Issue 20 January 2024

Spanish - U3A West - Wolds







Welcome to the January edition of our newsletter ¡Feliz ano nuevo!

¡Bienvenidos a nuestro boletín de enero! Estamos emocionados de comenzar el año nuevo junto a todos ustedes, apasionados estudiantes de español. Este mes, exploraremos juntos las tradiciones de Año Nuevo en el mundo hispanohablante, compartiremos consejos para mejorar su español y les brindaremos recursos útiles para que su viaje lingüístico sea aún más enriquecedor. ¡Vamos a sumergirnos en el fascinante mundo del español juntos!

Welcome to our January newsletter! We are excited to start the new year together with all of you, passionate Spanish learners. This month, we'll explore New Year's traditions in the Spanish-speaking world together, share tips for improving your Spanish, and provide you with helpful resources to make your language journey even more enriching. Let's dive into the fascinating world of Spanish together!

Some suggestions for learning Spanish in the New Year

New Year is a time for planning new ventures and thinking about ideas for the year ahead.

Start with the Basics:

Begin by learning a few basic phrases that would be useful for a holiday.

Practice Regularly:

Dedicate a few minutes each day to practice Spanish. Make use of language apps or a favourite textbook.

Discover Spanish culture:

Watch Spanish films and TV. Listen to Spanish music or podcasts, and try reading simple Spanish texts such as newspaper reports or magazine articles.

Find a Group:

Consider joining a U3a Spanish group, either in-person or online. If you can't find a group or you'd like to start a brand new group there's plenty of help to get you started.



Playing games can help to gain more confidence when learning a new language. They're also great fun and we like to use them regularly to extend our knowledge. Try Scrabble using a Spanish set as the letters are different and words use different letter variations to English words.

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Olé Olé

We shared a wonderful Christmas tapas together at Olé Olé in Lincoln. Sue brought along some games for us to try and we all settled into a fabulous Spanish afternoon of good food and conversation together.

New Years Resolutions

In Spain, New Year's resolutions, known as "propósitos de año nuevo," are quite common, and many people use the beginning of the year as an opportunity to set goals and make positive changes in their lives. Like in many other countries, these resolutions often focus on personal development, health, and happiness.



Head to Puerta del Sol in Madrid, where thousands of people flock to the square to usher in the New Year and eat 12 lucky grapes to the twelve chimes of the Real Casa de Correos clock. There are several theories that explain the origin of this grape-eating tradition, but the most popular one dates back to 1909, a year in which wine producers from Levante had so much surplus grapes that they decided to give them away to citizens. They claimed that eating this fruiting berry on New Year's Eve would bring them good luck, and so, over a hundred years later, this custom is still followed by all households in the country. Just a few seconds before midnight, the ball, located in the upper part of the tower, is lowered to the sound of the carillon. This is followed by the four quarters (4 warning tolls that give you time to grab that grape that's rolled under the table) and then, finally, the 12 chimes for your 12 grapes.

"Sueňos para el futuro" – an activity to try in your group

Read the beginning of this New Year story in your group and finish it off.

En la fría noche de fin de año, Ana y Carlos se encontraron bajo los destellos de los fuegos artificiales que iluminaban el cielo nocturno. Ambos compartían una tradición especial de hacer sus propósitos de año nuevo juntos, una costumbre que habían mantenido

desde que eran adolescentes.

Sentados en un banco del parque, Ana y Carlos comenzaron a reflexionar sobre el año que estaba a punto de terminar. Rieron al recordar las alegrías compartidas, pero también reflexionaron sobre los desafíos que habían superado juntos. Mientras sostenían tazas de chocolate caliente para combatir el frío, decidieron hacer sus resoluciones de año nuevo. Este año quiero aprender a.... continuar la historia



The Month Ahead

	Spanish Beginners		Spanish Intermediate
Jan 8th	Faldingworth @ 1.30pm	Jan 9th	Caistor @ 2:30pm
Jan 22nd	Faldingworth @ 1.30pm	Jan 16th	Normanby Le Wold @ 2:30pm
	Spanish Advanced	Jan 23rd	Binbrook @ 2:30pm
Jan 12th	Ludford @ 2pm		
Jan 19th	Ludford @ 2pm	Jan 30th	Wickenby @ 2:30pm