TalkAbroad - Student Workbook
SPAN 102 – Beginner Spanish II

Old Dominion University

Overview

2 15-minute conversations
Topics: Places & Clothing, Daily Routing & Food
  ● Review: Pre-conversation activities
  ● Interact: Conversation outlines
  ● Reflect: Post-conversation activities

Purpose: TalkAbroad will coordinate regular conversation practice for you with native speakers during the semester. This workbook will guide you through that process with preparation activities, conversation topics, and reflection activities.

Student Quick Setup

Step-by-step instructions with screenshots are located in the section labeled Detailed Student Setup at the end of this document.

1. Navigate to talkabroad.com
2. Click on “Create Account” or “Login” if you already have an account
3. When prompted enter section code "XXXXXXXXXXX" (provided by professor –see the syllabus)
4. Click “Add Credits” to purchase conversation credits.
5. Click “Make a Reservation” on the homepage and scroll through the partners.
6. Complete a test call before scheduling.
7. Choose a partner and schedule a conversation using their calendar.
8. Complete your conversation.

Contact our support team with any questions.
Conversation 1 - Places & Clothing

Prepare (45 min)
● Schedule your conversation
  ○ Remember to schedule at least 36 hours in advance.

● Review
  ○ Review vocabulary relevant to conversations about places and clothing.
  ○ Learn at least 10 new words about places and clothing.

● Plan
  ○ Write a list of 5-7 questions you can ask your conversation partner about themselves, where they live and their favorite places to visit and vacation, what forms of lodging and transportation they used. As questions about places they go to shop and what clothing they purchase for their travel and vacations, or what clothing they wear on a daily basis and on special occasions.
    ▪ Avoid questions that elicit a simple one-word (yes/no) answer.
    ▪ Think about how you would respond to each of the questions if they were asked to you (prepare for any vocabulary that you might not know).
    ▪ Read through the Interact and Reflect portion of the sequence to help anticipate any other questions you might need to ask of your partner.
● Practice
  ○ Practice asking and answering your questions out loud. If available, find a partner from class and practice together.

● Consider
  ○ What are some places that you notice you are having trouble communicating? Are there any new words or structures that you can learn before your conversation?
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  ○ What are some techniques to help navigate a conversation? What sort of phrases would be helpful?
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Interact (15 min)
Remember, you do not have to talk for the entire 15 minutes. It is a conversation.

● (3-5 minutes) Introduce yourself to your conversation partner and get to know some basic information about each other.

● (10 minutes) Share a little about where you live. Ask your conversation partner about where they live. Don’t limit your conversation to just physical descriptions. Think about culture too! You can also ask and share about favorite places to visit and modes of transportation to get there. Share about the clothes you wear on a daily basis. Ask your conversation partner about the clothes they wear. What do you wear on special occasions?

● Tips
  ○ Try to think in the language of your conversation. Your ability to think in English is much more complex right now and often, problems arise when you think of something to say in English that you are not able to say in the target language.
  ○ If there are words or major ideas that you don’t understand, please ask your partner to help explain/elaborate.
  ○ Remember, the conversation will be recorded so you don’t have to understand 100% of what your partner says during the conversation. You will have time later to look up specific words.
  ○ If your conversation goes a bit off topic, that is ok! The important takeaway from this is that you are building the ability and confidence to interact in the language.
  ○ When your partner answers a question, try to ask a related follow-up question instead of moving directly to another prepared question that might not be related.
Reflect (60 minutes)

- Review
  - Download and listen to the audio recording of your conversation.

- Write in English
  - Overall, how did your conversation go? Explain.
  
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  - About what percentage of your partners’ speech did you understand?
  
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  - What are three things that you would phrase or say differently after having listened to your conversation?
  
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  - List three interesting things you learned about your conversation partner based on their answers to your questions.
  
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  - What sort of cultural inferences or comparisons can you make about your interaction with your partner? If there is insufficient evidence, what comparisons can you make between your families?
  
