

HOW TO SUCCEED IN SPANISH

Some helpful questions to ask yourself are:

1. Are you studying for quizzes/tests?
2. How are you studying for Spanish? Quality studying, not quantity. What is your method of studying? Note cards? Organized notes? Using only one method might not be enough.
3. When are you studying? If the test is in a week, when do you start preparing for it? I suggest studying the same day you receive your notes. From day one you should be studying.
I recommend not just copying notes down, but fully understanding the class notes on the first day they are presented. If you do not fully understand them, have questions ready so that you can ask me the following day. Many students copy down notes, but don't understand the notes.
4. Are you using the internet for helpful links on grammar? There are several resources to help you out.
5. Are you using a dictionary? Make sure to use one that works for you.
6. Are you coming in for help? Come in for help when you have tried all other resources. Come in with specific questions. Don't just come in and say "I don't get it." Tell me specifically what concepts you do not fully understand and come in the first day you do not understand. Do not wait until a few days before an assessment.
7. How long are you studying? (Shorter durations over a longer period of time is better than longer durations a few days before assessments).
8. Are you speaking Spanish OUTSIDE of the classroom? Practice everyday out loud to others or to yourself. Call a friend, practice at lunch time or when you are just hanging out. Challenge yourself!
9. Are you listening to Spanish OUTSIDE of the classroom? Listen to music/radio, listen to conversations out in the community, watch Spanish programs on tv, such as the news or telenovelas, and read magazines/books in Spanish.

10. Using English to Spanish flashcards is not enough. You must practice the vocabulary words and grammar in context. Examples: Use the vocabulary words or grammar concepts in complete sentences either written or spoken. Challenge yourself to the next level. Memorizing the vocabulary is not always going to help. You must really understand it.

I recommend studying every night 5-15 minutes along with the homework that is assigned. Study as if you would have a "pop" quiz the next day.

Also, I try very hard not to assign homework on the weekend. I believe your weekends should be used to reflect on the week's lessons. This is the time that you can use to catch up on a concept that you need extra practice with. Use the weekend to read your notes and use all the resources mentioned above. Practice speaking Spanish on the weekend with your family and friends (even if they don't understand you). Watch the Spanish programs on Telemundo or Televisión. Try to understand what is being communicated.

Remember if you are wishing to excel in this course, it is vital that you practice outside of the classroom. You must believe in yourself and think positive. You can succeed in Spanish, but you have to want to succeed.

I wish all my students the best. I want every single one of my students to succeed and thrive in my native Spanish language. It gives me a great sense of pride when I see all of you trying your best to achieve success.