

VI. Using *Puntos de partida* with the CD-ROM and Other Multimedia Components

A. THE CD-ROM

The CD-ROM to accompany *Puntos de partida* continues to be one of the most exciting and innovative components in the program. Revised for the Seventh Edition, this engaging and pedagogically sound language learning resource is the result of valuable feedback from instructors and students who used the CD-ROM that accompanied the previous edition of *Puntos de partida*. Corresponding to **Ante todo** and the 18 regular chapters of the textbook, the CD-ROM contains a variety of activities related to each chapter theme. Of particular note is the improved correlation between the sections in each chapter in the text with the sections in each lesson on the CD-ROM. This one-to-one correlation facilitates integration of the CD-ROM into each lesson and assignment of work. Each lesson of CD-ROM 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 forth. Colorful art from the textbook adds to the beautiful design and also serves a pedagogical purpose. An engaging vocabulary game motivates learning.

3. *Conozca...*

In this section, students can watch a brief cultural video clip for each of the 21 Spanish-speaking countries covered in the textbook. 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 both the opportunity to view the **En contexto** video segment that models high-frequency languages as well as to participate in a simulated video “conversation” with characters that appear in the **En contexto** video segments and thus practice the same functional language. Students watch and listen to a series of questions on video and can record their responses to each. After answering all of the questions, they can watch and listen to the entire conversation.

5. *Lectura y escritura*

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 CD-ROM include the following.

- **WWW:** A link to the *Puntos de partida* Online Learning Center website offers a multitude of additional resources and activities for students and instructors and is accessed through the WWW button at the bottom of each screen.
- **Verbs:** Students can access a complete set of verb charts, a valuable reference as they complete activities.
- **Dictionary:** A Spanish-English vocabulary of terms used in the CD-ROM provides another important reference for students. Students may click on main entries to hear them spoken in Spanish.
- **Help:** By clicking on Help 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 CD-ROM, 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 CD-ROM to accompany *Puntos de partida* is offered to institutions (in a site-license laboratory pack version) and is also available for purchase by students. Because the availability of multimedia equipment will vary from institution to institution, individual instructors will have to determine how best to use the CD-ROM. Here are some possibilities.

1. One option is to demonstrate the first chapter of the CD-ROM 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 textbook, 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, **Escritura**).
3. Group or partner CD-ROM 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 WEBSITE

The *Puntos de partida* Online Learning Center Website, accessible at www.mhhe.com/puntos7, offers a host of useful, engaging and interactive resources for students and instructors. Organized by chapter to correspond with the chapters of the textbook, these resources include the following.

1. For Students

- A list of learning objectives
- Self-correcting vocabulary and grammar practice quizzes for each chapter
- Cultural Internet activities and links to a variety of theme-based and culture-based websites
- The *Textbook Audio Program*, which models the vocabulary words presented in the **Vocabulario: Preparación** section of the textbook

Premium Content:

Free with every purchase of a new textbook, students will receive a web passcode that gives them access to the Premium Content of the *Puntos de partida* Online Learning Center. Students purchasing a used textbook may purchase access to the Premium Content separately. Premium Content includes:

- The complete *Laboratory Audio Program* (to accompany the Laboratory Manual)
- The new *Flash Grammar Tutorials*, which present and review grammar points in an interactive and visually rich learning environment
- Additional activities that practice grammar and vocabulary

2. For Instructors

- Links to professional organizations and resources
- PowerPoint slides of the grammar sections in the textbook
- Digital transparencies of the vocabulary art from the textbook
- An online version of the *Instructor's Manual and Resource Kit*

3. General Resources

- Glossary of grammatical terms
- Verb charts
- Maps of the Spanish-speaking world

C. QUIA™ ONLINE WORKBOOK AND LABORATORY MANUAL

With the publication of the Seventh Edition of *Puntos de partida*, we are excited to offer online versions of the Workbook and the Laboratory Manual, respectively. These exciting interactive ancillaries 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. VIDEO ON CD

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

