¡Prepárate a hablar más español!

**Situation 1**

a. Describe your host and/or your American family for a student who will be staying there next year.

b. Compare and contrast with your American and/or your host family with the families of other students.

c. Tell a brief anecdote to illustrate your point.

d. Generalize about similarities and differences between Spanish and American families.

e. Give your opinion about the differences you have observed. Defend your opinion.

**Situation 2**

a. The bus/train/flight you had planned on for your vacation will not be going. Find out why (strike? breakdown? etc.), ask for help with alternate arrangements and/or money back. Prepare both sides of this dialogue so that in a real situation you will recognize vocabulary in the reply.

b. Prepare a letter of appreciation or complaint in response to the treatment you received. Be careful to use the polite forms.

c. Create an interesting anecdote about this adventure. Practice it multiple times, each time adding detail. Remember to use the different past tenses correctly and use transitions.

d. In general terms, describe the transportation system in the country you are visiting.

e. Compare and contrast the transportation system in the US and your study abroad country.

f. List the advantages and disadvantages of each. State your preference and defend your position.

**Situation 3**

a. You have more than the permissible luggage weight for returning to the US. Explain this to your host family and ask for their help. Prepare a dialogue in which you explain the situation, ask for packing materials and help preparing your package. Prepare a dialogue for your experience at the post office. Make sure you find out about prices, arrival time, insurance, etc.

b. Advise a student on next year’s program about what they should and should not bring to Spain. Defend your choices.

**Situation 4**

a. Make reservations in a hotel or hostel. Prepare a dialogue in which you ask about prices, meal options, location, an additional bed in the room, and directions from train/bus station.

b. You’ve arrived at the hotel and discover that they do not have your reservation. Resolve the situation.
c. Describe some different lodging options in your study abroad location (hotel, camping, hostel, etc.). What are the advantages or disadvantages of each?
d. Describe for a Spanish-speaking friend the different lodging options in the US. Give advice on what to look out for (extra charges, breakfast, wifi, etc.)
e. Tell a story about a hotel (mis)adventure. Be sure to use past tenses and transitions. Draw a conclusion.

**Situation 5**

a. Describe a typical American home to your host family.
b. Describe your study-abroad home to the student who will be living there next year.
c. Compare and contrast foreign and American housing. List advantages/disadvantages. Explain why each type of housing suits each setting.
d. Prepare a speech in which you discuss how each type of housing reflects societal values.
e. Repeat this exercise, describing a town instead of a home.

**Situation 6**

a. Describe your daily weekday routine at Calvin. Describe a typical weekend routine.
b. Describe your daily weekday routine in your study abroad location. Describe a typical weekend routine.
c. Compare and contrast your routines. Explain what you like most/least about each.

**Situation 7**

a. Describe one or two days of one of our excursions while abroad. Include descriptions of scenery and events.
b. Describe a vacation you took in the past. Include descriptions of scenery and events.
c. Tell a story about something funny or surprising that happened on a trip. Use past tenses and transitions. Draw a conclusion or state a lesson you learned.

**Situation 8**

a. Describe a worship service at your home church.
b. Describe a worship service in a foreign country.
c. Give your opinion about the two types of service. Give concrete example to explain your point of view. Defend your opinions.

**Situation 9**

a. Describe your study routines abroad and at home.
b. Give advice to next year’s students about how to study.
c. Compare and contrast your study routines with those of a friend, sibling, acquaintance.
d. Defend a particular way of preparing for tests and papers. Be ready to cite specific examples to support your arguments.
Situation 10
a. Describe food you have with your host family for students on next year’s program.
b. Explain how to order and how to pay in a café or restaurant in your study abroad location. Include information about tipping.
c. Tell a funny story about a food experience while studying abroad. Use past tense and transitions.
d. Prepare a dialogue in a restaurant.
e. Add a complication to your situation: the bill is much higher than you expected, you were charged for something you didn’t order, the food was bad, there was a fly in your soup, you have forgotten your wallet, etc.

Situation 11
a. Describe a job you have had. What were your responsibilities? What did you like/dislike? What did you learn from the job?
b. In general terms, give your opinion on the value of working while you are in high school or college. What are the advantages or disadvantages? Defend your opinions.

Situation 12
a. Imagine that you don’t feel well. Explain your symptoms either to your host mother or to a doctor or pharmacist. Ask for medicine and be sure you know how to take the medicine.
b. Imagine that you or a friend has been injured. Describe how the injury occurred and get help.
c. Imagine that the clinic/hospital won’t treat you/your friend because you don’t have local insurance. Persuade someone to help you.
d. Discuss the American health insurance system. Give advantages and disadvantages. Be prepared to defend your opinion.

Situation 13
a. Imagine that you’ve been robbed. Report the crime to the police.
b. Contact the bank, credit card companies, etc. inform them of what happened and cancelled your cards. Ask for new cards.
c. The ATM has eaten your card. Go in to the bank and try to get it back.
d. Your credit card has been rejected. Call the bank and find out why. Resolve the situation.
e. Variation of above: your card has been rejected and you need to pay for a purchase. Resolve the situation with the shop owner.
f. In any of the above situations: convert the situation from a dialogue to a narration. Make your story as rich and interesting as possible, adding details and descriptions. Be sure to use past tenses and transitions.
g. Discuss the advantages/disadvantages of carrying cash versus carrying credit. Be prepared to defend your opinion.
Situation 14
a. You’ve decided to study abroad a second time on your own. Call the foreign university and ask about registration requirements.
b. Ask about housing options and prices. State what requirements you have for housing (private room or bath, [non] smoking, etc.).

Situation 15
a. Describe a typical American college campus: classroom buildings, dorms, athletic facilities, etc.
b. Describe the extracurricular activities offered by American schools and colleges.
c. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living with your parents vs. living in the dorms vs. living off-campus with other students.
d. Most foreign schools and universities do not offer extra-curricular activities. Instead, these activities are offered privately or through city departments. Discuss the advantages/disadvantages of each system. Choose one system to defend.