

¡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.