

What's New for the Ninth Edition?

There have been many changes made for this edition. However those changes were not made lightly, nor without extensive feedback and confirmation from you, our clients, as evidenced by the lists of reviewers presented earlier in this front matter. Here are some of the highlights of this revision. For specific details, especially an exhaustive list of chapter-by-chapter changes, please see the Instructor's Manual (IM), available online at www.connectspanish.com.

General Details

- New interior design
- Larger trim size for the Instructor's Edition, allowing for a larger image of the Student Edition pages
- All new drawings and many new photos, and a greater use of photos (rather than drawings) whenever feasible
- The optional **Un paso más** section from the eighth edition (8e) has been replaced by the following "skills" sections, which appear before the end-of-chapter **En resumen: En este capítulo** section.
 - New two-page reading (**A leer**) spread, which includes **Lectura cultural** and **Del mundo hispano**. **Lectura cultural** offers many smaller chunks of cultural content, with comprehension and discussion questions. **Del mundo hispano** is a more traditional reading presentation with pre- and post-reading activities and discussion questions. The **Del mundo hispano** readings are author-written or based on authentic materials (e.g., ads, brochures) in the first ten chapters, and poems or short literary selections in **Capítulos 11–18**.
 - New listening (**A escuchar**) section with audio activity and **¡Música!** feature
 - New writing (**A escribir**) section
- Answers to all activities are in new on-page annotations (light blue text) or in the annotations wrap
- New "pointer boxes" help explain the text's features to students.
- Introduction of active vocabulary other than in **Vocabulario: Preparación** or in grammar paradigms is noted for instructors in the annotations wrap. (This is not a change; the system is just more salient now.)
- Exciting new technology: Connect Spanish, LearnSmart, Blackboard
- New DVD, with activities support in the text (**TelePuntos**) and IM
- Revised and combined Workbook and Laboratory Manual (one product, two volumes: Vol. 1 = **Capítulos 1–9**; Vol. 2 = **Capítulos 10–18**), available in print or online as part of Connect Spanish.

Organizational Changes

- 18 chapters: The preliminary chapter (**Ante todo**) from the 8e is now **Capítulo 1**, most other chapters have shifted forward, and **Capítulo 18** content from the 8e has been incorporated into **Capítulos 17** and **18**.
- The regional focus has changed for six chapters for a more logical organization, with corresponding changes to activities and readings.
- See the IM for detailed charts of the new organization.

Culture

- Virtually all new cultural content is based on information from the cultural ambassadors, natives of each country of focus, who sent us key phrases and cultural tidbits to be woven into the fabric of *Puntos*. Additional basic information about each country of focus has been added to the annotations wrap and IM.
- The new **Lectura cultural** feature gives students some highlights about each country of focus and a “feeling” for it, rather than encyclopedic knowledge.
- **Nota cultural** features are now all in Spanish and have been rewritten, with a personal question at the end.
- See “Cultural Content” in the “Using *Puntos* in the Classroom” section later in this front matter.

Vocabulary

- Many **Vocabulario: Preparación** presentations have been revised, with some adjustment of individual vocabulary items to reflect current usage and a major revision of technology vocabulary in **Capítulo 12**.

Grammar

- Grammar explanations have been revised to include more charts and summaries, more bullet-point explanations, and better-focused examples; many **Gramática en acción** presentations have been rewritten, and internal repetition within grammar sections helps to reinforce learning. (See “Grammar Explanations” in the “Using *Puntos* in the Classroom” section later in this front matter.)
- Spanish grammar terms are more salient throughout for those instructors who prefer to present grammar in Spanish.

Activities

- Activities thoroughly revised for relevance and for clarity to students
- Additional scaffolding provided for many activities in general and in the new **Estrategia** feature
- Many completely new activities
- Dehydrated activities (with slashes) largely recast or simplified
- More integration of culture into activities when feasible (not to excess)
- The **En su comunidad** feature added to each **Un poco de todo** offers interview activities for students to use with native speakers

Using *Puntos* in the Classroom

Developing Language Proficiency

The authors believe that students' (and instructors') class time is best spent using Spanish: listening to and speaking with their instructor and classmates, listening and viewing audiovisual materials of many kinds, and reading in-text and supplementary materials. For that reason, grammar explanations have been written to be self-explanatory, and sample answers for many activities are provided for students online at www.connectspanish.com so that they can check their work before going to class. Thus, instructors can spot-check homework as needed in class but devote more time to the multitude of extensions, follow-up suggestions, and special activities offered in the Instructor's Edition and Instructor's Manual. Consequently, class time can be focused on new material and novel language experiences that will maintain student interest and provide more exposure to spoken and written Spanish. Research in second language acquisition has revealed that environments that offer learners opportunities to use the language in meaningful ways provide an optimal learning situation. Students make few gains in language learning when all of their class time is spent correcting homework.

