

Part 1

The Spanish-Speaking World



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The Hispanic World

■ The Difference Between "Hispanic" and "Spanish"

Although people often use Hispanic and Spanish as synonyms, a distinction should be pointed out. The word Hispanic refers to any person whose native language is Spanish or to anything that is characteristic of the people or culture of the Spanish-speaking world. The word Spanish on the other hand refers only to the people and culture of Spain. Of course, the word Spanish also refers to the Spanish language. A useful word that may be used to refer to Spanish-speaking person is *hispanohablante* or *hispanoparlante*, which means *Spanish-speaking*.

■ El Mundo Hispano

The Hispanic world consists of Spain (which includes its island province of the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea to the east of the mainland; two provinces of the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean to the west of Morocco, Africa; and Ceuta and Melilla, two small Spanish enclaves on the Mediterranean coast of Morocco) and the 19 Spanish-speaking countries of the Western Hemisphere. The population of these Spanish-speaking countries is approximately 357 million people. Spanish is the native language of about 22 million Americans. (See next chapter.) So, we can see that the Hispanic population of the world is approximately 380 million people.

■ La América Española

The countries of Spanish America can be grouped as follows:

A. México

B. Centroamérica. The republics of Central America are:

Guatemala
Honduras

Nicaragua
El Salvador

Costa Rica
Panamá

C. **Las Antillas** (the islands of the Caribbean). The Hispanic countries in this group are:

Puerto Rico (a self-governing commonwealth of the United States)

Cuba

la República Dominicana (the Dominican Republic). This republic shares the island of Hispaniola with the republic of Haiti. (Since the language of Haiti is French, it is not part of the Hispanic world.)

D. **Sudamérica**. The Spanish-speaking countries of South America are:

Venezuela

el Perú

la Argentina

Colombia

Chile

el Uruguay

el Ecuador

Bolivia

el Paraguay

Although these countries differ from one another in some important ways, they have a common language and many cultural similarities that reflect their common Spanish heritage.

Some Aspects of Hispanic Civilization

1. **The Spanish Language.** The English language as spoken in the United States differs slightly from the language spoken in Britain: a truck is a *lorry* in England, where gasoline is called *petrol*, an elevator a *lift*, and all Americans are *Yanks*.

Like English, the Spanish language also has its varieties. Spoken Spanish differs slightly from one Hispanic country to another. There are, for instance, differences in pronunciation. Most Spaniards (but not those of southern Spain) pronounce *cinco* as "theenko" and *zapato* as "thapato"; they also pronounce the J in *José* more harshly than do their Spanish-American cousins. The Argentineans (and other Hispanic Americans) pronounce *ll* and *y* like the sound of *s* in the English word "pleasure"; if we use *zh* to represent that sound, then *yo me llamo Pepilla* sounds like "zho me zhamo Pepizha." Many people in southern Spain and Spanish America do not pronounce the final *s* or *d*, the *s* preceding a consonant, or the *d* in the endings *-ado* and *-ido*. For example, *los mismos estados* becomes "lo mi'mo e'ta-o." Despite such variations in pronunciation, Hispanics of different countries generally have no difficulty in understanding one another.

There are also differences in vocabulary. The word for potato is *patata* in Spain but *papa* in most of Spanish America. The word for orange is *naranja* everywhere but in Puerto Rico, where that fruit is called a *china*. The Spanish word for bus is *autobús* in most of the Hispanic world, but not in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Canary Islands, where a bus is a *guagua*.

Words that mean one thing in one country may mean something else in another country. In Chile, *guagua* is a baby; in Mexico, the word for bus is *camión*, which means "truck" in the rest of the Hispanic World. A *bodega* is a wine cellar or a winery in Spain but a grocery store in many parts of Spanish America.

And, as we shall learn: in most of Spain the plural of *tú* is *vosotros*, whereas most Spanish Americans use *ustedes* as the plural of both *tú* and *usted*.

