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Introduction

Lo básico gives a broad view of elementary Spanish. It contains practical modern vocabulary, the most commonly used verbs and simple grammar for beginners. It provides all the elements needed to reach level A2 in the *Common European framework of reference for languages*.

As it gives teachers complete freedom in its use, this book is recommended as a complement to any textbook and/or for independent use for intermediate and secondary school certificate teaching levels. It can be adapted and combined perfectly with modern technology.

It also an ideal self-teaching method. The aim has been to provide a simple, compact and structured presentation of all subjects. Both the vocabulary and grammar take the form of “cribs”, helping the student to focus.

The parts can be freely combined and open the door to following the principles of the educationalist Maria Montessori: “Provide freedom in a prepared environment”.

Learning Spanish, like any other language, requires effort and patience. With **Lo básico** we aim to soften the onerous parts of learning, presenting it in comic form with entertaining illustrations by the cartoonist Luis Ligarribay. The characters are the same ones that appear in our previous book, **Lo dicho**, which contains a wide range of Spanish colloquial idiomatic expressions.

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Practical hints

The book, **Lo básico**, is made up of four main parts which can be used independently in the classroom with no pre-established order. At the end there is a dictionary of all the words in the book with page references. The book's contents follow the goals of the *Common European framework of reference for languages*, the basis for the European portfolio, point by point.

The decision was taken to present the titles and explanations in English, but Spanish has been maintained in the tables and headings to familiarise students with the concepts.

1 - A bunch of words

This section contains the vocabulary corresponding to 24 themes chosen for the importance of their use. The groups of words are in numbered and named boxes.

Within the boxes, the words are in different colours. Masculine words are in **blue** and feminine in **pink**. Neuter words are in **grey** and those that can be either masculine or feminine are in **green**.

2 - A load of verbs

This section contains 200 of the most commonly used verbs. The selection is based on a review of different methods for learning Spanish at levels A1-A2-B1.

The Spanish verbs are grouped into three major categories, according to whether the infinitive ends in -ar, -er or -ir. Firstly there is a table of conjugations for the basic tenses and then the numbered list for each group.

Verbs which show some sort of irregularity in their conjugation are indicated in red. The conjugation of these irregular verbs is categorised in the next section.

The remaining basic information of the verbs appears at the end of the chapter.



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3 - Construction elements

This section contains the rest of the elements needed to form Spanish sentences. It includes pronunciation and spelling rules. Then all the parts of the sentence are presented in a structured form, along with a selection of words you need to learn at this level.

4 - A collection of phrases

Included in this section are more common and practical phrases used to start communicating; greeting, saying goodbye, apologising, wishing someone luck, asking for directions, asking for the time, etc.

Next there are examples of day to day dialogues like the ones you can hear in real life situations. These correspond to the vocabulary themes and can be used to practise the content in various ways.



The sketches illustrating the ideas open the door to working with the content and its meaning in various ways.