Spanish Pronunciation Drill-Book

PITKIN'S SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES,
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SPANISH PRONUNCIATION

DRILL-BOOK.

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PREFACE.

This small treatise, constituting a part of a more extended one, entitled "The New Spanish Instructor," soon to be issued, is published for the benefit of those who simply desire to lay a good foundation, at small cost, for subsequent study of the Spanish language. While it has been prepared principally for the author's own classes, and is designed to be used, if possible, under the direction of a competent teacher, it is adapted to all preliminary work, whether it be individual or class work, as in high schools and colleges.

Good pronunciation can never be acquired except through the living voice and a certain amount of drill under adequate instruction; yet many, even ladies and gentlemen of fair intelligence, are found committing the blunder of seeking this end by means of books and correspondence.

It is believed that, in this little treatise, a far better and cheaper method is offered to the public, and also that the paradigm, giving an outline of the verb, which is the heart of every language, will be found both convenient in form and more complete and satisfactory than that usually presented. For bright pupils, a few hours' drill, under a teacher, should suffice to master its pages and give a fair pronunciation of the language. Those who cannot afford or cannot secure the services of a professor may, with profit, subsequently study, alone, any of the many books published upon the subject.

CHAPTER I.

THE SPANISH OR CASTILIAN LANGUAGE.

Of all living tongues the Spanish, nearest akin to the ancient Latin, may be confidently recommended to English-speaking people as the best introduction to a course of linguistics. The poet Longfellow, after having personally explored the field, advised thus to begin, and the author has been confirmed as to the wisdom of this advice by prolonged observation and practical experience.

First: Children, between the ages of eight and twelve, taking a Spanish lesson once each week outside of other school duties, besides acquiring another living tongue, may be brought into fine mental condition for the study of languages, living or dead, in their subsequent course.

Second: Adults who are liable to become somewhat discouraged in linguistic attempts, may here venture with hope of success, owing to the agreeable and easy pronunciation.

Aside from these fundamental reasons for beginning with Spanish, there are many considerations at present which should induce intelligent people in The United States to acquire of it a fair working knowledge. To teachers of geography and history its pronunciation is becoming well nigh indispensable. Tourists in greater numbers will henceforth, during our winter seasons, visit the islands and countries on the south, where this language is spoken. Business young men will increasingly move in that direction. Vividly is it beginning to be realized that the manifest destiny of our country must bring us into intimate and amicable relationship with Mexico, Cuba, Central and South America. A broad field for surplus energy and for the pleasure loving inclination lies open. There are commercial enterprises for the capitalist, and unsurpassed scenery for the tourist.

In order to enter this, a fair knowledge of the speech current among the inhabitants is most desirable. It will add fifty per cent. to efficiency and enjoyment, in fact, may be said to be indispensable to undertakings which depend for success upon contact with the people. At no previous period in our history have its inhabitants felt so much as now the need of a practical acquaintance with the Spanish language.

Every one at all acquainted with the subject knows that the Latin of the ancient Roman Empire, upon coming into contact with numerous tribes and nations of diverse speech, underwent many changes, which, after the lapse of years, often developed into well defined dialects. Among the several, formerly and even yet found in Spain, that of the portion known as Castile eventually became, for political and other reasons, the predominant and official tongue, and hence was properly called the Castilian. This was gradually extended by the conquering Central Government to the whole country and to all its acquired possessions in America. But the original dialect in its onward course, necessarily underwent, both at home and abroad, considerable changes until it merited and received the wider appellation and is now usually known as the Spanish. Barring, however, certain modifications sometimes accidentally, sometimes deliberately made, such as those which have affected the English of England and that of the United States, the scholars and leaders in Spanish America are to-day inclined to hold to the mother tongue and to submit to the same general grammatical laws as those which govern the best writers of Madrid.

In certain parts of America we find a local feeling of pride in view of the purity with which Spanish is spoken and written. It may be doubted if in any portion of Spain closer attention is given to the subject. In many places, however, both in Spain and America, carelessness and negligence seem to have been given full sway; such deteriorating changes have been introduced and almost established both in speaking and writing, that students of the language must be

on their guard against accepting what a wider experience would prove to them to be provincialisms. The more prominent of these will be pointed out in subsequent chapters.

As a language Spanish is, in certain features, unexcelled among modern tongues. The clear terminal ending of its words, its agreeable open vowel sounds, its soft, harmonious rhythm, make it particularly attractive. To hear it well spoken is to become at once charmed by its beauty. No wonder that the use of it tends to make people courteous.

CHAPTER II.

SPANISH PRONUNCIATION.

The correct pronunciation of Spanish cannot be well learned from books alone. Good enunciation comes to the pupil through the ear. At the outset the living voice of a reliable teacher should, if possible, always be secured. Selections are here made from two of the more popular publications in vogue to illustrate this point.

No. 1.

Spanish;	Alguien;	cada;	extraño
English Pronunciation	Ahl-ghee-ehan;	kah-dah;	estrah-nyo
Spanish;	Tarde;	Abogado;	Muebles
English "	Tardeh;	A-bo-gah-do;	Moó-ch-blehs.

No. 2.

