

To help the world communicate - better - by offering the best materials available for mastering a new language.

Homeschool Pacing Guide









PACING GUIDE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS (along with grading guidance for our testing program)

Welcome to Breaking the Barrier! We are delighted that you will be joining us for an exciting adventure to master a new world language. Our approach will help any learner find solid footing on a pathway to fluency.

Each level of our curriculum (Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced) is designed for one nine-month academic year. All feature twelve chapters, with the Beginner level offering an extra introductory section entitled "First Steps."

The components of our lessons include:

- an introduction to countries where the target language is spoken (maps, heads of state, famous people, sites of interest, cultural information, food and drink, music, etc.)
- new vocabulary with audio recorded by native speakers*
- three / four key grammatical concepts
- numerous exercises to reinforce the concepts
- oral activities
- a dialogue-based adventure series (Levels I and II) to practice reading and listening comprehension while engaging students in a dynamic storyline
- cultural articles with accompanying audio, video, and comprehension exercises*
- a practice quiz at the end of each chapter that covers the new material

We recommend spending between 2.5 - 3 weeks per chapter, ideally with 4 days per week spent on language study. This approach will allow a student to finish a level in an academic year (9 months) with ample time for review of new concepts. Review is the key to retention! At the Middle School / Junior High level, some will choose to split the book into 6 chapters per year. If a student chooses to devote extra or fewer days per week, the program could be completed a bit faster or slower.

The chapters unfold in a logical progression and are to be completed page by page, in order. That is, each chapter builds upon the concepts taught in the previous pages and chapters.

^{*} The audio and video components are found in the Online Access, which contains all the same curriculum and exercises as the print book.

Though students and families will find their own unique rhythms, a suggested calendar pacing guide can be found at the end of this document.

At the start of the Beginner level, there is a section entitled "FIRST STEPS." This section is critical in laying a solid foundation upon which the following chapters can build. Make sure to complete this section thoroughly before moving on to the first chapter. Vocabulary mastery will come with time. Perfect knowledge of every new word is not necessary to keep moving forward.

We recommend that students learn the vocabulary of each chapter by making flashcards or by using the interactive flashcards available through *Online Access*, the fully digital online book. To find the interactive flashcards, click the "FLASHCARDS" icon under the "VOCABULARY" section of the online book. These flashcards allow students to practice in three ways:

- English → Spanish
- Spanish → English
- Pictures → Spanish

As students move through the cards, they can choose to put a word back at the bottom of the pile or add it to a "learned" pile. To learn more, go to www.tobreak.com/pages/flashcards.

Students should take one day at the start of each chapter to begin to learn the vocabulary. Repetition, both verbal and through writing, is crucial. While students will find that the grammar exercises reinforce the vocabulary in the chapter, we recommend taking 5-10 minutes each day to review the new words.

At the end of each chapter, students should take a vocabulary quiz. This task can be done in one of two ways, the first being a written quiz. Have someone (other than the student) choose 20 words from the vocabulary list and write them on a piece of paper—10 in English and 10 in Spanish (an example quiz can be found on page 10).

Another option is to take a vocabulary quiz using the Interactive Flashcards. Students should go through the entire deck of flashcards while trying to guess each of the words correctly. Do this procedure with both the English and Spanish flashcards.

Each chapter includes some written compositions. Choose a prompt and spend 10 minutes writing. Prioritize creativity rather than perfect grammar. Avoid thinking of a sentence first in English and then translating to Spanish. Try to think in Spanish if you can!

At the completion of each chapter, students should take the *Prueba de Repaso* to chart progress. After they address any topics where more study is needed, they may take the chapter test from the Test Program. Before the test, a student should spend at least 45 minutes reviewing all the new grammar concepts and redoing the grammar exercises. They should also review the vocabulary.

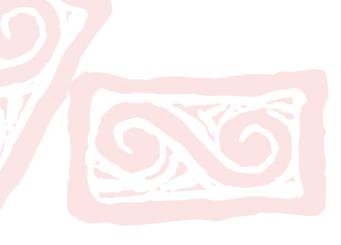
A full answer key is also included with our testing program. You will find the script for the oral section of the tests at the back of the Test Program. On the following pages, we include a sample test with suggested point values for grading purposes.

