

**A BRIEF SPANISH GRAMMAR
WITH HISTORICAL
INTRODUCTIONS AND
EXERCISES**

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A Brief Spanish Grammar with Historical Introductions and Exercises by A. Hjalmar Edgren

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BY

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PREFACE.

THIS brief grammar is intended primarily for college-classes and such students generally as would begin reading Spanish, without waste of time, on the basis of an accurate knowledge of the *essentials* of its grammar.

It contains, therefore, a methodical survey of Spanish *Pronunciation* and *Accidence* (with exercises), *Syntax*, and *Versification*. For self-evident reasons, the pronunciation of Spanish is explained, in the usual way, by the aid of English key-words, instead of phonetic rules. Kindred pronoun-groups are classified with reference to their real scientific distinction into *tonic* and *atonic*. Auxiliary verbs are classified and described with the irregular verbs, where they belong, and the so-called "compound" (i. e. periphrastic) conjugations are explained in a few brief paragraphs. To begin with what is very irregular in order to be able to devote pages to what is a simple syntactical combination involves needless confusion and loss of time, especially in Spanish, with its periphrastic active, passive, and progressive conjugations, each having two or more auxiliaries. Especial care has been taken to make the chapter on verb-inflection both full and simple. It is hoped that the method of classification here adopted, reducing the number of irregular verbs to about thirty by conjugating all other verbs according to eight models (three leading, as usual, and five subordinate), will materially simplify a difficult and important topic. The General

Index contains a full reference-list to all verbs that deviate in any way (save orthographically) from the three leading model-verbs.

The exercises are prepared with exclusive reference to the topic in hand. Hence they are purposely simple, those on the verbs being even confined almost entirely to a direct drill on the various forms of a great variety of representative verbs. Moreover, they are all placed at the end of the book, where they will not impede reference to the grammar, or disturb its methodical presentation.

For the benefit of those interested, each chapter is introduced parenthetically, and in a way not to obstruct the regular study of the grammar, by a brief sketch of the relation between Latin and Spanish as regards the subject therein treated. The encouragement attending the introduction of such a method into the author's French grammar has led him to adopt it, on a reduced scale, also here.

The author is indebted for guidance and for various illustrative examples to other grammars. Among these should be mentioned especially the well-known works of Foerster (*Spanische Sprachlehre*) and Wiggers (*Grammatik der spanischen Sprache*), and Knapp's elaborate and useful Spanish Grammar. Special thanks are due and gladly extended to Professor Edw. S. Joynes for generous aid in more than one respect, and to Professor C. F. Kroeh of Hoboken, for helpful assistance in the reading of the proofs.

A. H. E.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGES.
The Spanish Language: History	1-2
I. Elementary Sounds and Accent.	
History	3
Alphabet and Subsidiary Signs	3-4
Tone-accent and Accent-mark	4-5
Quantity	5
Syllabication	5
Pronunciation	6-9
Simple Vowels 6. — Vowel-compounds 6-7. — Consonants 7-9.	
Orthographical and Phonetic Changes	9
Elision	10
Capitals and Punctuation	10
II. Articles.	11
III. Nouns.	
History	12
Plural Formation	12-13
Gender	14-16
Qualifying Suffixes	16-17
IV. Adjectives.	
History	18
Inflection (plur. and fem. formation)	18-19
Comparison	19-20
Qualifying Suffixes	20
V. Numerals	
History	21
Cardinals and Ordinals	21-22
Inflection, etc.	22

	PAGE.
VI. Pronouns.	
History	22-23
Personals and Reflexives	23-25
Possessives	25-26
Demonstratives	26
Interrogatives	27
Relatives	27
Indefinites	27-28
VII. Verbs.	
History	28-29
Conjugations	29
Principal Parts	30-31
Regular Verbs	31-39
<i>Amar, tener, partir, 31-34. — Orthographical changes 34-35. —</i>	
<i>Phonetical variations 35-39 [<i>pensar</i>-class 36; — <i>sentir</i>-class 37; —</i>	
<i>pedir</i> -class 37; — <i>huir</i> -class 38].	
Irregular Verbs	39-45
General description 39-40. — Reference-list 40-44. — Defective verbs	
44-45.	
Periphrastic Verb-Phrases	45-46
Periphrastic actives 45. — passives 45-46. — progressives 46.	
Reflexive or Reciprocal Verbs	46-47
VIII. Indeclinables.	
Adverbs	47-49
Prepositions	49
Conjunctions	49-50
Interjections	50
SYNTAX.	
IX. Articles.	
Definite Article	51-53
Idiomatic use 51-53. — Omission 53.	
Indefinite Article	53-54
X. Nouns.	
Direct object with <i>d</i>	54-56
Prepositional construction	56-57

CONTENTS.

vii

	PAGE.
XI. Adjectives.	
Agreement	57-58
Position	58-59
XII. Numerals	60
XIII. Pronouns.	
Personals	61-63
Possessives	63-64
Demonstratives	64
Interrogatives and Relatives	65-66
Indefinites	66-67
XIV. Verbs.	
Agreement	68
Indicative Tenses	68-70
Present 68. — Imperfect 69. — Preterit 69. — Future and Conditional 70.	
Subjunctive	70-74
Independent 70. — Dependent 71-73. — Tenses 74.	
Infinitive	74-78
As noun 74-75. — Without preposition 75. — With preposition 75-77. — As verb 77-78.	
Gerund	78
Past Participle	79
XV. Indeclinables.	
Sundry Adverbs,	80-81
Negation	81-83
Conjunctions	83
XVI. Arrangement of Sentence	83-84
VERSIFICATION	85-88
Rhythm 85. — Syllabic Number 85-87. — Rhyme, Assonance and Blank Verse 87-88. — Strophes and Poems 88.	
SPANISH WORDS IN ENGLISH	89-90
EXERCISES	93-130
SPANISH-ENGLISH VOCABULARY	131
ENGLISH-SPANISH VOCABULARY	140
INDEX	151