

How to Study

An important part of learning anything is studying. Here are a few techniques that are easy to do at home or at school. They can all be done for little or no cost. See descriptions for each activity by scrolling through this document.

- 1) Flashcards
- 2) Vocabulary Pictures
- 3) Frayer Models
- 4) 4 column vocabulary list
- 5) Create a crossword puzzle
- 6) Sentence Blocks
- 7) Quiz a friend
- 8) T-Charts
- 9) Create a game

Other ways to master the language:

- 1) Make friends with people that speak Spanish – and use your Spanish with them!
- 2) Watch Spanish television (Univision, Telemundo)
- 3) Watch movies in Spanish
- 4) Read Spanglish novels/poetry (The House on Mango Street, Cajas de Carton, Julia Alvarez, etc)
- 5) Read bilingual books (there are LOTS of children's books available locally that are bilingual)
- 6) Read news and magazines

Flashcards

A flashcard is a way to study your vocabulary one word or phrase at a time.

- You can use 3x5 size index cards or you cut them in half.
- I recommend that you divide the cards into categories of 5 to 10 words/phrases.
- Use different colors of ink or paper to differentiate between each category.

Basic:

- English on one side of the card, Spanish on the other side.
- No division between categories.

Proficient:

- Spanish on one side and an illustration on the other side. The illustration can be cut and pasted or drawn.
- The cards are divided into categories.

Advanced:

- Spanish-Spanish
 - Synonyms
 - Antonyms
 - Sentences
 - Examples
- Illustrations can be used to assist memory retention.
- No English should be used

How to study with flashcards

- 1. Divide the cards into categories or groups of 5 to 10 words/phrases.**
- 2. Practice translating each card from Spanish to English or recognizing the word for each illustration.**
- 3. Run through all of the cards 3 or 4 times.**
- 4. Start placing the cards that you do know into a pile apart from the ones that you don't know.**
- 5. Practice the ones that you don't know until you've memorized them.**

→To place the words into your long term memory you need to make connections as you study. As you study you should write sentences, identify synonyms/antonyms, identify similar words, etc.

Vocabulary Pictures

Option 1: Labeling

In this activity you find pictures that correlate to the words on your vocabulary list. You may draw the pictures, cut them from magazines, or print clipart. The pictures should be labeled with the word in Spanish. No English is used.

If you have access to a printer, you can use the following website: www.toolsforeducators.com in order to find pictures.

- Go to the website.
- Go to the bottom of the page for the categories available.
- Select the category that you want.
- I would select the “Vocabulary Handout” or the “Picture Dictionary” activity at the bottom of the page.
- You can have up to 15 words. You have to type the word in Spanish and then select the picture that will match it.

Option 2: Word Art

Create an illustration of the vocabulary word. There must be no ENGLISH. (For now the only example I have is in English...I'll find some of my Spanish ones when I get a chance to unpack.)



Suggestions:

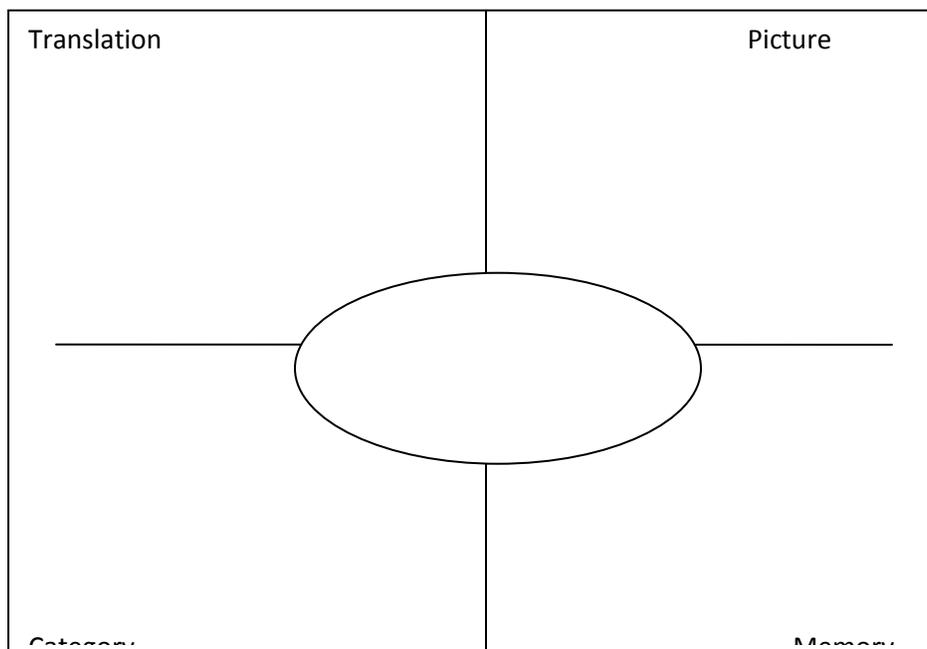
- The illustration should be related to the vocabulary word.
- Link the color to the meaning of the word.
 - Coloring *feliz* yellow because *feliz* means happy
 - Coloring *manzana* red, yellow and green because apples can be red, yellow or green

Frayer Models

A Frayer Model allows you to make multiple connections in your brain related to a vocabulary word or concept.

Layout:

- ◆ In the center of the model goes the word or concept (in Spanish)
- ◆ There are many different ways to personalize a Frayer Model but for now we are going to focus on using the following categories: translation, picture, **memory device**, and category
 - A **memory device** is something that will help you to remember the word.
 - Examples: Rojo and Red both start with R, rosa looks like rose and roses are pink



Other categories for Frayer Models: essential characteristics, non-essential characteristics, examples, non-examples, synonyms, antonyms, conjugation, category, conjugation, related words.