On our <u>website</u> under "OTHER RESOURCES," there are additional practice questions, which students can do on their own orally or with a teacher or friend. These questions can also be completed as written practice.

Once again, on behalf of all of us at Breaking the Barrier, thank you for choosing our timetested approach to language learning. Feel free to be in touch with me personally if I can answer any questions for you.

John

John T. Conner Author and Series Editor john@tobreak.com



Grading Chapter Tests

The Test Programs available at each level contain a four-page test for every chapter. There are many types of exercises: answering oral questions, dictations, answering written questions in complete sentences, conjugating verbs, filling in the blank with the correct forms, translations, finding and correcting errors, and writing short compositions.

On the following pages, you will find a sample answer key for a test from Spanish One with suggested point values for each section. In general, fill-in-the-blanks are worth 1.5 – 2 points, conjugations of a verb are worth .5 points each, compositions are worth 10 points, translations are usually .5 points per word, find the errors are 2 points total, and oral questions can be 1.5 to 2 points per answer.

I often devise an answer key that adds up to 100 points. Over the years, I seem to have good instincts to make the numbers add up perfectly! However, you could follow the guidelines in the preceding paragraph, and find that your test adds up to 92 points or 103 points, etc., and then simply have the final grade be a percentage of the total.

If you are grading this test for a child or a student and you personally don't know the target language, don't despair! You can be generous grading the composition and some of the wideopen questions. Yet, in general, most questions will have right or wrong answers that allow for a fairly accurate assessment of how well the material was mastered.

I believe that a grade of 70 or higher warrants moving onto the next lesson directly. There will always be some built-in practice in subsequent chapters for previous material. If a student scores lower than 70, give the exact same test a few days later after returning it and sharing the correct answers. Oftentimes, the process of taking a test will prove to be a valuable learning experience.

And, what about accent marks? I usually deduct 0.5 points for a missing accent mark in any fill-in-the-blank exercise. It is important to learn these important written symbols.



	BREAKING THE SPANISH BARRIER (LEVEL I/BEGINNER) LECCIÓN DOS EXAMEN NOMBRE 100 Points
	I) Sección oral
	a. Sí, viajo frecuentemente.
4.5	b. Mi pueblo favorito se llama
	c. Preferimos comer. 1/2
	1 1/2
	II) Dictado 1/2 a. siempre
2	b. el carro viejo
	1/2 1/2 1/2
	III) Answer the following questions in complete sentences:
	a. ¿Quién cierra las ventanas en la clase?
	El profesor cierra las ventanas.
1.7	1/2
(verb	b. ¿Prefieres los coches o las motocicletas?
word	Prefiero las motocicletas/los coches.
1/12	1/2
the Nest	c. ¿A qué hora vuelven Uds. a casa generalmente?
1/2	Volvemos a casa a la una/las dos, etc.
	11/2
	d. ¿Dónde juegas con tus amigos?
	Juego con mis amigos en el parque.
	142
	e. ¿Te gustan más los pueblos o las ciudades? ¿Por qué?
	Me gustan más los pueblos porque son interesantes.
	11/2
	f. ¿Recuerdas la fecha normalmente?
	Sí, recuerdo la fecha.
	11/2