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List three new words you learned from this conversation.

Is there anything else about the language that you noticed?

What can you do to better prepare for your next conversation?
Prepare (45 min)

● Schedule your conversation
  ○ Remember to schedule at least 36 hours in advance.

● Review
  ○ Review vocabulary relevant to conversations about daily routines and food.
  ○ Learn at least 10 new words about this topic.

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● Plan
  ○ Write a list of 5-7 questions you can ask your conversation partner to learn more about them, what their daily routine looks like, and what they typically eat.
  
  ▪ Avoid questions that elicit a simple one-word (yes/no) answer.
  ▪ Think about how you would respond to each of the questions if they were asked to you (prepare for any vocabulary that you might not know).
  ▪ Read through the Interact and Reflect portion of the sequence to help anticipate any other questions you might need to ask of your partner.

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• Practice
  ○ Practice asking your questions out loud. Can you answer your own questions?
  ○ If available, find a partner from class and practice asking and answering questions together.
• Consider
  ○ What are some places that you notice you are having trouble communicating? Are there any new words or structures that you can learn before your conversation?

I need to study more on learning the daily routine and how to say them in order.

What are some techniques to help navigate a conversation? What sort of phrases would be helpful?

I wish I could have navigated the conversation more.

Interact (15 min)
Remember, you do not have to talk for the entire 15 minutes. It is a conversation!
• (3-5 Minutes) Introduce yourself to your conversation partner and get to know some basic information about each other.
• (10 minutes) Share a little about what a typical day looks like for you. What daily routines do you have? How do these routines differ on the weekends? During the summer? Ask your conversation partner about how they spend a typical day also and what days look like when their routine varies. Think about culture too! Share a little about your favorite foods and places to eat. Ask your conversation partner about their preferences. What are some foods that you do not like to eat? Places you do not prefer to go?

• Tips
  ○ Try to think in the language of your conversation. Your ability to think in English is much more complex right now and often, problems arise when you think of something to say in English that you are not able to say in the target language.
  ○ If there are words or major ideas that you don’t understand, please ask your partner to help explain/elaborate.
  ○ Remember, the conversation will be recorded so you don’t have to understand 100% of what your partner says during the conversation. You will have time later to look up specific words.
  ○ If your conversation goes a bit off topic, that is ok! The important takeaway from this is that you are building the ability and confidence to interact in the language.
  ○ When your partner answers a question, try to ask a related follow-up question instead of moving directly to another prepared question that might not be related.
Reflect (60 minutes)

- **Review**
  - Download and listen to the audio recording of your conversation.

- **Write in English**
  - Overall, how did your conversation go? Explain
    - Overall the conversation went very well I had some misunderstanding of some words but it went well.
  - About what percentage of your partners’ speech did you understand?
    - About 75% of my partner speaking is what I could understand.
  - What are three things that you would phrase or say differently after having listened to your conversation?
    - I would of said what television shows I liked differently and gave more options.
    - If I would have known more what she was asking I would have asked more questions.
  - List three interesting things you learned about your conversation partner based on their answers to your questions.
    - I learned there favorite food is pizza, I learned there favorite netflix show is Grey’s Anatomy.
    - I also learned she goes to college and she listens to lots of types of music.
○ What sort of cultural inferences or comparisons can you make about your interaction with your partner? If there is insufficient evidence, what comparisons can you make between your families?

It was many similar comparisons she had a small family like i did but her music selection was way different than mine.

○ List three new words you learned from this conversation.

Perfectio, muy grande, and some of the classes she was taking.

○ Is there anything else about the language that you noticed?

Not about the language I just noticed it was very many similarites.

○ What can you do to better prepare for your next conversation?

I feel like I could do better on my pronunciation and sounding out the words.
Detailed Student Setup

Account Setup

1. Navigate to talkabroad.com

2. If you already have an account, click *Login* and then skip to step 8, Class Registration.

3. If you do not already have an account, click *Create Account.*
4. Fill out your required information and be sure to: select the time zone where you live, the Student Account option, and the language you are currently studying. Don’t forget to agree to the Terms of Service.