Spanish;	Inglés;	Francés;	Origen;
English;	Ing-gláys;	Frahng-tháys;	Ohreé-hayng;
Spanish;	Algun;	Soldado;	Con mucho gusto
English;	Ahl-goóng;	Sohl-dáh-do;	Kohng-móo-cho-góostoh

From such representations English-speaking people could never acquire a correct pronunciation. Even the most careful and intelligent would surely fall into frequent errors, and form habits difficult to abandon. They would only appear ridiculous when brought into living contact with those who speak the tongue. Better not learn Spanish than attempt it in this way.

While English equivalents and explanations as to various sounds and combinations are here given, and are regarded as an improvement upon the systems with which the author is acquainted, they are, nevertheless, intended as helps to scholars and instructors, by way of individual or class drill rather than as a complete guide for beginners.

Under the supervision of one who has already learned, a very good pronunciation can be acquired in a few lessons. Thenceforth the pupil may advantageously pursue the study alone, should means or circumstances debar him from the drill and inspiration of the living master.

The following instructions with reference to letters, words, combinations, accents and sentences, designed to be given orally, if possible under the guidance of a teacher or one who has already studied the book with such assistance, are deemed sufficient to cover the ground. Additional terms and exercises can easily be introduced by instructors as occasion demands. Those who follow the Spanish-American pronunciation with regard to ce, ci, za, ze, zi, zo, zu, should afterwards carefully go over the ground, giving that of Castile, or read passages aloud first by one and then by the other method, until the difference is clearly perceived and freedom acquired.

Subsequent experience will indicate which pronunciation is to be chosen, and either can easily be adopted.

CHAPTER III.

THE SPANISH ALPHABET.

Letters	Names (1)	Sounds (1)
A-a	Ah as "a" in	father
B-b (2)	Bay as "b" in	butter
C-c (3)	Say or Thay, See note (3)	
Ch-ch	Chay or "Say at-chay" as ch in	Charles
D-d (4)	Day as "d" in	dog

G-g(5)	Gay or Hey, See note (5)				
F-f	Ef-fay as "f" in				fork
H-h	Atchey			always	silent
I-i	Ee (ee) Latina as in				meet
J-j	Hotah as "h" in				house
K-k (6)	Kah as in foreign words				
L-l	Ay-lay as "l" in				long
Ll-ll (7)	Ayl-yay as second "i" in				brilliant
					trill-i-on
M-m	Ay-may	as	"m"	in	mother
N-n	Ay-nay	as	"n"	in	note
Ñ-ñ	Ayn-yay	as	first "n"	in	onion, union
O-o	Oh	as	"o"	in	go
P-p	Pay	as	"p"	in	pure
Q-q	Coo	as	"coo"	in	cool
R-r	Er-ay	as	"r"	in	poor
Rr-rr (8)	Err-ay stronger than		"r"	in	rapid, roll
S-s	Es-say	as	"s"	in	some, so
T-t	Tay	as	"t"	in	time
U-u (9)	Oo	as	"oo"	in	pool
V-v (2)	Vay	as	"v"	in	vow
W-w (6)	Double "o" as in cool or as in foreign words, double "u."				
X-x (10)	Ay-kiss, see note (10)				
Y-y (11)	Ee-gree-ay-gah, see note (11)				
Z-z (3)	Saytah or Thaytah, see note (3)				

NOTES.

1. The names of letters, as pronounced by Spanish speaking people, are here given by means of English equivalents, the various combinations retaining their ordinary sounds as in English. Ay, for example, must be sounded as in the words say, day, may; ee as n meet, etc. By means of this representation pupils have been

known to pronounce correctly every letter, though this is rare without assistance.

Learners should bear in mind that the name of a letter is one thing, the sound as heard in words another. In English, for example, we spell f-o-x, giving each letter, whereas we pronounce all together "fox," in which we do not give the full name to "f" but the sound, a mere forcible breathing between the lips; "o" is changed to short o as in not; and the letter x sounds as ks. Hence in the third column sounds as distinct from names are pointed out.

2. The letters b and v are in many places, much confounded. Students of the language should be on their guard, prepared to hear the sounds thus represented often interchanged. This is the origin of some English spelling: La Habana (Havana); Cordoba (Cordova).

3. C before a, o, u, is always hard as: ca (kah), co (koh), cu (ku). In Spanish America as also in parts of Spain, the combinations ce, ci, za, ze, zi, zo, zu, are sounded say, see, sah, say, see, so, su.

This pronunciation among scholars and common people, in business, in schools and colleges, is so universal in America that it may be said to be as fixed as the spelling of parlor, honor, (rather than parlour, honour), is established in the United States. Nine-tenths of the Spanish which English-speaking Americans are liable to hear, will be heard as already given and even by teachers whom they employ. The surprise is that more prominence has not been given to this point by those who have published books for English-speaking people. In Central Spain, however, the above combinations would be given as follows: (ce, ci, za, ze, zi, zo, zu); thay, thee, thah, thay, thee, tho, thu; the "th" having the sound of th in think, thither, thought.