4 Column Vocabulary List

Fold a piece of notebook paper (hotdog style) into 4 columns.

| Spanish | English | Spanish | English |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| El perro | Dog | El perro | Dog |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

- Write a list of 5-7 Spanish words that you need to remember in Column 1.
- Then, without using notes, write the English translation in Column 2.
- Now, fold over Column 1 so you can't see it. Write the Spanish translation for each English word in Column 2.
- Then, fold over Column 2. Write the English translation for each word in Column 3.
- When you finish, check to make sure that all the words are correctly translated.
- Put a star next to words that need to be studied more. Make flashcards, Frayer models, or draw pictures with them to stick them into your mind.

Crossword Puzzles

Your crossword is expected to use the Spanish language.

- ◆ You can create it on graph paper or use a computer program (you can access <http://www.armoredpenguin.com/crossword/> from OPS computers).
- ◆ You are expected to use at least 12 clues with no repetition.
- ◆ You need to turn in a blank crossword with the clues AND an answer key.

Basic:

- ◆ Just translating the words from English → Spanish or Spanish → English. This can also be below basic depending on the level of difficulty.
- ◆ Example:
 - Topic = colors; Clue: rojo; Answer: red

Basic / Proficient:

- ◆ The complexity of this crossword would vary depending on the vocabulary words selected.
- ◆ Writing the word in Spanish to match a picture clue.

- Topic = Furniture; Clue:  ; Answer: (la) silla

Proficient:

- ◆ Requires a person to conjugate a verb in Spanish.
 - Topic = Irregular Verbs; Clue: IR, tú; Answer: vas

Advanced:

- ◆ The definition is given in Spanish and the answer is given in Spanish.
- ◆ Example:
 - Topic = Body Parts; Clue: Está entre la mano y el hombre; Answer: (el) codo

Write Sentences

One of the best ways to practice vocabulary is by writing sentences with it. This may be difficult during the first couple of months of class but after that you shouldn't have any problems.

1. There is a "Sentence Blocks" worksheet that you can use which also utilizes pictures.

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Word: |
| Picture: |
| Sentence & Translation: _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

2. Learning how to construct complex sentences is part of mastering Spanish. Here is an example of a sentence building activity that you can try. You start with a very basic sentence and then you keep adding to it.

- Yo soy.
- Yo soy un estudiante.
- Yo soy un estudiante de español.
- Yo soy un estudiante de español en la escuela secundaria de North.
- Yo soy un buen estudiante de español en la escuela secundaria de North.
- Yo soy un buen estudiante en la clase de español en la escuela secundaria de North.
- Yo soy un buen estudiante en la clase de español de la Profe Waugh en la escuela secundaria de North.

3. Write short dialogues between people. This helps to practice question and answer formation.

Each of these activities can be graded as basic, proficient or advanced depending on the complexity of the sentences.

Quiz a Friend

Another activity that you can do in order to use your time wisely in class is quiz a friend. Here are some quizzing techniques.

1. Use flashcards: hold up the card and the other person gives the translation.
2. Question and answer: Ask the other person questions in Spanish and they answer them in Spanish.
3. Give a person a word and he/she has to use it in a sentence.

T-Charts

T-charts are a great way to practice verb conjugation.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

| SER (to be) | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Yo soy | Nosotros somos |
| Tú eres | Vosotros sois |
| Él es | Ellos son |
| Ella es | Ellas son |
| Usted es | Ustedes son |

| To Be | |
|--------------|-------------|
| I am | We are |
| You are | You all are |
| He is | They are |
| She is | They are |
| You are | You all are |

- In the top box put the infinitive in Spanish and the English translation
- Write in the Spanish subject pronouns (yo, tú, él, ella, Usted, nosotros, vosotros, ellos, ellas, Ustedes).
- Write in the forms of the verb that match the subject pronouns.
- I also have my students create a 2nd chart (next to the 1st one) that has all of the translations in English.

Create a Game (and Play It!)

There are numerous game opportunities available to you.

Here are some ideas for you:

1. Triangles – In this activity you have 16 triangles. This is a matching game. This only works for words. Phrases will not fit into the game board. For this game you need to include both an answer key and the game pieces.
 - a. Basic –match vocabulary in Spanish with the translation in English.
 - b. Proficient/Advanced – match conjugated forms of verbs
 - i. I sing = yo canto
 - ii. jugar (tú) = juegas
2. Squares – Similar to the Triangles activity except that you need more words. The same grading levels apply.
3. Dice Games:
 - a. Start/Finish
 - i. One di. You have pictures in each space on the game board. The person who lands on a space needs to identify the word for it in Spanish.
 - ii. One di. You have words in English or Spanish in the spaces on the game board. The person who lands on the space needs to identify the translation.
 - b. Never Ending
 - i. Any start finish game can be modified to a never ending game.
 - ii. Verb conjugation– You need 2 dice for this game. Each space on the board is labeled with a verb. On one di you will put subject pronouns and on the other will be numbers. On your turn, you will roll both dice. You will move the number of spaces indicated by the di with numbers on it and you will conjugate the verb according to the subject on the second di.
4. Memory – This is a matching game. You need two sets of cards. On one set are pictures and on the other are words in Spanish. You should limit this to 8 words maximum. All of the cards are placed face down. The players take turns flipping the cards over and matching the pictures with the vocabulary words.