

Preface

Punto y aparte: Spanish in Review, Moving Toward Fluency places communicative goals at the forefront of the intermediate Spanish course so students don't just learn *about* the language, they learn *how* to use the language. As a result, students learn to express themselves in a natural way, with increasing fluency and accuracy in real-world settings.

The proven qualities of *Punto y aparte* include:

- a focus on seven core communicative functions (**las siete metas comunicativas**, called out with icons throughout the program) and the grammatical structures that support them. These functions are constantly recycled throughout the program to reflect the real-life use of language;
- meaningful communicative practice through writing and speaking activities presented in a real-world context. In Connect™, composition and peer editing tools along with our Blackboard IM and VoiceBoard tools allow students the opportunity to engage in communicative practice with their peers outside the classroom;
- constant recycling of grammar, vocabulary, and the seven communicative functions throughout the program and in the **Para repasar** boxes, **Pruebas diagnósticas**, and the LearnSmart™ suite of tools;
- cultural content in the form of new **¡Cuéntennos!** videos and the **¡Viaje conmigo a...!** videos, as well as readings on art, music, and history, serve to recycle grammar and vocabulary and to enrich students' experience of language learning and to provide a window into Spanish-speaking cultures.



These features support the core goals of the intermediate Spanish course and put students on a successful path from simple utterances to more extensive discourse, from sentence-level to paragraph-length expression.

Connect Spanish™ and LearnSmart™

Thanks to generous feedback from students and instructors, the fifth edition of *Punto y aparte* continues to evolve in order to meet the changing needs of today's language instruction. Employing a wide array of research tools, we identified a number of areas for potential innovation. The new program builds upon the success of the fourth edition with an expanded emphasis on contemporary

language, culture, and technology to create a truly communicative, interactive experience. On the digital front, this new edition offers Connect Spanish and LearnSmart, with their unparalleled adaptive and digital learning resources. These powerful tools, now an integral part of the fifth edition, complement and support the goals of the *Punto y aparte* program and address the needs of the evolving intermediate Spanish course.

How do Connect Spanish and LearnSmart support the goals of the *Punto y aparte* program? In Connect Spanish, students have full access to the digitally enhanced eBook, the online Workbook / Laboratory Manual activities, LearnSmart, and all of the accompanying audio and video resources, providing ample practice for students in a digital environment.

-  **Connect Spanish:** Interactive textbook and workbook activities for vocabulary and grammar, many of which provide automatic feedback and grading, give students the opportunity to complete their assignments and come to class better prepared to participate in paired and group activities.
-  **LearnSmart** modules for vocabulary and grammar have been developed specifically for *Punto y aparte*. This powerful adaptive system helps students pinpoint their weaknesses and provides them with an individualized study program based on their results. Audio prompts for vocabulary and grammar help students strengthen both their listening and writing skills. All students, no matter their previous language experience, can benefit from using LearnSmart, which includes built-in reporting and a competitive scoreboard to increase student engagement. Our research has shown that students using LearnSmart have significantly improved their learning and course outcomes, often by a full letter grade.

Core Communicative Functions

How does the *Punto y aparte* program empower your students to communicate with confidence in Spanish? *Punto y aparte* continually draws students' attention to seven communicative functions via marginal icons that appear continuously throughout every section of the book.

- D** Descripción
DESCRIBIR
- C** Comparación
COMPARAR
- P** Narración en el pasado
PASADO
- R** Reacciones y recomendaciones
REACCIONAR
RECOMENDAR
- G** Hablar de los gustos y las opiniones
GUSTOS
- H** Hacer hipótesis
HIPÓTESIS
- F** Hablar del futuro
FUTURO

Each chapter highlights a separate communicative function and explicitly links it with the grammatical structures students will use to complete that function. At the same time, all seven communicative functions are recycled constantly and often used simultaneously from the very beginning of the program, just as they are used in natural language production. For example, after reading an anecdote in the past tense, a natural follow-up would be to offer advice, and thus the communicative value of the subjunctive becomes obvious. This also means that students don't run the risk of forgetting the structures practiced in the previous chapters because they continue to use the structures throughout the program. Additional explanations and practice with the grammatical structures associated with each communicative function are available in the Explicación gramatical section in the "purple pages" at the end of the text.