In order not to make themselves ridiculous, foreigners who expect to reside in Cuba, Mexico, or South America, should learn the American pronunciation as represented in the above combinations, these being the only ones as to which there seems to be uniformity

of difference from the pronunciation of Castile. The author's custom has been to teach first thoroughly the one or the other method of pronouncing. After pupils have become well drilled, he has caused them to read many passages in the other way until they are also familiar with that. They are then prepared to adopt the method most suitable to circumstances. But the two should never be confounded nor mixed.

4. There are exceptions to the usual sound of "d," as in dog, dig. D at the end of a word between two vowels, as hablado, comido, dedo, or at the end of a word preceded by a vowel, as verdad, Usted, virtud, also d in the middle of a word, followed or preceded by "r," as madre, padre, Eduardo, guardo, usually has the sound of th in those, them, that,—hablado, comido, verdad, madre, padre, guardo; ah-blah-tho, comee-tho, ver-dath, mah-thray, pah-thray, guar-tho. But when the accent of the word is thrown back from the penult to the antipenult, this exception does not hold; rápido, líquido, ráp-pee-do, leé-kee-do; s annexed to form the plural does not change the pronunciation of d.

Madrid is also an exception to "d" followed by "r" and is pronounced Mah-dreeth, only the second "d" having the sound of th as in they or there.

5. G before a, o, u, is always hard as in go, give; before e and i, g has the sound of aspirated h as in horse, home; ge (hay), gi (he). In order to give g before e and i the hard sound, the character u (here silent and not regarded as a letter) is inserted gue (gay), gui (gee, g hard). Also q before e and i requires the insertion of this same silent u, as que (kay), qui (kee). These are the only combinations in which q occurs in modern Spanish.

6. K and w are not regarded as Spanish letters, yet are sometimes found in print, when representing foreign words. They should receive the same sounds as possessed in the languages from which the words come.

7. Ll—ll is a separate letter, and has a sound much like that of the second i in trillion, mill-i-on, Lleras, LLanar, brilliante. To this letter (ll) is, in many places, given the sound of y as in yes, youth young. But this is by no means uniform in Spanish America or in Spain, many places and scholars regarding it as a defect or a provincialism. Yet English travellers must be prepared to often hear such words as caballo toned down to cavayo, the b being changed to v and the ll to y.

8. Rr—rr is regarded as a separate letter, being stronger and more rolled than the single r. Every initial r is considered equal to rr, though written single as rápido, redondo. The difference between r and rr should be learned from a teacher and is often difficult for adults to acquire, whose organs of voice are somewhat stiff. The difference, however, is important, and may be illustrated by the words

	pero	meaning	but
and	perro	"	dog
	moro	"	a Moor (Arab)
	morro	"	Morro Castle

9. The full vocal sound of u is oo in cool. But as explained in note 5, in the combinations gue, gui, que, qui, the u is silent. Yet should a diaresis (¨) be placed above the u as in " vergüenza," it is then pronounced, receiving its full vowel sound, the dots indicating a separation of the two vowels.

Another important exception to the usual sound of u (oo) is that when this letter comes after any consonant and is also immediately followed by a vowel (a, e, i, o), it often has the force of w, as: bueno, cuando, hueso, fui; bway-no, cwahn-do, way-so, fwee.

10. X—x. This letter usually has the same sound as in the word fox; examen (ecks-ah-men), extra (ecks-trah). When followed by a consonant, many pronounce it as s, and some also thus write it: Extraño (estraño), extracto (estracto.) Others, however, and with better reason, give its full force (ecks) in such cases. When x occurs in the middle of such words as Mexico, Don Quixote,

they should be pronounced as they are usually written in modern Spanish: Méjico (Máy-he-co), Don Quijote (Kee-hó-tay).

11. Y—y is called Greek ee (ee-gree-áy-gah) to distinguish it from i, Latin ee (ee-latee-nah). As vowels these two letters have the same sound (ee), but when y precedes other vowels it has the force of a consonant as in English, as y in yes, yon, yam.

CHAPTER IV.

PRONUNCIATION DRILL.

SYLLABLES, DIPTHONGS, TRIPTHONGS.

Ba, ca, cha, da, fa, ga, ha (ah), ia, ja, ka, la, lla, ma, na, ña, pa, ra (rra), sa, ta, ua, va, ya, za (sah or thah), ai, ay, au, represented in the words hablaís, hay, austero.

Be, ce (say or thay), che, de, fe, ge (hay), he, ie, je (hay), ke, le, lle, me, ne, ñe, pe, re (rre), se, te, ue, ve, ye, ze (say or thay), ei (ey), eu represented in the words comeís, neutro.

Bi, ci (see or thee), chi, di, fi, gi, hi, ji, ki, li, lli, mi, ni, ñi, oi, pi, ri (rri), si, ti, ui, vi, yi, zi (see or thee, th as in think), ia, ie, io, iu, as represented in the words limpia, limpieza, limpio, ciudad.

Bo, co, cho, do, fo, go, ho, io, jo, ko, lo, llo, mo, no, ño, po, ro (rro), so, to, uo, vo, yo, zo (so or tho), oi, oy, as represented in the words oigo, voy.

Bu, cu, chu, du, fu, gu, hu, iu, ju, ku, lu, llu, mu, nu, ñu, pu, ru (rru), su, tu, vu, yu, zu (su or thu), ua, ue, ui, uo, as represented in the words cuatro, hueso, buitre, cuociente.

