

PREFACE



“ . . . to help students develop proficiency in the four language skills essential to truly communicative language learning . . . ”

from the preface to *¿Qué tal?*, first edition, 1983

Welcome to the seventh edition of *¿Qué tal? An Introductory Course*. It has been more than twenty years since the publication of the first edition, and the coauthors are grateful to the instructors and students who have responded so positively to the goals and approach of *¿Qué tal?*

In those years, much has changed and much has remained constant in *¿Qué tal?* *¿Qué tal?* has remained true to the goals of the first edition, as cited above. The approach, however, has evolved and kept pace with technological advances and our increasing knowledge of how languages are learned. The ancillary package for the first edition of *¿Qué tal?* was excellent for its time but seems small in comparison to the plethora of materials available to instructors and students today. Particularly noteworthy are the wide variety of new technologies that enhance language learning in ways not yet dreamed of twenty years ago.

In addition to these new technologies, instructors will find in the seventh edition those features that they have come to know and trust over the years as well as many new features. These features include:

A Design that Promotes Learning and Teaching

- More than 500 new color illustrations and photographs bring an exciting new visual appeal to the program and enhance the pedagogy of the text. Beautiful drawings illustrate vocabulary words in each chapter, allowing students to make important connections between the Spanish word and the conceptual meaning. Many activities are also enlivened through lively illustrations that review vocabulary and grammar and promote real communication.
- The flow of presentations and activities within the chapter has been carefully crafted to keep students on task and focused. Activities do not break over the front and back of pages, thus eliminating the need for students and instructors to “flip” pages while completing activities.
- Sentence-formation and cloze passage activities are now pedagogically improved through the use of special

shading and color that highlight key elements of the activity and keep students focused on the tasks they are performing.

Student-Friendly Grammar Features

- Paradigms and charts within grammar presentations have been enhanced by the use of a colored font that directs students’ attention to key aspects of the grammar point, such as spelling changes in stem-changing verbs and agreement of adjectives.
- New timelines place major grammar tenses on a continuum from Past \longleftrightarrow Present \longleftrightarrow Future and help students understand the “big picture” as they move through the sequence of tenses presented throughout the text.
- **Autoprueba** quizzes allow students to do quick self-assessments of their understanding of key grammar points in every chapter, before they begin the exercises and activities.
- New drawings illustrate many new verb infinitives, encouraging students to learn meaning through visual association.
- Interactive **Flash Grammar** tutorials on the CD-ROM and the *Online Learning Center Website* allow students to “see” core grammar structures. The tutorials are enriched by interactive paradigms and sample sentences.

An Introduction to Literary Masterpieces and Musical Traditions

- New to this edition, the **Voces de...** (country) page features literature and music from the country or countries of focus in the chapter. The **Literatura** section profiles renowned authors from these countries, accompanied by a brief extract from one of their works. These brief extracts—just a “taste” of some **obras maestras**—will enrich students’ appreciation of the literary heritage of the Spanish-speaking world and hopefully motivate some students to continue reading

when their Spanish language skills are better developed. The **Música** section presents the rich diversity of musical traditions and styles from the featured country or countries.

An All-New Video Program That Brings Language and Hispanic Cultures to Life

- The **Entrevista cultural** segments introduce students to a Spanish-speaker from a different country in each chapter, providing a unique glimpse into their lives and their culture. Accompanying activities in the new **Videoteca** section of each chapter both prepare students for viewing and assess comprehension.
- The **Entre amigos** episodes present four students from different countries (Spain, Mexico, Venezuela, and Cuba) who tell entertaining stories as they meet and talk at a university in Mexico. These entertaining vignettes also review vocabulary themes and grammatical structures in each chapter, bringing the language to life. Taken together, both video segments provide an opportunity for students to hear authentic Spanish spoken by real Spanish speakers who interact with each other, rather than actors speaking for the camera.
- The popular video episodes from the previous edition of *¿Qué tal?* continue to be available on the *Video Program*, and can still be used, chapter-by-chapter, with the seventh edition.

Diverse Cultural Content

- Each chapter focuses on one area of the Spanish-speaking world. A large photo on the chapter opening pages introduces students to the chapter's themes as well as to the country of focus, and provides an engaging starting point for conversation.

- Special cultural features, including the **Nota cultural** and the **En los Estados Unidos y el Canadá** boxes, give quick and interesting glimpses into Hispanic cultures.
- The new **Voces de...** and **Videoteca** section in each chapter, as well as the **Enfoque cultural** section, highlight the country of focus through video segments, texts, and photos.