LECCIÓN DOS

prefier ves. (preferir) no pu otros pe no sirv	vuelvo vuelves vuelve sent tense form ren los D eden co dimos d	iamondbacks, pei	o a mí me gusta	
sirven the correct pres s prefier ves. (preferir) no pu otros pe	vuelve sent tense form ren los D eden co dimos d	of each verb in iamondbacks, per	comienza the spaces prov	comienzan
the correct press s prefier ves. (preferir) . no pu otros pe no sirv	eden co	of each verb in iamondbacks, per	the spaces prov	vided:
prefier ves. (preferir) no pu otros pe no sirv	eden co	iamondbacks, pei	o a mí me gusta	
rofesorc	a San D orrige las (n tenis. Necesito iego en una sem composiciones a	el restaurante. practicar más. ana. (volver) las seis de la ma	(servir) añana. (corre
the appropriate cierras			erbs: quiere	(quere
bro cuesta	,		competim	
otras podéis	(pod	er) h. tú	juegas	(jugar)
p billing	the appropriate cierras cibro cuesta piden sotras podéis an appropriate ni madre	profesor corrige las of sotros recibís b the appropriate conjugation for cierras (certain to cost cost (cost cost cost (ped cost conjunction in the o mi padre voice an appropriate conjunction in the o mi padre voice go mucho al golf,pero pero cost pero cost o mi padre voice golf,pero	corrige las composiciones a sotros recibís buenas notas en la cierras (cerrar) e. Ud. libro cuesta (costar) f. nosotros piden (pedir) g. ellas podéis (poder) h. tú e an appropriate conjunction in the following se mi madre o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf,pero Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf Michelle Wiendston o mi padre va a preparar la como juego mucho al golf	corrige las composiciones a las seis de la masser la escuela. (recine the appropriate conjugation for the following verbs: cierras (cerrar) e. Ud. quiere cibro cuesta (costar) f. nosotros competime costar piden (pedir) g. ellas muestran costar costar costar muestran costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar costar cost

VIII) Tra	inslate
-----------	---------

	_	
	7	
1	6	

a. The poor men and the rich women don't always remember the date.
Los hombres pobres y las mujeres ricas no recuerdan siempre la fecha.

12	2 4	2 1	2

IX) Make the singular words in the following list plural, and the plural words singular:

	6
1	
1,	12
0	ach

a. ventanas _	ventana	f. lápiz	lápices	
b. nueces _	nuez	g. japoneses	japonés	
c. papeles _	papel	h. españolas	española	
d. lecciones _	lección	i. chico	chicos	
e. soles	sol	i. fáciles	fácil	

X) Write the appropriate form of the adjective in parentheses to correspond to each noun



a. taxis	viejos	(viejo)
b. motocicletas	japonesas	(japonés)
c. avión	grande	(grande)
d. prueba	difícil	(difícil)
e. teléfonos	celulares	(celular)

XI) Each of the following sentences contains one error. Underline it and fix it:



pierden a. Mis amigos perden mucho dinero en la calle.

ηι **þ.** Ni Marcos o José quieren ir a la ciudad hoy.

sé quieren ir a la ciudad hoy. españolas

c. Me gustan las comidas italianas y español porque son deliciosas.

muchas **d.** En una ciudad americana hay muchos personas y muchos parques.

LECCIÓN DOS

XII)	Composición: "Un día en la ciudad" Write a creative piece describing an interesting day in the city. Try to use a nu
erousy	ber of these words: amor, coche, ciudad, taxi, atestado, pobre, rico, jugar, mira frecuentemente
<u>(T</u>	
	l .

PRUEBA DE VOCABULARIO - LECCIÓN UNO

2. amiga –
3. woman –
4. comer –
5. to live —
6. trabajar –
7. a lot –
8. hombre –
9. small –
10. simpático/a –
11. to prepare –
12. guapo/a –
13. to walk –
14. después –
15. here –
16. comprar –
17. book –
18. <i>reloj</i> –
19. school –
20. escribir —

1. baby –



Breaking the Spanish Barrier Beginner | First Steps

Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Read First Steps Study Step One + Step Two Listen to model sentences twice, then read aloud Complete written exercises	Study Step Three + Step Four Listen to model sentences twice, then read aloud Complete written exercises	Study Step Five + Step Six Listen to model sentences twice, then read aloud Complete written exercises	Review Step One – Step Six Go back and complete all exercises again)
2	Study Step Seven + Step Eight Listen to model sentences twice, then read aloud Complete written exercises	Study Step Nine + Step Ten Listen to model sentences twice, then read aloud Complete written exercises	Review Step Seven – Step Ten Go back and complete all exercises again	Review Step One – Step Ten Go back and complete all exercises again