X as initial letter rarely occurs. In the word Xavier it should be pronounced as the Spanish J (Javier).

The sounds of the tripthongs iai, iei, uei (uay), uii (uey), are represented in the following words, cambiais, limpieis, Uruguay, buey.

CHAPTER V.

SYLLABLES AND ACCENTS.

A single consonant between two vowels is usually regarded as belonging to the second, and pronounced with it as: me-sa, plu-ma.

Of two consonants coming between vowels, the former accompanies that which precedes and the latter that which follows, as: ven-ta-na, tin-ta. An important exception to this, however, is observed when l or r (líquido) are preceded by b, c (hard as k), d, f, g, p, t. The two consonants are then joined to the following word, as: li-bro, ma-dre, a-flu-en-cia, ta-ble-ro. Of three consonants appearing between vowels, the second being s, the first two are joined to that which precedes, as: cons-tante, trans-por-tar. Otherwise the first alone is joined to the previous vowel, as: in-cluso dis-traer. It must be remembered that ch, ll, n, and rr are to be regarded as single letters and never divided, as: mu-cha-cha, bri-llan-te, niño, pe-rro (dog), Mo-rro (fortified hill).

ACCENT.

The following rules mostly cover the ground for the tonic accent or special stress of voice placed upon particular syllables.

A. In all Spanish words of more than one syllable, terminating in a vowel (a, e, i, o, u, y), s or n, the accent must be placed upon the penult (next to the last), unless otherwise marked with a written accent (′) to indicate that the word is an exception. In the latter case the tonic and written accents, of course, agree, the voice following the mark (′), as: hombre (ombray), hablo (ah-blo), amigo (ah-mee-go), habló (ah-bló), comió (co-mee-ó); camino, caballo, sílaba, océano, Carlos, Inglés, virgen, corazón institución, zénzalo, zequí, Zelandia, Zedoaria, salvaje, objeto, jefe, gente, geometría, zizaña.

B. In all Spanish words terminating in a consonant other than s or n, the tonic accent must be placed upon the last syllable unless otherwise marked by (′) to indicate an exception, as: ciudad (ciu-

dath) placer (plah-sayr, Spanish-American pronunciation), (plah-thayr, Central Spain or Castilian pronunciation), fácil, difícil, comenzar, escribir, hablar, zizañar, mujer, tejer, gentil, generación, gesticulación.

C. The printed accent (') is also used to show that a vowel is pronounced separately, not forming a diphthong with the one that follows or precedes, as: parecía, vivía, mercancías, continúo, baúl, but guardia, gracias, limpio, augusto; also to distinguish words spelled and pronounced alike with different meanings, as: hablamos, miramos, vivimos, abrimos, (Present Indicative, first person, plural), hablámos, mirámos, vivímos, abrímos (past Indicative, first person, plural); also over certain monosylables, as: á (preposition), é, ó, ú (conjunctions). Aside from these and similar cases, the written accent (') is not used in Spanish. The sign over n (ñ), is not an accent. The rules as to accentuation adopted not many years ago by the Spanish Academy, and summed up in the preceding compendium, seem to possess many advantages. They have been increasingly accepted by scholars and publishers until the present time, when nearly all carefully printed books conform to them. But students of the language must bear in mind that many of the best books, especially those published a few years ago, do not strictly conform to the above explanations.

Punctuation marks are used much as in English, and need not be here specially treated. It will be observed that questions both begin and terminate with interrogation points, the one placed first being inverted.

CHAPTER VI.

LA PRONUNCIACIÓN DEL ESPAÑOL.

(This and the following chapter are intended for drill practice by pupils, if possible under the guidance of one who has been al-

ready taught. The Spanish should be directly and distinctly pronounced without too frequent reference to previous explanations. The reading lesson (lectura) of Chapter VII., written for the purpose of presenting various sounds and combinations of letters, may be again read by those who have studied the author's larger work, work, "The New Spanish Instructor." At this stage, some amusement may be afforded, inasmuch as the chapter can then be readily understood.)

El (ó un)	brazo,	La (ó una)	cabeza,	Cuba
"	bigote,	"	oreja,	Méjico
"	pie,	"	boca,	El Perú
"	ojo,	"	boca,	Ecuador
"	libro,	"	nariz,	La Habana
"	dedo,	"	casa,	Santiago
"	tintero,	"	tinta,	Cervera
"	manzano,	"	manzana,	Blanco
Los	árboles,	las	puertas,	Maceo
"	abuelos,	"	mesas,	Aguinaldo
"	pañuelos,	"	piernas,	Manzanillo
"	cabellos,	"	vacas,	San Juan
"	ciegos,	"	Bicicletas,	Reconcentrados
Un	gitano,	una	ciudad,	España
"	tablero,	"	chispa,	Madrid
"	nido,	"	fiesta,	Jiménez
	quebrar,		quitar,	llamar
	quién,		quince,	rio
	Diós,		Carlos,	Francés
	víctima,		zizaña,	zinc
	hablar,		hijo,	hija
	notable,		níspero,	ñiquiñaque
	necesita,		impide,	levanta
	Jefe,		Jesús,	género
	llegar,		llevar,	sello