While much is new to this edition of *¿Qué tal?*, you will continue to find the many hallmarks that make it the book of choice for hundreds of instructors across the country. These hallmark features include:

- the user-friendly **Paso** structure that facilitates lesson planning and helps students stay focused
- an abundance of classroom-tested practice material, ranging from form-focused activities to communicative activities that promote real conversation
- vocabulary, grammar, and culture that work together as interactive units, unifying this important aspect of language learning
- an emphasis on the meaningful use of Spanish
- a positive portrayal of contemporary Hispanic cultures
- print and media supplementary materials that are carefully coordinated with the core text

The pages that follow provide a more detailed overview of changes to this edition in a section called "What's New in the Seventh Edition?" The next section, "A Guided Tour," explains and shows the organization and features of *¿Qué tal?* (useful to both instructors and students!), followed by a comprehensive discussion of supplementary materials. The Preface closes with the acknowledgment of the many instructors and students who helped shape this new edition.

WHAT'S NEW TO THE SEVENTH EDITION?



New Art

Instructors will immediately notice the new art in this edition of *¿Qué tal?* While the art of previous editions has always been well received, we felt it was time for a change. The artists were carefully guided so that the art would be both pedagogically sound and visually beautiful. The result of the art is a visually enhanced seventh edition that satisfies the needs of today's sophisticated students and instructors, both pedagogically and visually.

Chapter Themes

The positive response from instructors using earlier editions confirmed that the chapter themes found in *¿Qué tal?* provide engaging and relevant content for exploration and discussion. Theme vocabulary for all chapters has, of course, been updated to reflect changes in the areas of technology, recreational activities, and so forth. The vocabulary lists in **Capítulos 7** and **16** have been reorganized for easier practice and study. The vocabulary of **Capítulo 14** has been modified to focus more on the natural world, and the vocabulary of **Capítulo 18** now reflects travel vocabulary students are likely to use in today's traveling environment.

New Chapter Opening Page

We have redesigned the chapter opening page. The result is an introduction to the chapter that is more engaging and more purposeful to the instructor and the student. Spending class time on the chapter opener will provide a useful introduction to the chapter for the student and set the stage for a more successful experience with the chapter content. (A visual presentation of the new Chapter Opener is provided in the Guided Tour presented in this Preface.)

Capítulo preliminar: Primeros pasos

Responding to reviewer feedback, the authors have carefully recrafted and shortened the **Capítulo preliminar**. Its purpose remains the same: to introduce students to the sounds of Spanish and to a variety of high-frequency language that will ease their transition into the course. In addition, this special chapter continues to introduce students to the geographic and cultural diversity of the Spanish-speaking world. However, the amount of material has been considerably reduced, resulting in two **pasos** rather than three. The material that has been eliminated from the preliminary chapter has been integrated into other chapters of *¿Qué tal?*

User-Friendly Activities

In addition to being carefully ordered from form-focused to more open-ended, communicative tasks, the activities are now also carefully placed on the pages so that students and instructors will not need to flip pages as they complete an activity. Additional models provide more support and materials, and elicit more student interaction. Many activities focus even more on reviewing and recycling vocabulary and structure from previous chapters.

Notas culturales

Many of the **Notas culturales** have been replaced with new **Notas** or revised. Instructors will find that the **Notas culturales** consistently reflect some aspect of the chapter theme and focus on high-interest topics. In addition, the *Instructor's Edition* now features a series of follow-up questions for each **Nota**, providing instructors with ready-made activities to use in class.

Voces de... (country)

Instructors familiar with the previous editions of *¿Qué tal?* will notice a new feature: the new **Voces de...** page. Found between **Pasos 2** and **3**, **Voces de...** highlights two cultural aspects of the country or countries of focus: literature and music.

- **Literatura de...** This section, developed in response to instructor's requests for more country-specific literature and culture, features an important author from the chapter's country of focus and includes an excerpt from one of that author's works. A short biographical note provides information on the author's life. The intent of this section is to raise students' awareness of the amazingly rich literary tradition of the Spanish-speaking world, as well as give them a "taste" of some **obras maestras**.

While these brief readings will be challenging for most students, some at least will profit from and be motivated by reading them . . . and perhaps a few will become Spanish majors in part because they were "touched" by one or more selections. While choosing these excerpts was not an easy task for the *¿Qué tal?* author team, all of us—whether we are linguists or literary specialists—remembered and reconnected with our early enthusiasm for Spanish literature as we tried to read the excerpts through the eyes of today's students.

- The purpose of the **Música** section of the **Voces de...** page is to introduce students to the rich diversity of music in the Spanish-speaking world. The section

features musical traditions of the featured country or countries. Magazine-style short reading passages provide information on traditional instruments, musical styles and genres, famous musicians, traditional dances, and so on. These brief reading passages are accompanied by photos or drawings.

