

5

Talking the Talk Means Walking the Walk

181 Steps Closer to Fluency

Talking the Talk Means Walking the Walk: 181 Steps Closer to Fluency is a collection of one hundred and eighty-one practical conversation boosters that will help you to advance and enliven your Spanish-speaking skills. Arranged alphabetically by the catchphrases or catchwords in English, this chapter will, in a sense, introduce you to the native speaker. It is a snapshot of words, phrases, and expressions taken from real conversations with native speakers. Dictionaries and grammar books are essential to learning any language and you will need to refer to them even while reading this chapter. You can't always, however, call a time-out in the middle of a conversation, pull out your dictionary, and look up a particular word or phrase. To keep a conversation flowing, you will need to know how to express yourself "conversationally," and this chapter will help you to accomplish that goal. These phrases are like your oil and your antifreeze—greasing the squeaky engine and keeping the motor running. Such words will help you to fill in the gaps, thereby keeping the conversation going when it gets cold. If you want to walk the walk of a native speaker, then you've got to talk the talk. *¡Buena suerte!*