

General Overview of the Spanish Helper Programs

Spanish Helper for Windows (TM) is a three-level program corresponding to **Beginning**, **Intermediate**, and **Advanced** Levels, which is designed to be an aid for anyone who is serious about learning Spanish.

Level One (the beginning level) is Shareware, while levels Two and Three are available only by registration. By registering Level One, you will also receive the instructive and fun program **Chistes** which is a collection of 101 jokes in Spanish, along with their translations, as well as eliminating all of the Registration Reminder Screens.

In all three levels (including the Shareware version), you are given questions in either **multiple choice** or **fill-in the blank** format. Each level includes thousands of words included in Spanish Helper's own database, so you won't see questions repeated very often. One of the best aspects of the programs is the ability to make your own **Personal Lists** of vocabulary and test yourself on them using the Spanish Helper format. This is great for, for example, a doctor who is trying to concentrate on learning medical vocabulary to try to communicate with his/her patients, or a student studying Spanish who needs to learn certain vocabulary for the next exam.

Levels One, Two and Three

In Level One, the 1,000 most common words in the language are used, in LEVEL TWO, the 2,000 most common words, and as you may expect, LEVEL THREE uses the 3,000 most common words. This is not bad considering that linguistic studies indicate that the majority of native speakers of any language only use 700 or 800 words most of the time.

In **Level One**, the verb exercises consist of practice in simple present, the preterite (simple past), the 'ir a + infinitive' future combined with the present progressive, and the present perfect. You also have in Level One a section to practice the mystical differences between SER and ESTAR, as well as everyone's favorite, the prepositions (which also include a lot of practice with 'por' and 'para'). When you register, you also receive for free the program **CHISTES 101**, a great collection of 101 Spanish jokes with their translations.

In **Level Two**, the verbs tenses include--in addition to the tenses listed for Level One--the imperfect, the future and the conditional. Notice too that the verbs in Level Two are new; with few exceptions of common verbs, they were not presented in Level One. You get a chance to practice the new verbs in the present, preterite, 'ir + a' future and the present progressive as you do in Level One, as well as in the new tenses. Also in Level Two, in addition to the standard verb practice, there is a section devoted exclusively to commands (the imperative). When you register Level Two, you also receive free **CHISTES 102**, a collection of another 102 Spanish jokes with their translations.

Level Three has a general review of all tenses (once again using almost all new verbs) but its big point as far as verbs are concerned is here you get a lot of practice in the subjunctive, both present and past forms. The verbs used for the subjunctive are a cross-section of all the verbs presented in levels One, Two and Three. You also get a section of common fixed expressions and sayings. When you buy Level Three, you also receive for free **CHISTES 103**, a collection of another 103 Spanish jokes with their translations. If you learn all 306 jokes in the three levels, you'll know so much Spanish that you'll never have to study again!

Each level is larger than the previous level because of the inclusion of new verb tenses, and at the same you can practice the new verbs using the tenses offered in the previous level.

It goes without saying that the vocabulary in each level is different from the previous level, so you won't be doing the same thing over and over. The overall thrust of the three levels is to give you the most common vocabulary at the beginning and move on to more refined lexical

structures as the level increases.