Videoteca

The **Videoteca** page found in every chapter is completely new. It has two sections.

- **Entrevista cultural**, a video-based interview with a native speaker from the country of focus. Each interview, directly related to the chapter theme, reflects the native speakers' interests, professions, studies, or background. Student viewers of the interview benefit from the country-specific cultural information in it and also from the link to the chapter's vocabulary and, at times, grammar. When two countries are covered, there is a corresponding interview with a native speaker from each country.
- **Entre amigos**, a video-based feature that follows the entertaining discussions of a group of four college students. These students reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of the Spanish-speaking world.

Rubén is from Spain, Miguel from Mexico, Karina from Venezuela, and Tané from Cuba. In these segments, the four students informally discuss chapter-related topics that affect their daily lives. The language is natural and nonscripted, resulting in spontaneous discussions that reflect the interests and concerns of today's Spanish-speaking young adults, in an environment that encourages cross-cultural comparison.

Un poco de todo

The **Un poco de todo** review sections are again part of the **Paso 3** of each chapter, the final step in the presentation and practice of the new grammar structures. This edition features twelve new engaging cloze paragraphs that present cultural information as they review the grammatical and lexical material from both the corresponding chapter and previous chapters. Each **Un poco de todo** cloze paragraph is identified as a **Lengua y cultura** activity to underscore the recycling of vocabulary and structures and highlight the activity's cultural focus. This cultural focus is directly related to the theme of the chapter or the chapter's country of focus. Thus, culture and language are naturally integrated in the **Un poco de todo** sections of every chapter.

GUIDED TOUR



The seventh edition of *¿Qué tal?* features a uniquely clear and user-friendly **paso** organization. Each of its eighteen regular chapters is divided into four **pasos**, highlighted with color tabs for easy reference, with the **Voces de...** cultural feature in the middle. Thus, each regular chapter has the following structure.

- Paso 1: Vocabulario
- Paso 2: Gramática
- Voces de...
- Paso 3: Gramática
- Paso 4: Un paso más

Paso 1: Vocabulario

This section presents and practices the chapter's thematic vocabulary. The lexical lists in these sections are read on the Listening Comprehension Audio CD and are signaled by a headphone icon. Each new lexical list is followed by a **Conversación** section that practices the new vocabulary in context.

Pasos 2 and 3: Gramática

These sections present one to two grammar points each. Each grammar point is introduced by a minidiologue, a cartoon or drawing, realia, or a brief reading that presents the grammar topic in context. Grammar explanations, in English, appear in the left-hand column of the two-column design; paradigms and sample sentences appear in the right-hand column. Each grammar presentation is followed by a series of contextualized exercises and activities that progress from more controlled (**Práctica**) to more open-ended (**Conversación**).

Voces de...

The cultures of the Spanish-speaking world are an integral part of every section of *¿Qué tal?*, but literature and music take central stage in the **Voces de...** section of each chapter. Located between **Pasos 2 and 3**, **Voces de...** has two parts: **Literatura** and **Música**. **Literatura** introduces an important writer from the featured country with a brief biography of him or her and a fragment of an important work. **Música** highlights one or more of the musical traditions of the chapter's country of focus.

Paso 4: Un paso más

This section integrates the vocabulary and grammar from the first three **pasos** in a rich and stimulating selection of skill-building activities: **Videoteca** (video comprehension



¿QUÉ TAL?: A SHORTER COURSE



As with all previous editions of *¿Qué tal?*, the seventh edition is based on the highly successful *Puntos de partida* first-year Spanish text. Responding to the wishes of many instructors across the country, *¿Qué tal?* retains the methodology and functionality of the *Puntos* program but in a shorter version, which can be ideal for classes meeting three or fewer times per week.

In order to create *¿Qué tal?* from *Puntos*, the coauthors reduced the amount of activities and exercises in the *Puntos* main text and supplements as well as the actual number of grammar points presented in *Puntos*. Additional points are subsumed within related structures or within other parts of the text (Instructor's Edition annotations, **Nota comunicativa** features, and so on).

The *Puntos* grammar points that were modified or removed for the sixth edition of *¿Qué tal?* are:

- Asking Yes/No Questions
- Relative Pronouns
- **Hace... que** + *present* and *preterite*
- Summary of the Subjunctive
- Stressed Possessives
- Hypothetical Situations

With one to three grammar points per chapter, we feel *¿Qué tal?* to be a very manageable book for you and your students. Above all, we believe *¿Qué tal?* to be a *flexible* program, one that can be adapted to suit different teaching and learning styles.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS FOR THE SEVENTH EDITION



The supplements listed here may accompany the seventh edition of *¿Qué tal?*. Please contact your local McGraw-Hill Higher Education representative for details concerning policies, prices, and availability, as some restrictions may apply.