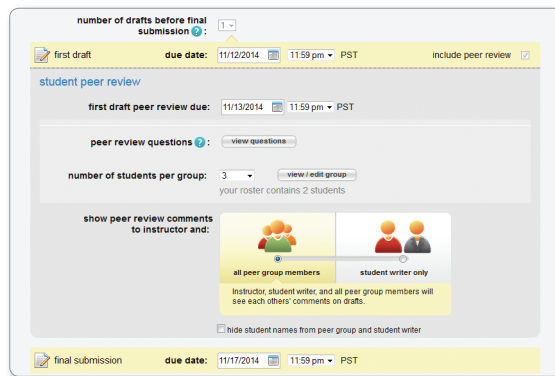
Meaningful Communicative Practice

The seven communicative functions are the organizing principle behind the *Punto y aparte* program, and that approach is supported by a commitment to offering students with numerous forms of communicative activities that mirror real-world scenarios.

Designed specifically to accommodate any class level, schedule, and pace, the **Puntos clave** grammar section offers explanations and quick comprehension-check activities. It then progresses to culturally based open-ended exercises for increasingly more sophisticated practice of the lesson material.

¡A escribir! follows **Puntos clave** so that students can begin writing in Spanish on the heels of the vocabulary and grammar presentations. Writing assignments have been finely tuned to ensure that students can naturally implement the vocabulary and grammar of the lesson. New digital Composition and Writing Tools integrated within Connect Spanish allow writing, editing, peer or

instructor review, and grading to take place online with ease.



In the **Hablado del tema** section, students converse, debate, and offer reactions to questions and situations based on chapter theme. With Connect Spanish, these speaking activities now can extend beyond the classroom, to be practiced and completed at home or in the lab using the following tools:

- Blackboard Instant Messaging (IM) provides the necessary online tools for students to work online in pairs or to practice speaking together before coming to class.
- The Voice Board feature allows individuals to record their own voice as many times as they wish before they post their recording for their classmates to listen, react, and respond.

Recycling of Grammar and Vocabulary

Punto y aparte provides students with consistent recycling opportunities to match the natural use of the language. With LearnSmart, students may also quickly assess their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and receive additional support and practice for those words or concepts with which they struggle.

Here are some ways in which vocabulary and grammar are presented, practiced, and recycled throughout *Punto y aparte*.

- Dialogues in the **La historia** section demonstrate vocabulary in context, allowing students to see and hear the nuances of natural language and to incorporate new words comfortably and confidently into their own vocabulary.
- In the **Vocabulario del tema** section, **Para repasar** boxes remind students of words they have already studied that will be helpful for communicating about the current topic.



- Students can check their command of the various grammar structures throughout the course by completing the **¿Cómo le va con estos puntos clave?** These chapter-culminating activities include a **Prueba diagnóstica** and an **Autoevaluación**, in which students can evaluate their confidence with the language material of the chapter.
- Students can also find clear and thorough grammar explanations of any formal rule that they need to review in the **Explicación gramatical** section that appears after Capítulo 6 of the main text. Each grammar structure is accompanied by grammar activities (**¡A practicar!**) whose answers can be found in **Apéndice 1** or with the corresponding digital practice materials in Connect Spanish.

Windows into Spanish-Speaking Cultures

The cultural content of *Punto y aparte* enriches students' experience of language learning and introduces them to people and places outside their realm of experience.

New to the fifth edition of *Punto y aparte*, **¡Cuéntennos!**, is a video feature that provides even more authentic context for each chapter's vocabulary, grammar, and culture. **¡Cuéntennos!**

features unscripted interviews, most of them conducted with two people who share an intimate connection, whether they be family members or close friends. These natural speech interviews offer a glimpse into real-life relationships that touch upon the chapter themes: first impressions and stereotypes, the importance of family, hopes for the future, and more. A series of pre- and post-viewing activities can be found in Connect Spanish.

