

**EXERCISES IN SPANISH  
COMPOSITION  
FOR FIRST AND  
SECOND YEAR CLASSES**

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Exercises in Spanish Composition for First and Second Year Classes by J. D. M. Ford

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**Heath's Modern Language Series**

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IN

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FOR FIRST AND SECOND YEAR CLASSES

BY

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## PREFACE

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THIS little book is published in the hope that it may facilitate the work of composition in first and second year Spanish classes. The exercises are grouped under three heads. Parts I and II were prepared by Professor A. R. Marsh, and used by him, in his courses at Harvard University, with excellent results. To these portions of the book I have added (1) foot-notes with references to Ramsey's *Text Book of Modern Spanish*, (2) a vocabulary, and (3) a third part comprising exercises modelled upon selected passages of Alarcón's *El Capitán Veneno* (published by D. C. Heath & Co.). It is intended that the student, having before him the original Spanish text, shall translate the English text of Part III without having recourse to a dictionary. The efficacy of this system of translation has been amply proved by the success of Professor C. H. Grandgent's Italian and French composition books. In the near future, I hope to apply it more largely in another set of exercises based upon some good Spanish texts. As Part II—and this may be said particularly of the extracts from Macaulay and Burke—is much

more difficult than Parts I and III, the student had best not attempt it, until he has translated I and III.

My obligations to Professor Marsh are evident, since I owe him more than half the material of this book. I am deeply grateful to him and to Professor P. B. Marcou, who, in the compilation of the notes and vocabulary, has aided me with many valuable suggestions.

J. D. M. F.

# EXERCISES

## IN SPANISH COMPOSITION

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### PART I

#### 1

Good evening, Fernando. How are you? I am glad to see you. — Thanks, I am well. How are you? — Nothing new,<sup>1</sup> thank you. I was thinking of<sup>2</sup> you this afternoon. I wanted to ask you to accompany my sister and me tomorrow. We are going to the palace to<sup>3</sup> see the review. — At what time does it take place? — At half past seven in<sup>4</sup> the morning. — Dear me, how early one has to get up<sup>5</sup> in order to see it! — Yes, it is pretty early; but taking chocolate at quarter of seven, we shall have time enough. — Well, I shall take pleasure in going<sup>6</sup> with you.

<sup>1</sup> *en.*    <sup>2</sup> *para.*    <sup>3</sup> *de;* cf. R., § 390.    <sup>4</sup> one has to get up:  
*se ha de levantar.*    <sup>5</sup> I . . . going: *me gustará ir.*

<sup>6</sup> *Sin novedad.*

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#### 2

Joe, where is my watch? — I don't know; I haven't seen it. Why do you need it? — I have to study forty minutes still, and I want to see when they are up.<sup>1</sup> — It seems to me that you observe your times of study with much pre-



cision. — Yes, that's so.<sup>1</sup> I don't want to lose a moment of liberty. — Do you call it 'losing<sup>2</sup> your time,' when you are studying? — Well, perhaps not<sup>3</sup>; but I like to have plenty<sup>4</sup> of<sup>5</sup> time for amusing myself. — Let's see<sup>6</sup>; what are you reading?—A Greek book. Does it interest you?—I can't understand a single word of it. — Nor I either, or rather<sup>7</sup> not many. But one learns by<sup>8</sup> reading a little every day.

<sup>1</sup> *acabarse.*   <sup>2</sup> *eso es.*   <sup>3</sup> Infinitive.   <sup>4</sup> *más bien.*   <sup>5</sup> Omit; cf. R., § 530.  
<sup>6</sup> *tal vez que no.*   <sup>7</sup> *bastante.*   <sup>8</sup> *Á ver.*

## 3

My<sup>1</sup> friend, if you meet my cousin Joseph Blanco, in Malaga, will you tell him that I am sorry that he never writes<sup>2</sup> me how he is? — Why, man alive, your cousin is in Madrid at this very moment. He has just arrived from Malaga by the 4.20 train, on which I also came. He left<sup>3</sup> the station by the coach of the Northern Hotel, where he always stays<sup>4</sup> in this city.<sup>4</sup> — Then why did he not write me something<sup>5</sup> of<sup>6</sup> his intention? He ought to know that he has his house at 10 Barquillo St.,<sup>6</sup> instead of going to a bad inn. — I am sure that<sup>7</sup> if he had understood your wish, he would have preferred to stop at your house. — I am ashamed that persons of the same family should understand<sup>8</sup> each other so little.