Workbook / Laboratory Manual and **Audio Program**, by Alice A. Arana (formerly of Fullerton College), Oswaldo Arana (formerly of California State University, Fullerton), and María Sabló-Yates (Delta College). The two volumes of the Workbook / Laboratory Manual provide a wealth of activities, both aural and written, that reinforce chapter content. Audio Program CDs are free to adopting institutions and are also available for student purchase upon request. An Audioscript is also available for instructors.

- The *Online Workbook/Laboratory Manual*, developed in collaboration with Quia™, offers an online version of this printed supplement. Increasingly popular, this online version of the printed material offers such benefits for the student as an integrated *Laboratory Audio Program*, self-scoring activities, and instant feedback. Benefits for the instructor include a gradebook that automatically scores, tracks, and records student

grades and provides the opportunity to review individual and class performance. Other benefits include customizable activities and features and instant access to grades and performance.

- The *Online Learning Center Website* provides students with a wealth of exercises and activities specially created for use with *¿Qué tal?*. The *Online Learning Center* consists of two general areas: the free content and the premium content. *Free content* includes additional vocabulary and grammar practice quizzes, cultural activities, chapter overviews, and more. All students have access to free content through the *¿Qué tal?* Website (www.mhhe.com/quetal7). *Premium content* includes the *Laboratory Audio Program*, the **Enfoque cultural** video footage, and the **Flash Grammar Tutorials**. Students have access to the premium content through the *Online Learning Center* passcode that is packaged free with every new student text. Students that purchase a used text may purchase a passcode separately at a nominal price if they wish to access this premium content.
- The *Interactive CD-ROM* is an exciting, multimedia supplement that offers additional vocabulary

and grammar practice activities, vocabulary games, review activities, interactive grammar tutorials, video-based activities, speaking activities that simulate conversations with native speakers, cultural activities, reading and writing activities, a “talking” dictionary, and much more. This highly popular interactive supplement has been revised and upgraded for the seventh edition and includes new activities and features not available on earlier versions.

- The *Video on CD* provides students with access to the entire *¿Qué tal? Video Program*. Available for purchase, this set of two CD-ROMs includes every video segment from the *Video Program*, as well as follow-up activities for every segment. Instructors who find they do not have the time to show the *Video Program* in class will be pleased to know that it is available to students in this format, providing students with a wealth of authentic and natural linguistic and cultural input.

The *Instructor’s Manual and Resource Kit* offers an extensive introduction to teaching techniques, general guidelines for instructors, suggestions for lesson planning in semester and quarter schedules, and additional pre- and post-viewing activities for the video. Also included are a wide variety of interactive and communicative games for practicing vocabulary and grammar. We are very grateful to Linda H. Colville of Citrus College for creating these games.

The *Testing Program* reflects the revisions in the student text for the seventh edition. It also includes sections for testing reading and listening comprehension, as well as tests for oral proficiency and sections designed to test cultural material presented in the program.

- A new *Video Program* accompanies the seventh edition of *¿Qué tal?* It includes two new video segments for every chapter: The **Entrevista cultural** segment and the **Entre amigos** segment. In addition, the highly popular **Minidramas** vignettes, the **En contexto** functional segments, and the **Conozca...** cultural footage have been retained from the previous edition, resulting in a *Video Program* of approximately five hours in length. This rich resource offers instructors a wide variety of video material of differing types that correspond directly to every chapter of the textbook.
- The *Adopter’s Audio CD Program*, provided free to adopting institutions, contains all of the audio CDs from the *Laboratory Audio Program* as well as the *Textbook Listening CD*. It also contains an *Audioscript*. Adopting institutions may use this *Adopter’s Audio CD Program* in their Language Laboratory. In addition, institutions may make copies of these materials for students, provided that students are only charged for the cost of blank tapes or CDs.

A set of *Overhead Transparencies*, most in full color, contains drawings from the text and supplementary drawings for use with vocabulary and grammar presentation. An electronic online version of the Transparencies is available to instructors on the *¿Qué tal?* Online Learning Center Website.

- The *Institutional CD-ROM* package consists of twenty copies of the *Interactive CD-ROM*. This package is made available for purchase by departments and laboratories.



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The only reasons for publishing a new textbook or to revise an existing one are to help the profession evolve in meaningful ways and to make the task of daily classroom instruction easier and more enjoyable for experienced instructors and teaching assistants alike. Language teaching has changed in important ways since the publication of the first edition of *¿Qué tal?!*. We are delighted to have been—and to continue to be—agents of that evolution. And we are grateful to McGraw-Hill for its continuing support of our ideas.