

Fechas: **Desde** \_\_\_\_\_ **hasta** \_\_\_\_\_ Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Meta esta semana:  minutos Clase \_\_\_\_\_

# **DIARIO DE LECTURA EN ESPAÑOL**

## **SPANISH READING LOG**

**Título del libro y 3-4 oraciones acerca de mi lectura de hoy**

**lunes:**

Hoy leí por \_\_\_\_\_ minutos.

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**martes:**

Hoy leí por \_\_\_\_\_ minutos.

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**miércoles:**

Hoy leí por \_\_\_\_\_ minutos.

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**jueves:**

Hoy leí por \_\_\_\_\_ minutos.

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**viernes:**

Hoy leí por \_\_\_\_\_ minutos.

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**sábado/domingo:**

Este fin de semana leí por \_\_\_\_\_ minutos.

*Total minutes I have read in Spanish this week:*

*PARENT SIGNATURE indicates verification of this number* \_\_\_\_\_

# ***TEACHERS:***

Print the *Reading Log* with the log on one side and one of the following helpful sheets on the back side. Alternate with one of the three sheets each week to give students assistance in choosing WHAT to read and HOW to read it.

The three sheets on the following pages are:

## **1. Self-Selected Reading**

- Explains WHY we are reading
- Gives four specific ideas on HOW to choose reading materials

## **2. How to Choose a Book**

- More advice on how to choose a book
- This is basically just “Interesting and Comprehensible” written in several different ways
- It also gives them permission to re-read a book

## **3. Language Acquisition and Reading / Basic Reading Strategies**

- Explains WHY reading is so important and
- WHAT ideal reading material looks like
- Encourages them to START reading and KEEP reading
- How to deal with unfamiliar words as they read

# **SELF-SELECTED READING**

## **WHY READ?**

Because reading is probably the fastest and most efficient way to learn language. The more you read it will (hopefully) also become the most enjoyable way for you to learn as well.

## **OUR GOALS**

- *To support fluency in speaking Spanish*
- *To develop a large sight vocabulary in Spanish (automatic recognition)*
- *To increase general vocabulary knowledge in Spanish*
- *To learn to enjoy reading in Spanish*
- *To develop a life-long habit of reading for pleasure in Spanish*

## **HOW TO CHOOSE PLEASURE READING MATERIALS**

We learn to read better by reading more. We keep on reading (and therefore, we keep on learning) by choosing materials that are both understandable and interesting to us. You must be able to understand the book and it must be something that will hold your attention, so it is best to pick a book that you can understand and will enjoy. Keep these in mind as you select your reading materials:

- **Reading easier material may be better than reading harder material**

*It sounds odd, but you may need to lower your standards. Do not worry too much about picking material that is easy for you to read. Pick something that is relaxing to read. Don't feel guilty because it's easy. You need to over-learn the basic words and reading easy material will help you do that. The core words (the basic 1,000 words) need to become so easy for you that it is not an effort to read them. Then allow your ability and your interests to drive you on to more challenging materials.*

- **Reading a lot is better than reading a little (or just the minimum to get by).**

*The more you read the better you will get at it. Set a goal for how much you will read. Try to read something in Spanish every day. Plan your reading time and also read spontaneously. A good trick to snatch reading time is to carry something to read with you— if you are prepared it will seem like the world is conspiring to give you reading time.*

- **Reading what you enjoy is better than reading what you “ought to read”.**

*Read for the content's sake, not because you think you should. Choose something to read that really interests you. Find something that really interests you and read it. Then keep on reading for the pleasure of it. The intriguing subject or the fascinating story should be the thing that drives you to continue reading. Allow the inherent pleasure of reading itself to motivate you. Save Don Quixote till later—unless you are just dying to read it—then go ahead and try it.*

- **Stop reading a book you do not like. It is better than plowing on.**

*Forcing yourself to keep on reading something you do not like is not normally a good strategy for free reading. If a book is too confusing or boring, put it down and pick up something else.*

### **Sources:**

*Extensive Reading in the Second Language Classroom, Richard Day and Julian Bamford, 1998.  
The Power of Reading (Second edition), Stephen Krashen, 2004.*

# **HOW TO CHOOSE A BOOK**

You may have to search for a while before you find something suitable to read, but keep looking and experimenting until you find something that works for you; something that **you like** and **can understand**.

As you look for a book, use these guidelines:

Pick something that is **INTERESTING** & **COMPREHENSIBLE** to you. You should **enjoy** it and it should be relatively **easy** for you to read. It does not have to be utterly fascinating, and you do not have to understand every single word. It just has to **hold your interest** for a while, and it has to be something that you can **mostly understand**.

If you find you **don't like it** or it **doesn't make sense** to you, **choose something else** to read next time.

You can **read the same thing again** if you want. That is a good option too.

## LANGUAGE ACQUISITION and READING

- Time spent in reading for pleasure is more valuable for foreign language development than time spent in direct instruction, so if you really want to learn a new language quickly, thoroughly and fluently, **READ!**
- More than 70% of a literate person's vocabulary in her first language comes from reading. You can apply the same principle to your foreign language learning process. You can increase your foreign language vocabulary by reading.
- Ideally, beginning language reading material should be:
  - **Interesting** You have to enjoy what you are reading or you will not stick with it long enough for it to do you any good. Find material that is interesting to you and read it. Often.
  - **Comprehensible** You need to be able to understand most (but not necessarily all) of what you read. 95%+ is ideal, 90% may be OK, 80% may be OK with the help of a group, 70% is not enough—find something that is more appropriate for your current reading level.
  - **Culturally Authentic** Ideally, what you read should help you to understand the culture (history, art, customs, mannerisms, music, business practices, films, religion, literature, philosophy, sports, and/or geography) of the people groups that speak the language.
- **Narrow Input:** Comprehension and language acquisition increase when a person reads narrowly, because the reader sees the same words used over and over again. Narrow input (or narrow reading) can mean:
  - Reading a great deal on **one topic** (Intensive Reading), or
  - Reading several works by **one author** (Extensive Reading).

## BASIC READING STRATEGIES

**Start Reading.** Gaining vocabulary through reading is 10 times faster than studying word lists alone. If you want to increase the number of words you know, it is a better use of your time to read than to study and memorize.

**Keep Reading.** Each time you see a word used in context you acquire more of its correct meaning and usage. Through context you will learn what it means and its grammatical application. You will learn if the word is a noun, an adjective, a verb, etc.

### HOW TO DEAL WITH AN UNFAMILIAR WORD AS YOU READ

**Skip it.** Just skip over the word and keep on reading. Any one word is probably not all that important. With fewer pauses you will read more and understand more. Remember that you are focusing on the overall meaning not necessarily on trying to get every single word. If the word seems to be essential to understanding the passage...

**Guess.** Go ahead and just guess the meaning of the word. If your guess doesn't seem to fit...

**Guess again.** If you still cannot seem to make sense of the word, and it seems like you need to understand it to get the gist of the passage...

**Look it up.** Go ahead and look it up in the dictionary if you cannot get the meaning from context, but don't make a habit of looking up every single word you do not understand—in the long run it will actually slow down the language acquisition process because it will slow down your reading, interrupt the flow, muddle the context, and give you less total exposure to the language.

#### **Sources:**

Day, Richard and Bamford, Julian. 1998. *Extensive Reading in the Foreign Language Classroom*. Cambridge U. Press  
Krashen, Stephen. 2004. *The Power of Reading*. Libraries Unlimited.  
Krashen, Stephen. 1997. *Foreign Language Education the Easy Way*. Language Education Associates.