cuácaro,	ceder,	bello
barca,	varon,	veinte
Nuñez,	niñez,	lápiz
negocio,	necio,	comió
Guanica,	chirimoya,	China
extensión,	colocación,	jabón
Washington,	Boston,	satisfacción
ya,	yegua,	examinar
zanco,	rapiña,	kaleidiscopio
queso,	chaqueta,	memoria
bebía,	creía,	llorar
llaga,	mamá,	papá
Bogotá,	Toledo,	Sevilla
Facatativá	Fusugasugá,	Guadalajara
Chihuahua,	San José,	Los Ángeles
La Florida,	Buenos Aires,	Valparaiso
Geografía,	geometría,	aritmética
álgebra,	teneduría,	
pueblo,	muebles,	bueno
Guanajuato,	Zacatecas,	Cartagena
La Guayra,	Guayaquil,	Holguín
Gibara,	Maracaybo,	Caracas
vaya,	baya,	vela

CAPÍTULO SÉPTIMO.

LECTURA.

Ha sido compuesto el cuento siguiente unicamente con el fin de introducir en forma de lectura, para los principiantes, la mayor parte de los sonidos que ocurren en la lengua española ó sea la castellana y que ellos ya habrán estudiado en las lecciones anteriores. Se espera, por lo tanto, que la pieza ni se mire ni se mida por un criterio estrictamente literario ó filosófico.

EL BUITRE (1).

Allá lejos en las regiones de Santiago de Cuba, lectores mios, donde, en cierta estación del año, tanto calor hace y tantas lluvias caen, vivian un hombre rico, otro muy pobre y además una señorita aparte, bien entendido, en au propia casa con su mamacita.

Pero estos no eran los únicos seres cuya importancia es preciso ponderar, por fantásticos que os parezcan los demás, al comenzar esta historia; pues, á la verdad, en aquellas comarcas había también un perro, dos bueyes, un buho y un buitre. De otras criaturas como la zorra, la tigre, el león y el elefante—si estas se dejan ver alguna vez en aquellas regiones—no se me han dado informes y por eso quizá no sería prudente hacerles referencia, por interesante que os fuesel leer respecto de semejantes animales.

De los personajes ya mencionados se llamaba el primero Señor José Gutiérrez T. Este no era padre ni de niños ni de niñas, pues, aunque un poco ruante, todavía no se habia casado y esto quiere decir que era soltero cuyo cerebro se alentaba por medio de sueños deliciosos. El segundo, Don Plácido Álvarez, era carpintero y sabia manejar á perfección su carpintería; además trabajaba algo en hierro. Este tenía familia abundante, de lo cual se mostraba muy orgulloso prefíriendo, aunque pobre y trabajador, que los demás le llamasen Don Plácido. A causa de los gastos indispensables y aquellos debidos á los aires arrogados por Don Plácido y los otros miembros de la familia, se estableció firmemente la pobreza en su hogar é introdujo allí la mayor parte de sus perplejedades. La tercera persona que tiene relación especial con esta historia, era la señorita Mercedes Lleras. Tenia ésta bellísima figura y se vestía lujosisímamente, sobretodo cuando iba á pasearse. Pero á qué fin se vestía así, no me toca deciros. Este diablo mundo es muy curioso. Á los solterones les gusta mirar y admirar: también á las solteronas. No dan razones. Qué importa esto á los demás!

Se ha dicho que, fuera de los ya mencionados, había varios otros personajes que deberian llamar vuestra atencion. Una pequeña

descripción de cada uno tal vez no será superflua. El perro y el buey, como sabe todo el mundo, son cuadrúpedos, lo que quiere decir que son animales de cuatro pies; son también animales domésticos. El buho es bípede como el buitre. Pero aquel se diferencia de este en que ve y vuela de noche. Los últimos son pájaros ó aves y se consideran como silvestres ó salvajes.

En un bosque no muy distante de la ciudad de Santiago crecía un alto cedro, cuya noble forma levantándose hacia el cielo daba placer á cada individuo que por allá se paseaba. Aconteció, como cosa muy natural, que cada uno de los personajes á quienes alusión se ha hecho, de este famoso árbol reclamaba su parte ó sea su cuota; el hombre rico por ser el suyo; doña Mercedes, por ser la admiradora de don José y de todo lo que el poseía; el pobre carpintero Don Plácido, pues, sin su trabajo, valga lo que quisiera el ricachón, admire cuanto pudiese la niña Mercedes, no podría utilizarse en ningun edifico la noble planta. "El Trabajador," decía él, "tiene una porción importante en todos los bosques, porque mediante su cuidado se preparan las maderas y los demás materiales necesarios á la construcción de cada casa, sea una choza ó sea un palacio." Al escuchar la voz de su amo, no lloró el perro, es decir, no prorumpió en ningun aullido,—pues tuvo demasiada vergüenza para argüir el punto —contentándose de sus propios pensamientos mediante la reflexión que nadie tampoco podría negarle á él cierto derecho á todo bosque junto con sus animales. "Pero," respondieron los pacientes bueyes, "sin nuestra ayuda no sería posible llevar el tronco al aserradero ó las tablas al lugar donde el dueño desee colocar su casa, tenemos por consiguiente nuestra parte en la disposición de este cedro." Oyendo estas palabras el buho empezó á chillar, como si él quisiese dicir; "Hombres", "Animales", Este árbol es mio, pues, aunque el que pretende ser el proprietario haya puesto á este bosque una cerca de alambre con muchísimas puas, no tengo vergüenza al llamarme poseedor de lo que en efecto poseo. Hace muchos años he tenido en un hueco del tronco mi nido rodeado de hojas y aquí he vivido en

