Tips for Using *Aprendo* Effectively

The following are some recommendations on how to use the *Aprendo* platform effectively in your Spanish course. We recommend you do the following to get the most out of the online platform. Of course, as you go through the semester, you will find what works best for you.

**Tips for learning vocabulary**

➔ **Study the words assigned for each day before class.** Your teacher will assume you have already studied the assigned words. Coming to class already knowing the material will help you understand the instructor and be able to participate actively in class discussions.

➔ **Study the vocabulary incrementally.** You will be asked to learn many words for your class. Cramming them before a quiz or test may work in the short run, but if you learn the words superficially like this, you will likely not retain them over time. Having a studying routine can help you learn the words incrementally. You could set aside some time when you wake up every day or perhaps right before you go to sleep. Learn the new words, and then continue to review words that that were previously assigned.

➔ **Use the flashcards.** *Aprendo* has flashcards to help you study. Feel free to use them or any other studying method that works for you.

➔ **Click on the links!** Many times you will see difficult words are hyperlinked to google images or a dictionary. Clicking these links is an easy way to determine what the word means.

➔ **Go above and beyond the assigned vocabulary.** You will be exposed to a variety of vocabulary through the *Aprendo* platform. Whenever you see a word that piques your interest, keep a running list somewhere on your computer or in a notebook. Study these words occasionally too. This will help expand your vocabulary even more.

➔ **Make a conscious effort to use the vocabulary you learned.** Be cognizant of the assigned vocabulary words of the day and integrate them into your speech and writing.

**Tips for learning grammar**

➔ **Read the grammar explanations before class.** *Aprendo* provides detailed explanations for each grammar point. Read this before coming to class and before completing the grammar activities. Your teacher will likely assume you have read the explanation and understood it before coming to class, and will focus more on *using* the grammar during conversations and activities than *explaining* the grammar to you.

➔ **Complete the ¡Explora! activities when needed.** After every grammar explanation there will be some additional activities online. While these activities are always optional, they can help you learn particularly difficult grammar points or study for tests.
→ **Check your *Aprendo* work yourself.** Most exercises will have answer keys that you can use to check your work. If you see that you are consistently getting things wrong and you don’t know why, talk to your instructor.

→ **Go to office hours if you still need help.** It is up to you to try to learn the grammar first on your own. If you are still confused after going through everything, be sure to ask your instructor for additional help.

→ **Make a conscious effort to use the grammar you learned.** Be cognizant of the grammar points you are learning and integrate them into your speech and writing.

**Tips for completing the Lee/Observa/Escucha activities**

→ **Don’t worry if you don’t understand every word.** You will not understand every word in the reading or listening activities. That’s okay! Make sure you just understand enough to a) get the general gist of the text and, b) be able to complete the assigned activities.

→ **Do not use google translate.** If you plug the *Aprendo* text into google translate, you will not learn much. While this may help you finish an activity quickly, in the long run using google translate will not help you learn Spanish. Remember that using google translate on written activities is a violation of the honor code.

→ **Reread or replay sections that are difficult for you.** The more you interact with the text, video or audio, the more you will understand each time you read or listen.