

VI. Using *Puntos de partida* with the ActivityPak and Other Multimedia Components

A. THE ACTIVITYPAK

The new online ActivityPak to accompany *Puntos de partida*, the exciting new format of the old CD-ROM, is one of the most exciting and innovative components in the program. This engaging and pedagogically sound language learning resource is the result of valuable feedback from instructors and students who used the CD-ROM from previous editions of *Puntos de partida*. Corresponding to **Ante todo** and the 18 main chapters of the text, the ActivityPak contains a variety of activities related to each chapter theme. Of particular note is the correlation between the sections in each chapter in the text with the sections in each lesson in the ActivityPak. This one-to-one correlation facilitates integration of the ActivityPak into each lesson and assignment of work. Each lesson of the ActivityPak is organized as follows.

1. *Vocabulario* and 2. *Gramática*

In these sections students will find engaging, interactive activities and games that review and practice vocabulary and structures from the corresponding chapter of the textbook. Activities include “drag and drop,” matching, completion, and so on. Colorful art from the textbook adds to the beautiful design and also serves a pedagogical purpose. An engaging vocabulary game motivates learning.

3. *Perspectivas culturales*

In this section, students can watch a brief cultural video clip for 21 of the Spanish-speaking countries covered in the text. In addition, a cultural note (**Nota cultural**) expands on a cultural point introduced in the text or in the video. A brief quiz (**¿Cuánto sabe Ud.?**) allows students to check their cultural comprehension in each lesson.

4. *Videoteca*

This section offers students the opportunity to view the **En contexto** video segment that models high-frequency language. Students watch and read a series of questions on video and can enter their responses to each.

5. *Lectura y redacción*

This new section gives students the opportunity to develop further their reading and writing skills in Spanish. Students work with a variety of texts, ranging from authentic realia pieces to longer passages. Writing tasks evolve from simple activities that involve filling out forms to longer essays appropriate for beginning students. An accent toolbar allows students to insert special characters. Save and print features allow students to print out their work to turn in to instructors.

6. *Un poco de todo*

In this section, students have an opportunity to do a final review and self-assessment of lesson content in three distinct areas. Students can complete additional vocabulary and grammar activities (**Actividades**), review grammar with the grammar tutorials, and do a final assessment of their cultural understanding (**Prueba cultural**).

Other special features of the ActivityPak include the following.

- **Verbos:** Students can access a complete set of verb charts, a valuable reference as they complete activities.
- **Diccionario:** A Spanish-English vocabulary of terms used in the ActivityPak provides another important reference for students. Students may click on main entries to hear them spoken in Spanish.
- **Ayuda:** By clicking on **Ayuda** at the bottom of each screen, information will appear that describes the functionality of each button on a given screen.
- **Tracking System:** Each time that students launch the ActivityPak, they are asked to input their name and course information. As they complete activities throughout each lesson, their progress is tracked and can be saved and printed out to be handed in as a way of holding students accountable for work completed.

The ActivityPak to accompany *Puntos de partida* is available for student purchase. Instructors have access to it via the Instructor's Edition of the Online Learning Center. Because the availability of multimedia equipment will vary from institution to institution, individual instructors will have to determine how best to use the ActivityPak. Here are some possibilities.

1. One option is to demonstrate the first chapter of the ActivityPak in class or at the computer laboratory during the first weeks of class, then to assign each lesson (either officially or as an optional enrichment activity) for that chapter of the text thereafter.
2. As you complete each section in the text, you may wish to have all students hand in the corresponding progress report as recorded by the tracking feature. Alternatively, you may have students hand in only those activities that include a free-writing component (for example, **Redacción**).
3. Group or partner ActivityPak sessions in class or at the laboratory might be a regular part of your curriculum or an occasional motivating activity.

B. THE ONLINE LEARNING CENTER

The *Puntos de partida* Online Learning Center, accessible at www.mhhe.com/puntos8, offers a host of useful, engaging and interactive resources for students and instructors. Organized by chapter to correspond with the chapters of the text, these resources include the following.

1. For Students

- Self-correcting vocabulary and grammar practice quizzes for each chapter
- Cultural Internet activities
- The Textbook Audio Program, which models the vocabulary words presented in the **Vocabulario: Preparación** section of the text
- The Laboratory Audio Program, for use with the *Laboratory Manual*
- **Gramática en acción** grammar tutorials, available for purchase, can be downloaded to your computer and synced to a portable video .mp3 player.

2. For Instructors

- PowerPoint slides of the grammar sections in the text
- Digital transparencies of the vocabulary art from the text
- Word files of this Instructor’s Manual and Resource Kit
- Word files of the Testing Program

C. QUIA™ ONLINE WORKBOOK AND LABORATORY MANUAL

With the publication of the Eighth Edition of *Puntos de partida*, we are excited to offer online versions of the Workbook and the Laboratory Manual, respectively. These exciting interactive components provide the same content as is available in the traditional print versions, though in an online medium. Benefits include automatic feedback and scoring, integration of the audio laboratory program, and a sophisticated grading feature that tracks student scores for the instructor. Instructors can also customize the online activities.

D. DVD

The DVD offers both students and instructors the complete *Puntos de partida* DVD Program (approximately 5 hours). The ease of use and instant accessibility of the video materials has made this multimedia tool a popular component. Also included on the DVD is a scrolling transcript of the video segments, as well as comprehension activities to accompany all the video segments.

E. MUSIC CD

Available for instructors only, a brand new music CD, *Ritmos y sonidos*, is a collection of contemporary music from around the Spanish-speaking world. The music showcases a wide variety of styles, from traditional **salsa**, **merengue**, and **son** to today’s Latin-influenced pop. Featuring a variety of well-known and lesser-known artists and groups, *Ritmos y sonidos* is a great resource for instructors who want to bring the musical traditions of the Spanish-speaking world into the language classroom. Here’s a listing of the CD track numbers, songs, artists or groups, and their nationalities.

TRACK	SONG	ARTIST/GROUP	NATIONALITY
1	Dime mi amor	Los Lonely Boys	Estados Unidos
2	Algo está cambiando	Julieta Venegas	México
3	Así es la vida	Luis Enrique	Nicaragua
4	Podría ser	Yolocamba I Ta	El Salvador
5	¡Cállate, hombre!	Compañía Folclórica Matambú	Costa Rica
6	Prohibido olvidar	Rubén Blades	Panamá
7	A caballo	Kinito Méndez	República Dominicana
8	Mi tentación	Rey Ruiz	Cuba
9	Qué hiciste	Jennifer Lopez	Puerto Rico

TRACK	SONG	ARTIST/GROUP	NATIONALITY
10	Tú de qué vas	Franco de Vita	Venezuela
11	Resucitar	Gian Marco	Perú
12	Tanto amor	Juan Fernando Velasco	Ecuador
13	Ayer	Johnny Guala	Ecuador
14	Potpourri de bailecitos	Pukaj Wayra	Bolivia
15	Mientes tan bien	Sin Bandera	Argentina
16	Todos americanos	Los Jaivas	Chile
17	El choclo	René Marino Rivero	Uruguay
18	Rosas	La Oreja de Van Gogh	España