paz desde la infancia. Por allá abajo he visto las aguas correr, los rayos caer, los incendios quemar. Á la gente he cantado: fa, fo, fu, fe, fi; ca, co, cu, ce, ci; ga, go, gu, ge, gi; Á las mujeres he gritado: che, chu, fue, fui; cua, cuo, que, qui: á los muchachos, hijos de sus madres: ra, re, ri, ro, ru, hue, hui; Á las muchachas, hijas de sus padres: ja, je, ji, jo, ju, gue, gui, que, qui. Si me quitasen el hogar en este árbol, á pesar de que yo les haya cantado por tanto tiempo de una manera tan meliflua, sería una gran injusticia. Para que me concedáis el favor de conservarme esta antigua residencia, os voy á cantar algo de nuevo. Escuchadme todos: da, de, di, do, du; ra, re, ri, ro, ru; ca, que, qui, co, cu; jua, jue, jui, zo, zu; se, si, he, ha, hi, hu, mo, mu, mo, ñu.

Durante estos colóquios volaba el buitre suave, sereno y alto en el azulado cielo, mientras contemplaba la naturaleza, los seres y los acontecimientos por allí abajo sobre el suelo. Si lo hubiera deseado en un momento podría haberse cometido suicidio, cerrando las alas y dejándos caer, como un pedazo de plomo, á tierra. "Pero no lo haré," se dijo, "eso sería portarme como el que anda á tuerto ó á derecho. Prefiero presidir, como rey y juez, sobre todas estas escenas tumultuosas. Aguardo con calma el tiempo de verme el héroe y dueño de los que, por allí abajo, todo reclaman."

Transcurridos algunos meses, dijo un dia el señor Gutiérrez al carpintero: Vé, Don Plácido, córtame hoy el cedro grueso y fuerte; pon el yugo á los buyes á fin de halar el tronco al aserradero; mas tarde me traerás las tablas á cierto punto en donde voy á construir una casa nueva pues estoy pensando sériamente en el matrimonio. Con algunos compañeros se va pues el podre y se pone á trabajar para cortar el árbol. Algunas horas después vienen el ricachón y doña Mercedes en compañía de su mamacita á ver lo que pasa. Os aseguro que, en esta ocasión, Don José no está vestido de rúana como los trabajadores; que Doña Mercedes está bellisimamente enropada, y feliz como niña que con premios vuelve de sus exámenes. Como hace mucho sol se sientan todos en la sombra fresca del gran cedro.

Cerca de ellos está acostado el perro y ahí, no lejos, también están los buyes alistados á llevar el tronco al aserradero. Arriba en su nido, execrador de aquel ruido por allí abajo, está posado el buho. Gozando de demasiada luz, este no ve nada y lo único que puede hacer es entonar su canto final, el que á pasito empieza y continúa, diciendo; ya, ye, yi, yo, yu, yuca, yuca, za ze, zi, zo, zu, zuzo.

Sobre esta escena completamentee campestre ahí lejos en el claro azul del cielo, daba sus graciosos giros el buitre, cuando de repente, á fuerza de hachas, cayó inesperadamente y con gran ruido el magnífico cedro sobre amante y amada, trabajadores y perro bueyes y buho con sus pequeñuelos, dejando sus cadáveres esparcidos por el suelo. Todo eso vió el buitre y al dia siguiente volvió con un socio; al tercero, con cuatro; y al quinto, con gran numero se adueñó de todo. Si vosotros, lectores mios lo buscaís con cuidado ahí lejos en las regiones de Santiago de Cuba, pueda ser que halleís el mismo buitre, el héroe de este cuento, pues se me ha dicho que aun en nuestros dias reclama todo para sí y que al fin, rey de aquellas comarcas, da fiestas como en los tiempos antiguos.

(1). The general term "buitre" for vulture has been deliberately chosen, although there are in Spanish, as in English, different names for the various families or varieties. In certain parts of Spanish America the word "gallinaza" in others "aura" would perhaps be better understood as equivalent to what is known in certain portions of the United States as the "turkey buzzard."

CAPITULO OCTAVO.

The paradigm of a few important regular and irregular Spanish verbs found at the close of this work, may, at this stage, be pronounced aloud, if possible under the direction of one who has already learned it. The regular verbs should first be taken, the pupils giving the present (el presente) of "hablar," then "comer," then "vivir," afterwards the present perfect (ante presente) of the same; then the co-pretérito, and ante-copretérito as indicated. After these

have been pronounced carefully, the pupils should repeat the same, alone, giving also other verbs which are regular in the present, as "andar," "temer," "escribir." After learning the present of several verbs, the irregular form as indicated by "estar" of the same conjugation may be pronounced and the irregularity pointed out; after "comer," "tener" and "ser" will show also many irregulatities, "oir" will illustrate irregularity in the third conjugation.

