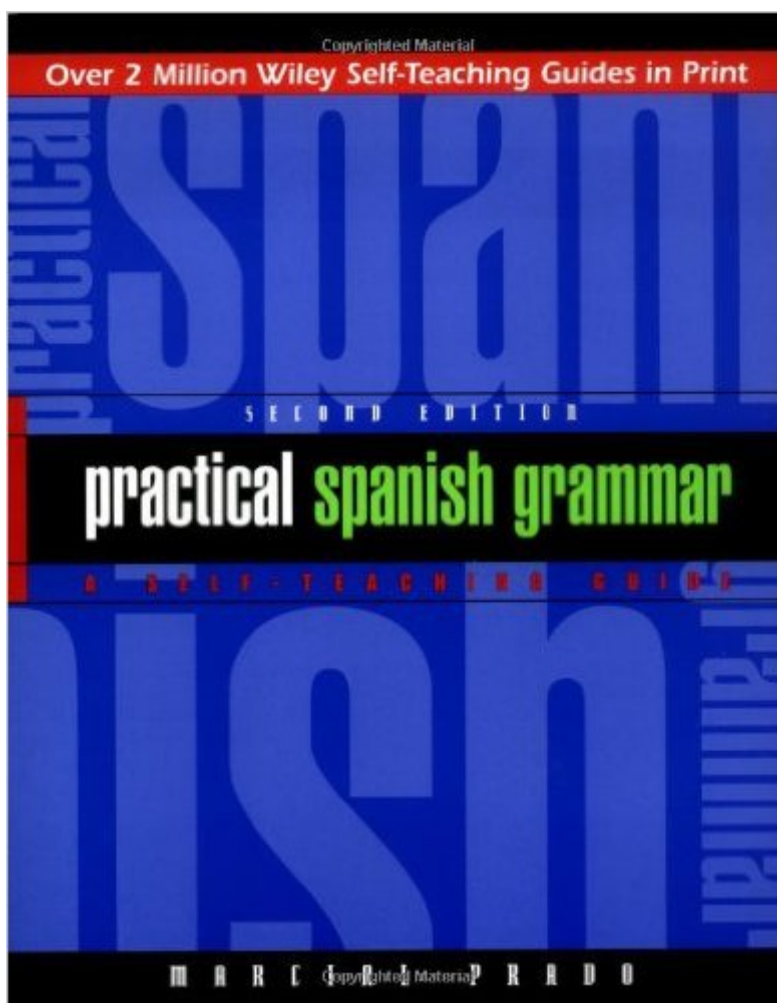


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# Practical Spanish Grammar: A Self-Teaching Guide, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

The fast, easy way to master the essentials of Spanish Now, learning Spanish can be as easy as uno, dos, tres! Combining the quick-reference virtues of a phrase book with the learning tools of a full-fledged language course, this popular guide gives you a solid start. Completely revised and updated for today's usage, Practical Spanish Grammar gives you:

- \* A proven interactive format that has been tested, rewritten, and retested to ensure you can teach yourself at your own pace
- \* Exercises to reinforce what you've learned
- \* Clear explanations of approximately 80 percent of Spanish grammatical structures
- \* Over 1,000 of the most frequently used Spanish words
- \* Sample dialogues with cultural notes and lists of terms

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Alright, I have read all the reviews that precede mine and many of them mention the book's one major deficiency -- it has too many typos. Just one example: on page 145, the word "descubrir" ("to discover") is introduced for the first time, appearing there in the main vocabulary list of new words for Chapter 9, and it is misspelled "describrir", which is inexcusable. I suspected the misspelling but was not sure until I checked my dictionary and also saw the word spelled correctly in the exercises that followed. This sort of thing is unfortunate in an otherwise fine text. That said, this book is excellent. I am learning Spanish using this book as my main text. I started studying Spanish using this book in November 2002 and have completed fourteen of its fifteen chapters. It's now the beginning of March 2003 and I am reading the news online in Spanish with almost total

comprehension. I had no prior experience with Spanish. "Practical Spanish Grammar" has many exercises in each chapter covering both vocabulary and grammar and also three major "quizzes" of a hundred questions each covering Chapters 1-5, 6-10, and 11-15. The answers to all exercises and quizzes are given in the back of the book. In my opinion, Professor Prado has done a great job of giving me just what I need (and no more or less) to master new words and new grammatical concepts. The material is presented in a manner that fixes those concepts in my head and reinforces them with the exercises that follow. When I finish this book, I will start going through Prado's "Advanced Spanish Grammar", which recapitulates and elaborates in more depth upon almost everything presented in "Practical Spanish Grammar" and introduces new concepts besides.

If you are a visual, structured learner with the long-term goal of fluency, I can think of no better place to start than with PSG. The book is logically structured, comprehensive, and has linear-qualities hard to find in most texts. I probably knew ten words of Spanish when I bought this book and when I finished (five hard months later) I could get almost any point across. I've found the language business to be a little like the gym business: "Rock hard abs in three minutes a day" is replaced by "Two months to fluency without memorization or conjugation." PSG takes the higher road, making it a serious learning tool ill-suited to the dilettante. Each chapter starts with as many as 100 vocabulary words that must be memorized before even getting into the dialog and grammar discussions. In addition, exercises (with answers in the back) must be completed at the end of each section. If you're willing to put in the time, though, this book will give you a rock-solid foundation in the language. What bugged me? Prado's clear, concise explanations sometimes seemed a little too concise with regards to complicated subjects. The focus on S. American vs. Spanish dialects wavers constantly, exercises were sometimes lazily conceived, confusing typos and accidental repetition are common, and vocabulary is sometimes less than practical (though if you want to be a weight-loss guru or auto mechanic in Mexico, you'll be set.) Of course, there's also the issue of books teaching you to read and write a language as opposed to speaking it-but that's a limitation of the medium and not the author...Humble suggestions for Mr. Prado.

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