A1

Spanish – Beginner (b)

Highlands COLLEGE

course information

adult education

Who is the course for?

False beginners, or for those who have had experience of a absolute beginners class e.g. Beginners (a), and want to continue improving the basics.

What skills, knowledge or experience do I need to start this course?

You have a grasp of:

- Asking and answering simple questions about myself/others
- Spelling my name
- Asking for clarification if I don't understand
- Simply ordering some food and drink in a café/restaurant
- Understanding numbers when given slowly
- Understanding the time when given slowly
- Understanding the main points when people speak very slowly and clearly
- Understanding simple menus
- Reading a short, simple notices in public areas
- Filling in a simple form
- Writing a simple shopping list (basic items)
- Writing a simple food diary

What will the course cover?

Practical language to enable you to communicate on a visit to the country: asking for goods and services in everyday situations, understanding basic written information, holding a simple conversation with a native speaker. You'll learn some basic grammar and cover Numbers, Alphabet, Family and Pets, Food and Drink, Houses and Homes, Basic Money and Prices, Time, Days and Months and Personal Possessions. Above all, you will gain the confidence to express yourself. We also aim to stimulate your interest in and knowledge of the cultures of Spanish speaking people.

course information

What should I be able to do by the end of the course?

Each student will have a list of CAN DO STATEMENTS which they are aiming to achieve by the end of the course. These cover Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing:

- Ask and answer simple questions about the family
- Spell some basic words of vocabulary
- Ask for clarification if I don't understand
- Make simple requests for items in a shop
- Understand time and numbers when given slowly
- Understand prices when given slowly
- Understand the main points when people speak very slowly and clearly
- Understand simple food lists/menus
- Understand basic notices and posters
- Locate areas of catalogues to find specific items
- Note down simple words when spelled out loud
- Fill in a simple questionnaire
- Write a simple note (assisted writing)

How is the course organised?

We use course books, handouts, worksheets; audio and videotapes, 'realia' (eg real menus etc). You will be encouraged to speak as much as possible in class, to work in small groups and pairs, to take an active part in your learning and, each lesson, to work on the four skills: listening (and understanding), speaking, reading and writing.

What extra study or practice is expected outside of the class?

Reviewing and learning what has been done in the class. Preparing for your next class (homework might be set). For best results, try hard to spend 15 minutes everyday doing some kind of language practice: listen to a tape, watch a video, read a bit, repeat, learn sentences/words by heart.

How will my progress be assessed?

You will be encouraged to assess your own progress with help from your tutor, who will monitor your achievements by question and answer, some written work, quizzes, questionnaires, games and more formal achievement tests. You and your tutor will keep referring to the CAN DO statements you are aiming to achieve by the end of the course.

What can I expect to go on to after this course?

If you are satisfied that you have largely achieved the CAN DO statements, Spanish Elementary (a)