Students who have been well drilled in pronunciation up to this stage of the book, can very profitably study any Spanish work, alone, should circumstances deprive them of the assistance of a good teacher.

VERBOS REGULARES DE LA LENGUA ESPAÑOLA.

MODO INDICATIVO.

	habar	*comer*	*vivir*	*haber*			
	PRESENTE				ANTE-PRESENTE		
yo	hablo	como	vivo	he	hablado	comido	vivido
tu	hablas	comes	vives	has	"	"	"
V.	habla	come	vive	ha	"	"	"
nos.	hablamos	comemos	vivimos	hemos	"	"	"
vos.	habláis	coméis	vivís	habéis	"	"	"
V. V.	hablan	comen	viven	han	"	"	"
	CO-PRETÉRITO				ANTE-COPRETÉRITO		
yo	hablaba	comía	vivía	había	hablado	comido	vivido
tu	hablabas	comías	vivías	habías	"	"	"
V.	hablaba	comía	vivía	había	"	"	"
nos.	hablábamos	comíamos	vivíamos	habíamos	"	"	"
vos.	hablábais	comíais	viviáis	habíais	"	"	"
V. V.	hablaban	comían	vivían	habían	"	"	"
	PASADO				ANTE-PASADO		
yo	hablé	comí	viví	hube	hablado	comido	vivido
tu	hablaste	comiste	viviste	hubiste	"	"	"
V.	habló	comió	vivió	hubo	"	"	"
nos.	hablámos	comimos	vivímos	hubimos	"	"	"
vos.	hablasteis	comisteis	vivisteis	hubisteis	"	"	"
V. V.	hablaron	comieron	vivieron	hubieron	"	"	"
	FUTURO				ANTE-FUTURO.		
yo	hablaré	comeré	viviré	habré	hablado	comido	vivido
tu	hoblarás	comerás	vivirás	habrás	"	"	"
V.	hablará	comerá	uivirá	habrá	"	"	"
nos.	hablaremos	comeremos	viviremos	habremos	"	"	"
vos.	hablaréis	comeréis	viviréis	habréis	"	"	"
V. V.	hablarán	comerán	vivirán	habrán	"	"	"
	POST PRETÉRITO				ANTE-POST-PRETÉRITO		
yo	hablaría	comería	viviría	habría	hablado	comido	vivido
tu	hablarías	comerías	vivirías	habrías	"	"	"
V.	hablaría	comería	vixiría	habría	"	"	"
nos.	hablaríamos	comeríamos	viviríamos	habríamos	"	"	"
V. V.	hablaríais	comeríais	viviríais	habríais	"	"	"
vos.	hablarían	comerían	vivirían	habrían	"	"	"

MODO SUBJUNTIVO.

	PRESENTE				ANTE-PRESENTE		
que yo	hable	coma	viva	haya	hablado	comido	vivido
" tu	hables	comas	vivas	hayas	"	"	"
" V.	hable	coma	viva	haya	"	"	"
" nos.	hablemos	comamos	vivamos	hayamos	"	"	"
" vos.	habléis	comáis	viváis	hayáis	"	"	"
" V. V.	hablen	coman	vivan	hayan	"	"	"

PASADO			ANTE-PASADO.			
que yo	hablase-ó-hablara	hubiese-ó-hubiera	hablado	comido	vivido	
" tu	hablases-ó-hablaras	hubieses-ó-hubieras	"	"	"	
" V	hablase-ó-hablara	hubiese-ó-hubiera	"	"	"	
" nos.	hablásemos-ó-habláramos	hubiésemos-ó-hubiéremos	"	"	"	
" vos.	hablaseis-ó-hablarais	hubieseis-ó-hubierais	"	"	"	
" V. V.	hablasen-ó-hablaran	hubiesen-ó-hubieran	"	"	"	

(" comiese-ó-comiera")—(viviese-ó-viviera ")

	FUTURO				ANTE-FUTURO		
que yo	hablare	comiere	viviere	hubiere	hablado	comido	vivido
" tu	hablares	comieres	vivieres	hubieres	"	"	"
" V.	hablare	comiere	viviere	hubiere	"	"	"
" nos	habláremos	comiéremos	viviéremos	hubiéremos	"	"	"
" vos	hablareis	comiereis	viviereis	hubiereis	"	"	"
" V. V.	hablaren	comieren	vivieren	hubieren	"	"	"

MODO IMPERATIVO.

habla	(tu)	come	(tu)	vive	(tu)
hable	(V.)	coma	(V.)	viva	(V.)
hablemos	(nos.)	comamos	(nos.)	vivamos	(nos.)
hablad	(vos.)	comed	(vos)	vivid	(vos.)
hablen	(V. V.)	coman	(V. V.)	vivan	(V. V.)

MODO INFINITIVO.

PRESENTE	ANTE-PRESENTE
hablar	haber hablado
comer	" comido
vivir	" vivido

PARTICIPIOS.