The **Rincón cultural** section includes activities that reinforce the chapter theme, vocabulary, and grammar in creative, enticing, and contemporary ways.

- **Lugares fascinantes para estudiar** sections focus on four specific places within a region of the Spanish-speaking world and are presented in the format of a blog written by students studying abroad. Accompanying the blog posts are the vibrant



¡Cuéntennos!



En este vídeo, Alberto, un guitarrista catalán, y Xianix, una bailarina dominicana-puertorriqueña de flamenco, hablan de sus culturas y su vida ahora en «La Gran Manzana».

Vea el vídeo y haga las actividades relacionadas que se encuentran en Connect Spanish.

cultural segments of the **Lugares fascinantes** video program, produced by McGraw-Hill with footage from the BBC Motion Gallery. These videos are available online in Connect, and instructors may also request a complimentary DVD.

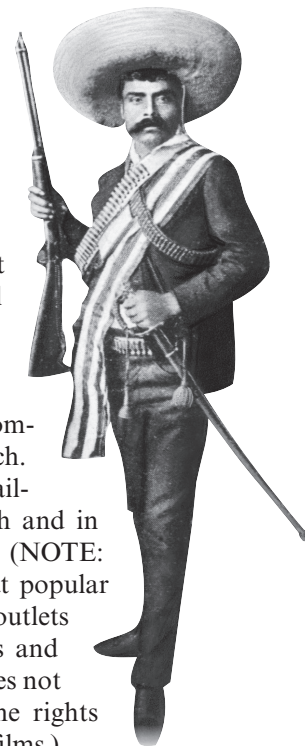
- **Un artista hispano** presents an artist from each featured region. Three new, contemporary artists—Santiago Calatrava, Gustavo Dudamel, and Jorge Miyagui (**Capítulos 1, 2, and 5**)—are highlighted in this edition, with more photos to help students appreciate the works and movements described.



- **La música...** sections introduce various types of music and artists from the featured regions. Accompanying discussion questions and activities ask students to listen to various artists online and give their impressions about lyrics, music videos and the general style of the music. (NOTE: All music selections can be found online via popular music sites such as iTunes, YouTube, eMusic, and Amazon. McGraw-Hill does not have artist or label permission to provide these tracks.)

- The **Un evento histórico** section offers insight into some of the most important historical events of the Spanish-speaking world. In addition, students can continue their exploration of these topics in Connect Spanish with additional readings and activities.

- The new **Más allá del Rincón cultural** feature offers suggestions for complementary films to watch. Practice activities are available on Connect Spanish and in the Instructor's Manual. (NOTE: All films can be found at popular online or physical retail outlets such as Amazon, iTunes and Netflix. McGraw-Hill does not have permission from the rights holders to provide these films.)



Finally, updated readings in the **Lectura** section, including three completely new works—interviews with Junot Díaz and Camila Vallejo and a piece by Shakira (**Capítulos 2, 4, and 5**)—present fresh topics that encourage further cultural exploration and increase the enjoyment of studying Spanish.

Program Supplements

Whether using the *Punto y aparte* program in print form or in the exciting new Connect Spanish platform, a variety of additional components are available to support the needs of instructors and students. Many instructor materials are free to adopting institutions. Please contact your local McGraw-Hill representative for details on policies, prices, and availability.

Connect Spanish:

Used in conjunction with *Punto y aparte*: Connect Spanish (www.connectspanish.com) provides a digital solution for schools with face-to-face, hybrid, or 100% online offerings. In addition to the interactive eBook, complete Workbook / Laboratory Manual, grammar tutorials, and audio and video resources, some of the key features of Connect Spanish include:

- LearnSmart (described earlier in these pages) and LearnSmart Prep™, a powerful adaptive system designed specifically for students bridging the gap between the introductory and intermediate Spanish courses
- the ability to customize syllabi and assignments to fit the needs of individual programs;
- an integrated gradebook with powerful reporting features;
- access to all instructor resources, including the Instructor's Manual, Audioscripts, and a customizable testing program with audio for the online delivery of exams;
- access to Tegrity, McGraw-Hill's proprietary video capture software that allows instructors to post short videos, tutorials, and lessons for student access outside of class.