2. **Nombres y Apellidos** (names). Many Hispanics are named after saints—Pedro, José, Juan, María, Teresa, etc., and they generally celebrate their saint's day rather than their birthday. You may have noticed that Hispanic people have more than one last name, or *apellido*; for example, Ramón **López Rodríguez**. Ramón has taken his mother's maiden name (Rodríguez) and added it to his father's name (López).

Another example: **María Rodríguez Molina** marries **Pedro Vargas Vélez**. She now calls herself **María Rodríguez de Vargas**. Of course she may carry her name further if she wishes: **María Rodríguez Molina de Vargas Vélez**. But this could become confusing. Suppose that María and Pedro have a daughter named Carmen. Her complete name would be **Carmen Vargas Rodríguez**—the father's name followed by the mother's. She would be formally addressed as "Señorita Vargas," for short.

3. **Los Deportes** (sports). **El fútbol**, the Spanish word for soccer, should not be confused with football, the American game. Soccer is very popular throughout the Hispanic world. Each country takes its national matches very seriously and the great event is the **Copa Mundial** (World Cup), which is played every four years.

La corrida de toros, or bullfight, has been the most popular sport in Spain and in a few Spanish-American countries for the last two centuries. In recent years, however, its popularity has been declining in favor of soccer. During the season of **corridos**, the bullfight takes place on Sunday at about five o'clock in the afternoon. On special occasions, bullfights may be held on other days of the week.

Jai alai, a sport similar to our handball, originated in the Basque Provinces of Spain. It is played on a court called a **frontón**. The game is played at great speed and requires much skill.

El béisbol (baseball) is very popular in Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Venezuela.

4. **La Siesta**. In the early hours of the afternoon, when the intense heat of the sun discourages physical activity, people take a rest period, **la siesta**. Business people shut their doors at about one o'clock and go home, returning to work at about four o'clock. During this period, they eat their midday meal, generally the heaviest of the day, and take a nap or rest.

In the past few years, however, the custom of taking a siesta has been disappearing in many Hispanic cities. Nowadays, many shops remain open for business during the siesta period. One often finds the streets and cafés as crowded during that period as at any other time of day.

5. **Las Comidas** (meals). In Hispanic countries, the meals of the day are generally as follows: Breakfast (**el desayuno**) usually consists of a cup of coffee and small roll or sweet cake. The coffee is much stronger than American coffee and is often taken with a great deal of boiled milk.

El almuerzo (lunch) is a second breakfast in some countries, where it is eaten at about 10 o'clock. In other countries, it corresponds more closely to an American lunch and is eaten at about 1:30—that is, just before the siesta begins. Also called **la comida** in many places, it is usually a heavy meal consisting of several courses.

La merienda, an afternoon snack, is taken at the end of the siesta and may consist of coffee, hot chocolate, rolls or cakes, and perhaps an **aperitivo**, which may be an alcoholic beverage.

La cena (dinner) is often a light meal eaten fairly late in the evening, sometimes as late as 11 o'clock.

6. **Las Fiestas Patronales**. Every Hispanic country, town, and city is dedicated to a patron saint who has been adopted as its *protector*. For example, the patron saint of Madrid is San Isidro (Saint Isidore) and that of San Juan, Puerto Rico, is, of course, San Juan (Saint John).

In honor of their patron saint, people hold annual **fiestas patronales**. These are festivals that may last as long as a week. Fireworks and parades, food and drink, merry-go-rounds and various games all contribute to the festive atmosphere.

7. **Los Días de Fiesta** (holidays). **La Navidad** (Christmas), **Pascua de Resurrección** (Easter) and **el Día de la Raza** also known as **el Día de la Hispanidad** (which celebrates Columbus's discovery of America) are celebrated in all Hispanic countries.

Until recently, although it still happens in Spain, it was the custom for Hispanic boys and girls to receive gifts on January 6, the day the three kings (called **los Reyes Magos** in Spanish) brought gifts to the infant Jesus. In recent years, however, there has been a growing tendency (especially in Spanish America) to distribute gifts at Christmas time, as in the United States.