PRESENTE	ANTE-PRESENTE	PASADO
hablando	habiendo hablado	hablado
comiendo	" comido	comido
vivir	" vivido	vivido

La construcción pasiva del verbo se forma en el Castellano: primero, por medio del verbo "ser" (auxiliar) y el participio pasado del verbo principal, como: Los Jóvenes prenunciaron muy buenos discursos (construcción activa); muy buenos discursos fueron pronuciado s por los jóvenes (construcción pasiva.); segundo, por medio del pronombre reflexivo "se" como: En la España hablan el español (forma activa); en la España se habla el español (forma pasiva).

VERBOS IRREGULARES.

MODO INDICATIVO.

	estar	*tener*	*ser*	*haber*			
	PRESENTE				ANTE-PRESENTE		
yo	estoy	tengo	soy	he	estado	tenido	sido
tu	estás	tienes	eres	has "		"	"
V.	está	tiene	es	ha	"	"	"
nos.	estamos	tenemos	somos	hemos	"	"	"
vos.	estáis	tenéis	sois	habéis	"	"	"
V. V.	están	tienen	son	han	"	"	"
	CO-PRETERITO				ANTE-CO-PRETERITO		
yo	estaba	tenía	era	había	estado	tenido	sido
tu	estabas	tenías	eras	habías	"	"	"
V.	estaba	tenía	era	había	"	"	"
nos.	estábamos	teníamos	eramos	habíamos	"	"	"
vos.	estabais	teníais	erais	habíais	"	"	"
V. V.	estaban	tenían	eran	habían	"	"	"
	PASADO				ANTE-PASADO		
yo	estuve	tuve	fuí	hube	estado	tenido	sido
tu	estuviste	tuviste	fuiste	hubiste	"	"	"
V.	estuvo	tuvo	fué	hubo	"	"	"
nos.	estuvimos	tuvimos	fuimos	hubimos	"	"	"
vos.	estuvisteis	tuvisteis	fuisteis	hubisteis	"	"	"
V. V.	estuvieron	tuvieron	fueron	hubieron	"	"	"
	FUTURO				ANTE-FUTURO		
yo	estaré	tendré	seré	habré	eastado	tenido	sido
tu	estarás	tendrás	seras	habrás	"	"	"
V.	estará	tendrá	será	habrá	"	"	"
nos.	estaremos	tendremos	seremos	habremos	"	"	"
vos.	estaréis	tendréis	seréis	habréis	"	"	"
V. V.	estarán	tendrán	serán	habrán	"	"	"
	POST PRETERITO				ANTE-POST-PRETERITO		
yo	estaría	tendría	sería	habría	estado	tenido	sido
tu	estarías	tendrías	serías	habrías	"	"	"
V.	estaría	tendría	sería	habría	"	"	"
nos.	estaríamos	tendríamos	seríamos	habríamos	"	"	"
vos.	estaríais	tendríais	seríais	habríais	"	"	"
V. V.	estarían	tendrían	serían	habrían	"	"	"

MODO SUBJUNTIVO.

	PRESENTE				ANTE-PRESENTE		
que yo	esté	tenga	sea	haya	estado	tenido	sido
" tu	estés	tengas	seas	hayas	"	"	"
" V.	esté	tenga	sea	haya	"	"	"
" nos.	estemos	tengamos	séamos	hayamos	"	"	"
" vos.	estéis	tengáis	seáis	hayáis	"	"	"
" V. V.	estén	tengan	sean	hayan	"	"	"

PASADO			ANTE-PASADO			
que yo	estuviese-ó-estuviera	hubiese-ó-hubiera	estado	tenido	sido	
" tu	estuvieses-ó-estuvieras	hubiese-ó-hubieras	"	"	"	
" V.	estuviese-ó-estuviera	hubiese-ó-hubiera	"	"	"	
" nos.	estuviésemos-ó-estuviéramos	hubiésemos-ó-hubiéramos	"	"	"	
" vos.	estuvieseis-ó-estuvierais	hubieseis-ó-hubierais	"	"	"	
" V. V.	estuviesen--ó-estuvieran	hubiesen-ó-hubieran	"	"	"	

(" tuviese-ó-tuviera)—(fuese-ó-fuera ")

	FUTURO				ANTE-FUTURO		
que yo	estuviere	tuviere	fuere	hubiere	estado	tenido	sido
" tu	estuvieres	tuvieres	fueres	hubieres	"	"	"
" V.	estuviere	tuviere	fuere	hubiere	"	"	"
" nos.	estuviéremos	tuviéremos	furéremos	hubiéremos	"	"	"
" vos.	estuviereis	tuviereis	furereis	hubiereis	"	"	"
" V. V.	estuvieren	tuvieren	fueren	hubieren	"	"	"

MODO IMPERATIVO.

está	(tu)	ten	(tu)	sé	(tu)
esté	(V.)	tenga	(V.)	sea	(V.)
estemos	(nos.)	tengamos	(nos.)	séamos	(nos.)
estad	(vos.)	tened	(vos.)	sed	(vos.)
estén	(V. V.)	tengan	(V. V.)	sean	(V. V.)

MODO INFINITIVO.

PRESENTE	ANTE-PRESENTE
estar	haber estado
tener	" tenido
ser	" sido

PARTICIPIOS.

PRESENTE	ANTE-PRESENTE	PASADO
estando	habiendo estado	estado
teniendo	" tenido	tenido
siendo	" sido	sido