
Paris-Bouvret, Emmanuel and Ana Pérez-Gironés.
En una palabra: Sevilla, España. A CD-ROM for Exploring Culture in Spanish.

Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-1-58901-136-8.

En una palabra is a supplementary teaching tool to accompany any intermediate to advanced course text. The program emphasizes the cultural subtleties discovered through language and points out the variety of speech patterns within one community in Spain. The program components include the following: video clips with transcripts, cultural information on Sevilla, a glossary, and a special section on distinct variations in pronunciation in the region. An Instructor's Manual with complementary lesson plans and teaching strategies is also available online. Institutions that purchase the CD for a language lab receive rights to post an electronic copy of the CD-ROM on a password protected site for students and faculty.

The video clips feature fifteen individuals from Sevilla who express their views on a variety of topics using natural speech without a script. The video clips last less than a minute and are all transcribed. All material is in Spanish; nothing is translated. The listener may access the transcript or not during the listening exercise. Participants in the project come from a variety of backgrounds and are of different ages to provide a wide perspective on how individuals interpret the abstract concepts discussed, which are listed below:

- Friends
- Family
- Work
- Country
- Freedom
- Success
- Pride
- Individualism
- Ambition
- Happiness

These topics were chosen not only to assist students in acquiring vocabulary for complex expression, but also to provide insight into another culture and the issues that its population considers significant and important.

In addition to the video clips to practice listening comprehension, there is a file with several subsections that provide an overview of Sevilla. The file contains

photos and text briefly describing the region of Andalucía, Sevilla, and important places to visit. In the subsection that focuses on the variety of accents spoken in Sevilla, there are examples of the different speech patterns found in Andalucía, including “seseo,” “ceceo.” For each, there is a short, sample recording with a phonetic transcript of the phrase spoken.

This program is aimed primarily at intermediate to advanced speakers, but can be used by beginners as well. In the online lesson plans, there are various examples for all levels of instruction, offering ideas on pre-listening exercises, tasks, group work, and classroom discussion.

In summary, *En una palabra* is an easy-to-use resource of short cultural and linguistic vignettes helpful to instructors for group listening exercises and subsequent discussion in class. The CD is also a useful tool for individual learners to practice on their own and prepare for study abroad in Andalucía.

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