▶ When watching videos, use visual cues and gestures to help increase your comprehension.

### Tips for grammar study and activities:

- ▶ Prepare well before each class, studying a little every day rather than cramming the day before the exam.
- ▶ Focus on what you can do with the language or on what each concept allows you to express.
- ▶ Work cooperatively in paired and small-group activities.
- ▶ Do corresponding activities in the Workbook or on iLrn™ when assigned or as additional practice.

### Tips for vocabulary study:

- ▶ Pronounce words aloud.
- ▶ Study new words over a period of days.
- ▶ Try to use the new words in sentences that are meaningful to you.
- ▶ Do corresponding activities in the Workbook and/or those on iLrn™ when assigned or as additional practice.

### Tips for studying culture:

- ▶ Practice reading and listening “between the lines.” The ability to make inferences about a writer’s or speaker’s intentions and the implications of what is expressed is essential to intercultural communication.
- ▶ As you read/listen, compare and contrast what you learn about Hispanic cultures and societies with your own. Use your informal writing to explore these ideas and become more aware of your own underlying beliefs and values.
- ▶ When you watch videos or feature-length films, be observant of everyday cultural norms. Notice gestures, distance between speakers, how people greet each other, when they chose to use *tú* vs. *Ud.*, where people eat, what people eat, etc.



## Student Components

### Fuentes: Activities Manual

The Workbook portion of the Activities Manual allows you to practice the functional grammar and vocabulary presented in *Fuentes: Conversación y gramática* in order to reinforce what you learn in class as you progress through each text chapter.

The Lab Manual section provides pronunciation and listening comprehension practice. The lab activities, coordinated with a set of recordings, can be done toward the end of each chapter and prior to any quizzes or exams.

The Workbook and Lab Manual are available in two formats. They can be accessed online via iLrn™ or are available in a print Student Activities Manual. They contain identical material. If you have access to iLrn™, immediate online corrections will be provided for most workbook and all lab activities and you will have access to the lab audio program. If you have a print Student Activities Manual, your instructor may provide you with an answer key and you may access the lab audio on [cengagebrain.com](http://cengagebrain.com) using the code that came with your textbook.

### Lab Audio CD Program

A set of recordings to accompany the Lab Manual portion of the Activities Manual contains pronunciation practice, listening comprehension activities based on structures and vocabulary presented in *Fuentes: Conversación y gramática*, and a final conversation dealing with the chapter theme. The CDs are available for purchase or in MP3 format on the Student Premium Website. They also are available on iLrn™.

### iLrn™: Heinle Learning Center

This is an audio- and video-enhanced learning environment that includes:

- ▶ An eBook
- ▶ Assignable and integrated textbook activities
- ▶ Assignable, partnered voice-recorded activities
- ▶ The Workbook
- ▶ The Lab Manual with audio
- ▶ **Más allá** videos from the **Videofuentes** section of the textbook
- ▶ The *Share It!* tool giving you an opportunity to post links and to share comments on topics of interest
- ▶ Spanish/Spanish flashcards to practice vocabulary and grammar
- ▶ Self-checking activities to practice grammar
- ▶ A diagnostic study tool to better prepare you for exams
- ▶ Web Search Activities that link to existing websites made by Spanish speakers for Spanish speakers to increase your knowledge of culture while practicing chapter functions

### Fuentes: Student Premium Website

The Student Premium Website includes the following password-protected content:

- ▶ Audio recordings of the text chapter podcasts and the lab audio
- ▶ Video recordings of the short **Más allá** videos from the **Videofuentes** section of the textbook
- ▶ Lab audio