Every Hispanic country has its own holiday commemorating its discovery or its independence from Spain. For example, Puerto Rico celebrates its discovery by Columbus on November 19. Mexican Independence Day is September 16.

8. **El Mercado**. The marketplace in Spain and Spanish-American countries is a lively and colorful place. Many towns and villages have outdoor markets that are assembled once a week, each town having its own market day. The numerous stands and booths sell every kind of merchandise: food and drink, clothing, souvenirs, etc. The customer is often expected to reject the first price that is asked and to haggle (*regatear*) with the vendor until he or she reduces the price.

All towns have at least one market situated inside a building. This market is generally open every day but Sunday. Here, too, everything is sold, including groceries. The housewife can often be seen going from stand to stand, comparing prices. Since many homes in small towns do not have adequate refrigeration, shopping each morning for the day's meals is a common practice.

Barcelona. Barcelona, situated on the Mediterranean coast of Spain, is an active seaport and the commercial and financial center of Spain. It is in the province of Cataluña, the most prosperous region of the country. The people of Cataluña speak catalán (a Romance language also spoken by many French people north of the Pyrenees Mountains) as their principal language, and Spanish (castellano) as their secondary language. One of the most attractive parts of Barcelona is an area called Las Ramblas, wide avenues on which the lanes of traffic are separated by a wide walk for pedestrians (*peatones*). Along these Ramblas there are numerous outdoor book shops, cafés and flower stands. On the top of Monte Tibidabo, which overlooks Barcelona, there is a shrine and a very popular amusement park. At the other end of Barcelona, on the top of a hill, is el Castillo de Montjuich (pronounced "monjweek," in which the "J" sounds like the s in pleasure). This castle was fortified in 1640. Near this castle is an amusement park which is illuminated at night, and can be seen throughout the city.