<sup>1</sup> Use the absolute form of the possessive pronoun, placed after the noun; cf. R., § 414.   <sup>2</sup> Subjunctive; cf. R., § 88g.   <sup>3</sup> *salir de.*  
<sup>4</sup> *corte (f.).*   <sup>5</sup> at . . . St.: *calle del Barquillo, número 10.*  
<sup>6</sup> *de que.*   <sup>7</sup> *para.*   <sup>8</sup> *á cerca de.*

## 4

Good morning, Henry; are you in bed still? — Gracious! Is it time to get up? I have not heard the bell. — Why, it's ten minutes of nine. Haven't you a lecture at nine o'clock? — Yes, I have; and I don't know how I can<sup>7</sup> dress in time. I have been told<sup>1</sup> that <sup>que me dijeron</sup> some years ago the students used to go to the first lecture of the day in<sup>2</sup> their night-gowns and with long overcoats and rubber boots on.<sup>3</sup> But now one has to wash himself, and shave, and comb his hair, as if he were going<sup>4</sup> to a party. It's too bad, according<sup>6</sup> to my idea.<sup>5</sup> And then,<sup>8</sup> one must breakfast, even if he takes<sup>7</sup> nothing more than chocolate and bread. This life is too difficult for me. — And so you stay in bed and grumble. What a fine fellow you are!

<sup>1</sup> *Se me ha dicho.*    <sup>2</sup> *en.*    <sup>3</sup> *puesto.*    <sup>4</sup> were going: *estuviese para ir.*  
<sup>5</sup> *á mi parecer.*    <sup>6</sup> *además.*    <sup>7</sup> Subjunctive; cf. R., § 908.

## 5

How handsome you are this afternoon, cousin Mariana; you're beauty itself. — Be still, Joe; you college-boys can say nothing to a girl but compliments.<sup>7</sup> Do you think that those stupidities interest<sup>1</sup> us? I can tell you we have more serious things in our<sup>2</sup> heads. — Dear me, how disdainful you are! Whence comes this indifference? One can't even tell you the truth. — Well, of course,<sup>8</sup> if you really mean it, I shall not become angry. But I don't want people to think<sup>4</sup> me frivolous. Perhaps you haven't heard that I am a student in Radcliffe College. — Good gracious, what courses are you taking? — Two in philosophy,<sup>5</sup> one

in history,<sup>4</sup> and one in literature.<sup>5</sup> I am also writing daily themes, in order to be able to express my ideas with precision. — I see now that, before very long,<sup>6</sup> you will be more serious than the Sphinx.

<sup>1</sup> Subjunctive; cf. R., § 893.    <sup>2</sup> Use the definite article; cf. R., § 478.  
<sup>3</sup> *desde luego*.    <sup>4</sup> *que me tengan por*.    <sup>5</sup> Use no definite article with these nouns.    <sup>6</sup> *dentro de poco (tiempo)*.    <sup>7</sup> *piropos*.

## 6

MALAGA, FEB. 21, 1895.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have the pleasure of informing you<sup>1</sup> that after a somewhat long and tiresome journey I arrived in Malaga this afternoon. You know how<sup>2</sup> inconvenient the Spanish trains are. They all leave Madrid at night, so that one has to pass the night in the cars. In winter<sup>3</sup> also the cold is great in<sup>4</sup> the mountains; and if I had not had a large overcoat, I should have suffered much from this cause. So wearied was I, after the first night, that I decided to<sup>7</sup> remain two days in Cordova. There I found the climate much less cold than that of Madrid. The oranges were seen<sup>4</sup> on the trees, and the flowers were growing in the court-yards. I left Cordova on<sup>4</sup> Wednesday and reached Malaga to-day, as I have said.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH BLANCO.

<sup>1</sup> informing you: *hacerle saber á V.*    <sup>2</sup> Use the definite article: *En el invierno*.    <sup>3</sup> *por*.    <sup>4</sup> Reflexive.    <sup>5</sup> Definite article; cf. R., § 386.    <sup>6</sup> *lo . . . que*.    <sup>7</sup> *d*.