The preceding comments underscore the authors' conceptualization of *Puntos* throughout its many editions as a text that fosters students' proficiency in Spanish. The following features help realize this objective:

- a focus on the acquisition of vocabulary during the early stages of language learning (**Capítulo 1: Ante todo**) and then in each chapter throughout the text
- an emphasis on meaningful and creative use of language
- careful attention to skills development rather than grammatical knowledge alone
- a cyclical organization in which vocabulary, grammar, and language functions are consistently reviewed and reentered
- an integrated cultural component that embeds practice in a wide variety of culturally significant contexts
- content that aims to raise student awareness of the interaction of language, culture, and society

The overall text organization progresses from a focus on formulaic expressions, to vocabulary and structures relevant to the here and now (student life, family life), to survival situations (ordering a meal, travel-related activities), and to topics of broader interest (current events, social and environmental issues). This breadth of thematic diversity—coupled with the focus on vocabulary, grammatical structures, and language functions—helps develop students' language proficiency, thus preparing them to function in Spanish in situations that they are most likely to encounter outside the classroom.

Grammar Explanations

Many people say that students don't read. We think that that's not completely accurate. They read a lot, though it tends to be in the form of online articles, e-mail, updates on Facebook and Twitter, and so on. Students are therefore used to getting information in bits and pieces, not to reading lengthy technical explanations.

Recognizing that fact, the authors have tried to make the grammar explanations (dense, technical by their very nature) more accessible. The first major attempt to do something in this vein came in the fifth edition, when the grammar explanations were recast into a two-column format: left-hand column for prose explanations,

right-hand column for charts, tables, and paradigms. The approach was field-tested with students, in focus groups, with students saying that the design was clearer to them and that it enabled them to scan more easily for important information.

In the ninth edition, revisions to the grammar explanations have been extensive. They were driven in large part by very detailed, on-page comments written by instructors and teaching assistants who created user diaries for the authors, and also by comments from co-authors who actively teach with the text. The salient features of the revisions to the grammar include:

- A reduction in overall length of explanations whenever possible
- A reduction in the number of words in explanations overall, to make them less dense
- The inclusion of information in bulleted lists whenever possible
- The introduction of more redundancy into explanations, so that the same information is conveyed in a number of ways within a given grammar explanation: in prose explanations, in bullet points, in charts and tables, in summary form (sometimes twice in a given explanation: once at the beginning of the explanation, once at the end). This happens most frequently with important grammar topics.
- The alignment of information in grammar displays so that important information “pops” more visually
- The recasting of examples in such a way as to make the grammar point more salient
- The use of “pointer boxes” to remind students about features of the text that help them learn, like the use of red highlighting and parenthetical information for verbs

Cultural Content

Historically in the evolution of *Puntos*, cultural materials have been rewritten every few editions. Initially the program did not have a large amount of cultural content, the thinking being that the teaching of language and culture should be done separately and that it was “too much” for students to absorb not only information about the language but also information about the culture. This (perhaps artificial) separation of language and culture eventually fell away, and the authors began to search for optimal ways to select what kinds of cultural information to include and how best to integrate it with the vocabulary and grammar content.

For this edition, about 90% of the cultural content of the text has been rewritten. The following principles guided our work.

- *Less is more.* = Do not attempt to convey in-depth cultural information about all of the countries of the Spanish-speaking world. Rather, try to convey a smaller number of facts about each country and try to convey a sense of the “spirit” of the country, what natives think is representative and important about it.
- *Get information from natives of the countries in question.* = The contributions of the cultural ambassadors guided us in selecting what information to include.
- *Integrate culture.* = Include cultural information in exercises, activities, and **Gramática en acción** features whenever possible, keeping in mind that students should not have to process unfamiliar cultural information and grammar at the same time.
- *Keep cultural information short.* = This led to the rewriting of most **Nota cultural** features into very short, sometimes bullet-organized paragraphs. It meant that the **Lectura cultural** feature also conveys information in small chunks rather than in extended readings. We feel that this approach is particularly appropriate for a first-year program.

- *Ask questions about cultural content.* = The **Nota cultural** and **Lectura cultural** features are followed by questions that relate the cultural content to students' own culture, to help them expand their cross-cultural competence and recognize their own cultural patterns.

Instructors will find explicit cultural content in the following places.

- In the new chapter-opening two-page spreads: The left-hand page has a photo from the country of focus and related to the chapter's theme. Questions on this page allow instructors to start a whole-class discussion about the theme. The right-hand page has a map of the country (or countries) with geographical context, as well as population figures and three bullet points of interest about the country (or countries).
- In **Nota cultural** features: Comprehension questions are in the annotations wrap.
- In some **Gramática en acción** features
- In some **Práctica** and **Conversación** activities, and in **Un poco de todo** sections
- In all **Lengua y cultura** activities (in **Un poco de todo**)
- In the all-new **En su comunidad** activities (in **Un poco de todo**)
- In the new two-page **A leer** reading spreads
- In the new **A escuchar** listening passage
- In the new DVD Program and accompanying activities in the **TelePuntos** section
- In photographs and realia throughout the text

Program Materials

Whether you're using the *Puntos de partida* program in print form or in the new exciting Connect Spanish platform, a variety of additional components are available to support the needs of your students and you. Many are free to adopting institutions. Please contact your local McGraw-Hill representative for details on policies, prices, and availability.