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud (click on a word to hear it!)	Study México : maps, general information, and famous people	Study Verbs in the Present Tense Listen to model sentences + do written exercises	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards (found by clicking on "flashcards" in the Vocabulario section)
2	¡Vamos a Ver! Study Subject Pronouns Listen to model sentences + complete written exercises	Study Interrogatives Listen to model sentences + complete written exercises	Listen to Las aventuras de Rafael, Elisa y El Tigre Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 3 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud (click on a word to hear it!)	Study España : maps, general information, and famous people	Study BOOT Verbs in the Present Tense Listen to model sentences + do written exercises	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards (found by clicking on "flashcards" in the Vocabulario section)
2	Study Conjunctions Listen to model sentences + complete written exercises	Study Nouns: Singular and Plural Listen to model sentences + complete written exercises	¡Vamos a Ver! Study Adjectives and the Idea of Agreement Listen to model sentences + complete written exercises	Review 4 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Colombia : maps, general information, and famous people	Study Irregular Verbs in the Present Tense	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study The Verbs SER and ESTAR	Study Definite and Indefinite Articles ¡Vamos a Ver! Study Negative Sentences	Listen to Las aventuras de Rafael, Elisa y El Tigre Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 4 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Argentina : maps, general information, and famous people	¡Vamos a Ver! Study The Preterite (Past) Tense of Regular Verbs	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study Prepositions	Study Pronouns After Prepositions	Listen to Cultural Article Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 3 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	<u>Vocabulary Quiz</u> Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Estados Unidos : maps, general information, and famous people	Study The Preterite of BOOT Verbs	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study Direct Object Pronouns (DOPs)	¡Vamos a Ver! Study The Personal A Study Idiomatic Expressions That Use TENER	Listen to Las aventuras de Rafael, Elisa y El Tigre Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 4 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Perú : maps, general information, and famous people	Study The Preterite of Irregular Verbs	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study Possessive Adjectives	Study Indirect Object Pronouns (IDOPs) ¡Vamos a Ver! Study The Verb GUSTAR	Listen to Cultural Article Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 4 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Venezuela & Ecuador: maps, general information, and famous people	¡Vamos a Ver! Study The Imperfect Tense	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study Reflexive Object Pronouns (ROPs)	Study Adverbs Study Talking About the Weather	Listen to Las aventuras de Rafael, Elisa y El Tigre Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 4 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Bolivia & Chile : maps, general information, and famous people	Study Irregular Verbs in the Imperfect Tense	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study Double Object Pronouns	¡Vamos a Ver! Study Adverbs That End with MENTE	Listen to Cultural Article Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 3 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Nicaragua, Costa Rica, & Panamá : maps, general information, and famous people	Study Choosing Between the Preterite and Imperfect	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study Choosing Between SABER and CONOCER	Study Special Expressions with HACER ¡Vamos a Ver! Study The Construction with ACABAR DE	Listen to Las aventuras de Rafael, Elisa y El Tigre Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 4 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	<u>Vocabulary Quiz</u> Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Cuba, República Dominicana, & Puerto Rico : maps, general information, and famous people	¡Vamos a Ver! Study The Progressive Tense	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study Reflexive and Reciprocal Constructions	Study Equal and Unequal Comparisons	Listen to Cultural Article Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 3 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Paraguay & Uruguay : maps, general information, and famous people	Study Formal Command Forms Using Ud. and Uds.	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study Demonstrative Adjectives	¡Vamos a Ver! Study Some Useful Idiomatic Expressions and Proverbs	Listen to Las aventuras de Rafael, Elisa y El Tigre Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 3 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>



Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
1	Watch Welcome video Vocabulario : Repeat English and Spanish aloud	Study Guatemala, Honduras, & El Salvador : maps, general information, and famous people	Study The Immediate Future	Practice vocabulary again using interactive Flashcards
2	Study Uses of POR and PARA	¡Vamos a Ver! Study More Numbers	Listen to Cultural Article Listen for a second time then read aloud Answer questions about the dialogue	Review 3 key grammar concepts + go back and complete all exercises again Pick a Composition and write a short paragraph
3	Oral Practice Listen to questions and model answers twice (repeating aloud during each pause) Write out responses	Complete Prueba de Repaso Review and redo questions answered incorrectly	Vocabulary Quiz Review for chapter test	<u>Chapter Test</u>