5. After clicking on Create Account you will see a confirmation page that asks you to verify your Email account to finalize the account creation.

6. Sign in to the email account that you provided to verify the account and follow the link provided.

Dear,

Thank you for using TalkAbroad! Please verify your email address by clicking the following link: Confirm Email.

Please let us know if there are any problems. Enjoy your conversations!

Reservations Team
TalkAbroad
reservations@talkabroad.com
415-766-9254
Class Registration

7. After clicking on the Confirm Email link, you will be redirected to talkabroad.com and asked to enter a Section Code. When prompted, enter the section code provided by your instructor. Then click Submit.

8. If you already have an account you can click on the Account tab from the student homepage section and then Add New Section. When prompted, enter the section code provided by your instructor. Then click Submit.
Purchase Credits

9. From the Student Homepage click *Add Credits*.

10. The Purchase Credits screen will show you how many credits you already have and allow you to purchase new credits. The appropriate language will be pre-selected for you. Select the number of credits for the *15-minute conversations* that you would like to purchase (the same number that your instructor has assigned to you). Enter the following in the *Redeem code* box: Then click *Redeem*. Once you see that the discount is applied, click *Purchase*. 
11. Now fill out your billing info and credit card number in the following boxes.

12. Once successful, you will see the number of conversations available on your Homepage.
Complete a Test Call

13. Before you make your first reservation, you must complete a test call.

14. Click Help and Instructions on the Homepage.

15. Now click Test Call.
16. You will see a screen with the test call instructions. The easiest way to complete a test call is to ask a friend to help by joining on the call with their device. You can also use another device you own to complete the test call.

17. Click **Accept** and then follow the instructions to allow your browser access to the camera and microphone. This will look different across devices, platforms and browsers.
18. You will now be able to complete the test call. If anything is not working, you can follow the troubleshooting tips at the bottom of the call window.
Make a Reservation

19. Click *Make a Reservation* on the Student Homepage to begin.

20. Now you will be able to see the available partners. You can scroll down the list or choose to search by country or specific date and time. If you have had a conversation in the past, you can also select the box to only search for past partners.
21. Click **View Full Profile** underneath the partner’s picture to learn more about the partner and to schedule a conversation. You will notice that some partners also have a star above their picture with the text **Approved for beginners**. These partners are trained especially to help students that are just getting started on the language journey.
22. After reading through the profile, decide if you want to schedule a conversation with this partner. To keep looking at other partners, click Back on your browser. To schedule the conversation, scroll down to the calendar. Here you will find a list of available time slots. Click on one to schedule the conversation for that time. Remember, you can only schedule a conversation 36 hours in advance.

23. Once you click on the time to schedule the conversation you will see a Student Reservation screen asking you to confirm your reservation and enter your phone number. It is a good idea to enter your phone number in case of technical difficulties.
24. After you make the reservation you will be asked if you want to introduce yourself to the partner before the conversation starts. This will be in the form of a text comment. This step is completely optional but highly encouraged.

25. Head back to the Homepage to see your scheduled reservation in the calendar. You will also receive an email with the conversation information.
Complete Your Conversation

26. Now you can view your conversation in your calendar on the Student Homepage. Click on the conversation to view information or change the reservation. When it is time for your conversation to begin, you will be directed to the conversation when you login to talkabroad.com.
Download your conversation

27. After your conversation has ended you will be prompted to rate the conversation and given the opportunity to download the audio file of your conversation. You will also receive an email with a link to the feedback form. The feedback form will also load the next time you login to talkabroad.com.

28. If there were any issues due to technical problems during the conversation or with the audio file, you can report them here (on the website) and someone from TalkAbroad will be in touch.
29. You can also download the audio from any previous conversation by clicking on the link to that conversation in the calendar.

Contact
If you have any questions, please contact our support team.