Connect Spanish: Used in conjunction with *Puntos de partida*, Connect Spanish brings the *Puntos* program into the twenty-first century by providing a digital solution for schools with online programs, whether they be 100% online or hybrid. Some of the key features and capabilities of Connect Spanish include:

- complete integration of text, workbook / laboratory manual, audio, and video material
- additional practice with key vocabulary, grammar, and cultural material
- interactive, task-based scenarios (**Mundo interactivo**) that explore a wide variety of topics within a cultural framework
- LearnSmart adaptive learning system that offers individualized study plans to suit individual students' needs
- fully integrated gradebook
- ability to customize a syllabus and assignments to fit the needs of individual programs

Connect Spanish Instructor's Guide: A helpful guide for adopters of Connect Spanish, available online at www.connectspanish.com.

Annotated Instructor's Edition: The Instructor's Edition, which has always been regarded as a principal teaching resource for both novice and experienced instructors, provides an enlarged trim size with a wide variety of additional instructional notes, suggestions, and activities. This very useful supplement contains suggestions for implementing activities, supplementary exercises for developing listening and speaking skills, and

abundant variations and follow-ups on student text materials. A special feature of the *Instructor's Edition* is the **Bright Idea** suggestions, which were provided by instructors from across the country who use *Puntos de partida* on a daily basis. We are grateful for their wonderful ideas and suggestions. In addition, special features found in the annotations wrap space include Resources notes that identify digital transparencies and other key resources, notes and suggestions for adapting certain activities to accommodate Heritage Speaker students, Culture notes, and notes that identify activities that support the National Standards.

Workbook / Laboratory Manual: Written by Alice and Oswaldo Arana and María Sabló-Yates, the newly revised and combined Workbook and Laboratory Manual is offered in two volumes: **Capítulos 1–9** in Volume 1; **Capítulos 10–18** in Volume 2. Both volumes are available in print or as part of Connect Spanish.

DVD Program: The all-new two-disc DVD Program contains the *Salu2* video segments that correspond to the **TelePuntos** sections of each chapter. *Salu2* (short for **Saludos**, or *Greetings*) is a fictitious morning news show based in Los Angeles and hosted by two anchors, a Mexican-American man (Víctor) and a Panamanian woman (Ana). Their reports, based on chapter themes, are augmented by additional live reports from a roving field reporter from Mexico named Laura and in some cases by fans of the show that have sent in footage on a specific topic. Students will see footage from around the Spanish-speaking world, including from countries such as Argentina, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, and the United States. There are pre-, during, and post-viewing activities in the **TelePuntos** sections as well as a **Producción personal** section that will prompt students to film related topics outside of the classroom environment and then share those video segments with others.

Audio Program: The Audio Program provides the audio content for the following program features and is available on audio CDs or in downloadable format (mp3 files) at **www.connectspanish.com**.

- Listening activities in the Workbook / Laboratory Manual
- Words and phrases from the vocabulary presentations
- **Gramática en acción** segments that introduce each grammar topic

Supplemental Materials to accompany Puntos de partida, by Sharon Foerster and Jean Miller: Comprising worksheets and a teacher's guide, these two supplements are a compilation of materials that include short pronunciation practice, listening exercises, grammar worksheets, integrative communication-building activities, comprehensive chapter reviews, and language games.

Instructor's Manual: Available electronically at **www.connectspanish.com**, the IM offers an extensive introduction to teaching techniques, general guidelines for instructors, suggestions for lesson planning in semester and quarter schedules, detailed chapter-by-chapter suggestions, and much more, thus making it an indispensable resource for any adopter of the *Puntos* program.

Testing Program (print): The print Testing Program, available in downloadable Word files from **www.connectspanish.com**, contains five different tests for each chapter, as well as sample mid-term and final exams.

EZ Test Test Generator (online): McGraw-Hill's EZ Test is a flexible and easy-to-use electronic testing platform that allows instructors to create tests from publisher-provided items. It accommodates a wide range of question types, and instructors may add their own questions. Multiple versions of a test can be created.

Digital Transparencies: PDF files of all **Vocabulario: Preparación** art and any art that is not permissions-restricted are available to instructors at **www.connectspanish.com**.

Online Resources (instructors only): The following resources are available only to instructors at **www.connectspanish.com**.

- Connect Spanish Instructor's Guide
- Instructor's Manual
- Testing Program (print and digital)
- Testing Audio Program (mp3s)
- Audioscript
- Videoscript
- Digital Transparencies (for the text)
- Image Bank
- Cultural PowerPoint Presentations
- Grammar PowerPoint Presentations

Online Resources (instructors and students): The following resources are available to both instructors and students at **www.connectspanish.com**.

- Textbook Answer Key
- Audio Program (mp3s)
- Grammar Tutorials
- Interactive Verb Charts
- iTunes Playlist (for **¡Música!** sections)