

## Instructions

### 1. Seeing is believing

Visualize your ultimate goal and purpose for learning Spanish. Picture yourself speaking fluently at home, at work, or on vacation in a Spanish-speaking country; or picture yourself being able to court your Spanish-speaking love interest. Whatever your motivation may be, picture it and frame it.

### 2. Mind over matter

Open this book when you're ready to read, but open your mind when you're ready to learn. You're probably used to doing things *your* way. When you learn a foreign language, however, you'd better get used to doing things *their* way. You're not going to reinvent the language. Believe me, I have already tried.

### 3. Speak now or forever hold your peace

Sure, you have the right to remain silent but when learning a language, taking the Fifth is not going to do you any good. Understandably, you may lack the confidence to speak or you may be a little shy, but how far you want to progress is entirely up to you, and it starts with opening your mouth.

### 4. Monkey see, monkey do

Watch Spanish-language television or talk with Spanish speakers whenever you can so that you develop a feel for how words are pronounced and in what context they are used. You can read in a book that horses say, "Neigh," but you'll never recognize the sound of a horse in real life unless you actually hear it from the horse's mouth.

### 5. Show me the money

When you learned to ride a bike, how many times did you fall or crash into your neighbor's car before you started popping wheelies? When you learned how to swim, how many times did you run out of energy and have to swim to the edge of the pool for a breather before you started doing continuous laps? Nobody said it was going to be easy, but by learning Spanish, you can reap a huge return if you invest enough time and energy.