

## CONVERSACIÓN SOBRE UN PAÍS DE HABLA HISPANA

You will take part in an oral conversation with a classmate and your teacher that will last for about 10 minutes. The purpose of this activity is to evaluate your spontaneous conversational speaking ability and your investigation of a previously selected Spanish-speaking country.

The conversations will take place during regular class time in the regular classroom. (Check the class schedule for which days.) Each pair will sign up for a date and time; do not come to class during the other times.

### YOUR TASKS:

1. Choose a partner and a Spanish-speaking country. Sign up for a date and time.
2. Decide with your partner how you'll research your country. You can work together or divide up topics for each to investigate separately.
3. Research your country. You can gather information about a variety of topics or go more in-depth about one or two. Learn the vocabulary you'll need to discuss your topic. You are not allowed to bring anything written to the conversation, so don't be concerned with too many specific details – the goal is to have as natural a conversation as possible.
4. Be on time and ready on your day. Make-ups will only be allowed in case of emergency.

**EVALUATION:** This activity is worth 5% of your course grade. Each student will be evaluated separately, based on both individual contributions and interactions with the group. See the *Ficha de evaluación* for details.

### TIPS:

- Exchange email addresses with your partner to make coordinating easier.
- Choose just one or two topics to research and discuss. Pick something you find interesting – the conversation will flow more naturally, and it will be easier to remember facts.
- As you research, practice how you'll discuss the topic. Do you know all the vocabulary you'll need? Try to find a source in Spanish rather than relying on a dictionary. One idea is to read an article in English on a site like Wikipedia, and then read about the same topic in Spanish. If you use a tourism site, read both the English and Spanish translations.
- During the conversation, avoid using English. If you don't know a word, find another way to describe what you mean (use gestures and sound effects if necessary).
- Don't just wait for the teacher to ask you questions; you can ask your partner and the teacher for their opinions, what they know about the country, if they've been there, etc.

**TOPIC IDEAS:** Choose something you find interesting; try not to recite facts.

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|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Architecture | • Music                   | • Social issues           |
| • History      | • Dance                   | • Environmental issues    |
| • Geography    | • Art, Literature         | • Sports, Recreation      |
| • Tourism      | • Politics/Government     | • Pop- or Counter-culture |
| • Economy      | • International relations | • Personal experiences    |
| • Education    | • Family life, Daily life | • Famous citizens         |

## Ficha de evaluación: Conversación oral

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Content and Preparation** \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

Completely prepared = knowledgeable on subject 20  
Well prepared = some key information unknown 15  
Somewhat prepared = unable to answer relevant questions 10  
Unprepared = obvious lack of preparation, unknowledgeable 5

### **Grammar** \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

Used appropriate forms, including those learned in class 20  
Some errors with forms, including those learned in class 15  
Many errors, avoided forms used in class, but still intelligible 10  
Incomplete sentences, difficulty conveying ideas 5

### **Vocabulary** \_\_\_\_\_ / 15

Relevant to topic, no use of English 15  
Some relevant words unknown, little use of English 10  
Relevant vocab unknown, several uses of English 5

### **Fluidity and Spontaneity** \_\_\_\_\_ / 15

Natural flow, not too many pauses, no memorization 15  
Somewhat stilted, some pauses or apparent memorization 10  
Unnatural, stilted, many pauses, obvious memorization 5

### **Pronunciation** \_\_\_\_\_ / 10

Clear pronunciation, "accent" does not impede intelligibility 10  
Very non-native pronunciation, "accent" impedes intelligibility 5

### **Group Interaction and Participation** \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

Spoke and listened equally, asked questions, helped partner 20  
Slightly unbalanced dynamic 15  
Spoke too much or too little, did not pay attention to partner 10  
Completely domineering or hardly participated at all 5

**Total grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 100

**Comments:**