EXERCISES

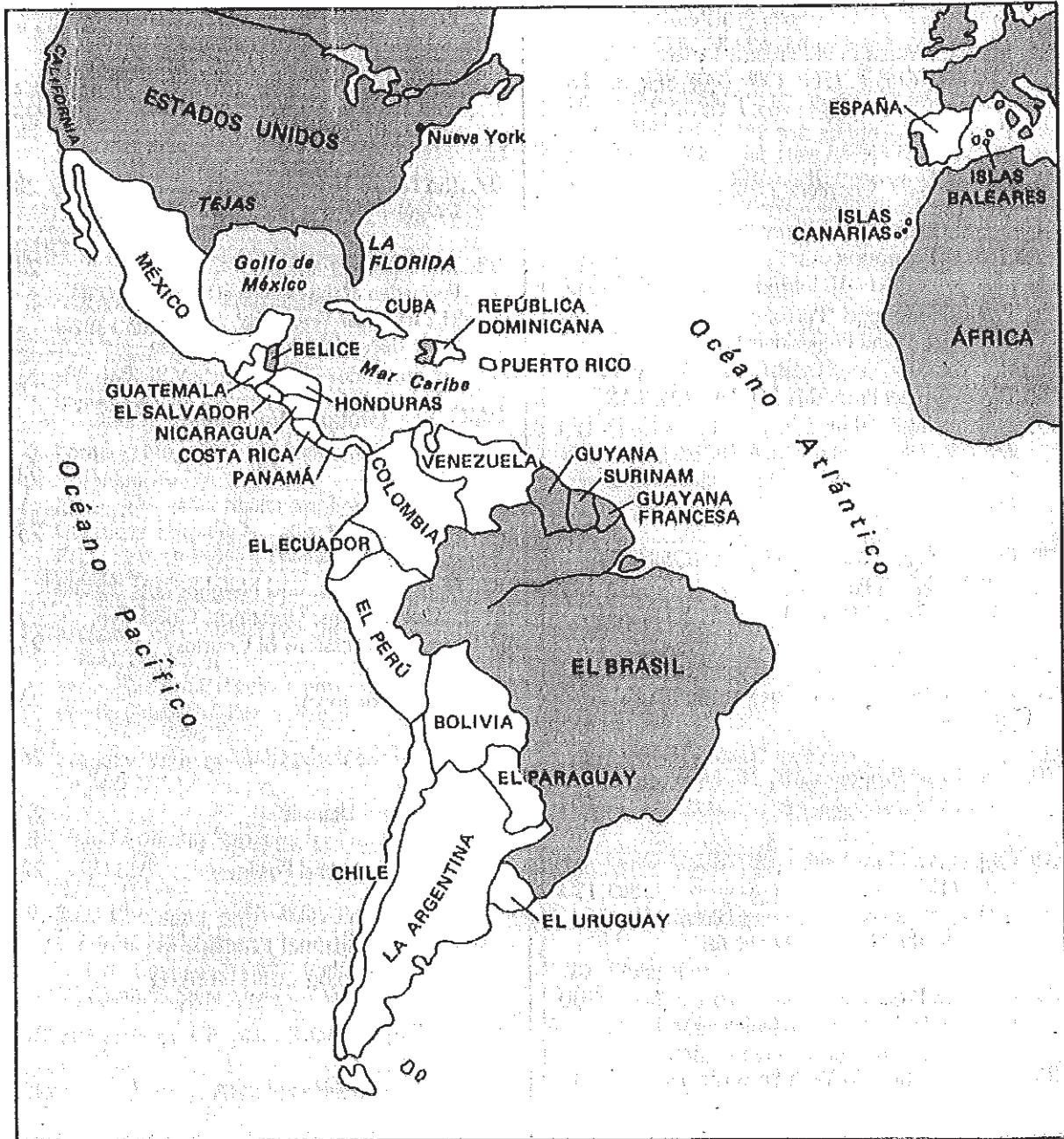
A. Complete the sentences

1. "Hispanic" and "Spanish" should not be used as synonyms; for example, people from Costa Rica, Mexico, and Spain are all _____, but only citizens of Spain are _____.
2. Argentina and Chile are countries of _____.
3. The Dominican Republic and Cuba are countries of the _____.
4. Most Spaniards pronounce the "z" of *azul* as we pronounce _____ in English.
5. *Guagua* means _____ in Puerto Rico.
6. The pronoun **vosotros** and its corresponding verb forms are used only in _____.
7. The maiden name of Ana Molina de Vega is _____.
8. _____ is played on a *frontón*.
9. The last meal of the day in Hispanic countries is called _____ in Spanish.
10. The bullfight is very popular in _____.
11. The patron saint of Madrid is _____.
12. Columbus Day in Spanish is called _____.
13. Puerto Rico was discovered by _____.
14. *El Día de los Reyes Magos* falls on _____.
15. Many Hispanic people take a _____ during the afternoon.

B. If the statement is true, write true in the blank at the right. If it is false, cross out the capitalized words and write the correct words in the blank.

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| 1. In New York, many members of the SPANISH community are Cubans. | 1. _____ |
| 2. Haiti is one of the SPANISH-speaking republics of the Caribbean. | 2. _____ |
| 3. The Spanish word CHINA means "orange" in Puerto Rico. | 3. _____ |
| 4. In the name Luis Meléndez Fernández, MELÉNDEZ is the family name of Luis's father. | 4. _____ |
| 5. LA CORRIDA DE TOROS is the most popular sport in Hispanic countries. | 5. _____ |

6. In most Hispanic countries, the heaviest meal of the day is called EL DESAYUNO. 6. _____
7. The *aperitivo* is popular around the time of the MERIENDA. 7. _____
8. Melilla is a city in MEXICO. 8. _____
9. SPANISH and HISPANIC are synonyms. 9. _____
10. SPAIN celebrates its independence on September 16. 10. _____



El Mundo Hispánico