MH Campus and Blackboard:

Integration of MH Campus and Blackboard simplifies and streamlines course administration by integrating with the Learning Management System of individual campuses. With features such as single sign-on for students and instructors, gradebook synchronization, and easy-access to all of McGraw-Hill's language content (even from other market-leading titles), teaching an introductory language course has never been more simple.

Annotated Instructor's Edition:

The Instructor's Edition of *Punto y aparte* provides notes that offer extensive additional activities, teaching hints, and suggestions for using and expanding materials, as well as references to the supplementary activities in the Instructor's Manual and the Testing Program.

Workbook / Laboratory Manual:

This print supplement provides many form-focused activities to practice the structures presented in the textbook using a variety of written and audio activities. For students using the print version, the audio files are posted in Connect Spanish.

DVD Program:

The *Punto y aparte* DVD Program, which contains the **Lugares fascinantes** and the new **¡Cuéntennos!** video segments, is also available on DVD.

What's New for the Fifth Edition?

There have been many changes made for this edition. However those changes were not made lightly, nor without extreme feedback and confirmation from you, our clients, as evidenced by the lists of reviewers presented earlier in this Preface. Here are some of the highlights of this revision. For specific details, especially an exhaustive list of chapter-by-chapter changes, please see the Instructor's Manual (IM), available online at www.connectspanish.com.

General Details

- New interior design
- Larger trim size
- Many new photos and a greater use of photos (rather than drawings) whenever possible
- Exciting new technology: Connect Spanish. LearnSmart, Blackboard
- New DVD, with activities support in the text (**¡Cuéntennos!**), Connect Spanish, and the IM
- Revised Workbook / Laboratory Manual available in print or online as part of Connect Spanish.

Organizational Changes

¡A escribir!: Now follows **Puntos clave** so students begin written creation with the target language on the heels of the vocabulary and grammar presentations.

Vocabulary

- **La historia** dialogs have been updated to reflect the vocabulary and grammar presented within the chapter.
- **Vocabulario del tema** lists have been simplified
- New **Para repasar** boxes remind students of words they already studied.

Grammar

- Short diagnostic tests added to **Para empezar** to allow students to determine student understanding of the **metas comunicativas**

- Redesigned **Puntos clave** section accommodates a variety of class levels, schedules, and paces
- New, chapter culminating, **¿Cómo le va con estos puntos clave?** allows for comprehension check, cultural review, synthesis, and oral practice in each chapter
- Colorful images replace the word lists in the **Yo, experto** sections

Culture

- New **Rincón cultural** activities reinforce chapter theme, vocabulary, and grammar
- Revised **Lugares fascinantes para estudiar** sections have been reformatted as blog entries from students studying abroad as they explain their impressions and adventures.
- Bold new feature boxes direct students to Connect Spanish to watch the accompanying **¡Viaje conmigo a...!** videos.
- The **Un artista** section features new contemporary artists in Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5
- The **La música** section contains updated descriptions, and examples of contemporary musicians and regional instruments.
- New **Un evento histórico** (brought from the Expanded Edition) offers insight into important historical happenings in the Spanish-speaking world. Students can continue their exploration of these topics in Connect Spanish with additional readings and activities.
- New **Más allá del rincón cultural** feature offers suggestions for complementary films to watch and a cue to go to Connect for film-related practice activities.
- Updated **Lecturas**, including three (3) completely new works (Chapters 2, 4, 5) present fresh topics

Activities

- Activities thoroughly revised for relevance and for clarity to students
- Many completely new activities
- Additional activities for **Vocabulario del tema**, **Hablando del tema**, and **Rincón cultural** are included in Connect Spanish