BREAKTHROUGH SPANISH 2

A NEW, FULLY REVISED VERSION OF
BREAKTHROUGH FURTHER SPANISH

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MAKING THE MOST OF THIS COURSE

Welcome to *Breakthrough Spanish 2*, which is intended for both self-study learners and classroom use. If you are using Breakthrough on your own, please do take the time to read through this introduction. You'll be able to get more out of the course if you understand how it has been structured and what is expected of you.

Breakthrough Spanish 2 is designed to take you on from *Breakthrough*, or indeed any similar beginner's course. We have consulted with hundreds of language learners on what they need at this level and the course has been built on their advice. Above all, people want a course which will enable them to cope in real situations. *Breakthrough Spanish 2* combines authentic spoken Spanish and authentic written Spanish, so that you are prepared both for the informality of real speech and for the more formal style of the written language.

There are twelve units, each based on a theme which reinforces and extends your knowledge of real Spanish. The emphasis is on the language used to understand and communicate effectively in a range of common situations. Each unit has the same basic structure.

The introductory page

This sets the scene, tells you what you will learn, reminds you of some key points from the previous unit and gives you a few tips on how to learn and what to watch out for.

Conversations

In each unit there are three Conversations in which the new vocabulary and structures are introduced. They have been specially recorded on location in Spain and cover different aspects of the unit theme. Please **DO NOT** expect to understand them immediately. By their nature, each one is introducing new vocabulary and structures. Try playing the Conversation through once or twice (reading the transcript at the same time if it helps). Then go through the Conversation using your PAUSE button and consulting the linked notes which explain things you may not yet have come across. Don't be afraid to make your own notes in the book or to underline things which are important to you. Finally, listen to the Conversation once or twice straight through without looking at the book before you move on to the Practice section.

Practice

Each Conversation has a number of exercises attached to it. These pick up the main points from the Conversations and give you practice in reading, listening, speaking and, to a lesser extent, writing. Instructions on how to do each exercise are given in the book, with answers, where appropriate, listed at the end of each unit. You will probably need to go through these exercises several times, particularly the speaking practice, before you feel you have mastered them. It's wise to spend as much time as you need here so that you really do learn the main words and structures.

Key words and phrases

To help you pull together the most important points, each unit has a Key Words and Phrases page which follows the Conversation and Practice sections. Read these through, checking back to the notes linked to the Conversations if you need to refresh your memory. Then work through the list, first covering up the English column to see if you can translate the Spanish phrases. Then try it the other way round, from English into Spanish.

Grammar

This is not a grammar course. The Conversations have been selected on the basis of the topic and the vocabulary they introduce. However, it is often valuable, and indeed interesting, to see how the language works. This can increase your confidence in generating language of your own. Each unit explains a few important aspects of grammar which should help you develop a firmer foundation. Interspersed are exercises to practise the points which have been introduced. If you can't get on with grammar, look at this section more for reference rather than feeling you need to have mastered everything before moving on.

And finally...

Each unit ends with two or three activities including an exercise designed to encourage working with a partner. You can of course also work on them alone. The aim is to reinforce key points that have cropped up during the unit.

At the end of the book are a Verb list, a Vocabulary list, a Grammar contents by unit and a Grammar index.

A few hints and tips:

- Be patient with yourself ... above all don't get discouraged. Everybody goes through sticky patches when they feel they are not getting anywhere. Try looking back to some earlier Conversations to see just how much you have learned.
- If you can, practise regularly. Thirty to forty minutes a day is usually better than a block of four hours once a week.
- It helps to speak out loud in Spanish as much as possible. This may seem strange at first but actually using the words, with a friend or to yourself, is a good way of practising and remembering.
- There is a lot of material to take on board. Have confidence in us. Real language is quite complex and the course has been designed to build up your knowledge slowly, selecting what is important at each stage.

¡Buena suerte!

Brian Hill