

Guide for Charla 1

A charla is an informal conversation or chat. For the first charla, students will be paired at random and carry out a conversation in front of me in my office. Possible topics to be discussed are listed below. Any additional topics should reflect the material we have studied so far this semester. The purpose of the charla is to evaluate the student's speaking and listening abilities in a context different from that of a quiz or test. The charla is not a performance and should not be considered as such or appear rehearsed. Instead, please view it as an opportunity to practice your language abilities and get to know your fellow students a little better.

Partners will be paired at random several days before the charla. Each group should plan for the charla to last approximately 4-5 minutes. The charla will be held in my office (Kauke 209) on Monday, March 4 (2:30-4:30), Tuesday, March 5 (12:30-1:30), and Wednesday, March 6 (2:30-4:30). If you and/or your partner cannot meet at any of these times, please see me to schedule an alternate time slot.

Situation: It is the first day of move-in and you have just met your new roommate. You want to find out as much as possible about this person.

Possible topics to discuss

- Información básica: nombre, edad, lugar de origen, dirección
- Información personal: personalidad, pasatiempos favoritos, especialización, gustos e intereses (música, televisión, teatro, deportes, etc.)
- Familia: miembros, personalidades
- Descripción de la casa/del dormitorio; cómo quieren organizar el dormitorio/qué necesitan para el dormitorio?
- Deseos y planes para el futuro o para su tiempo en la universidad (buscar..., necesitar..., querer..., esperar...) "¿qué esperas hacer en la universidad?"
- Sugerencias (recomendar que..., sugerir que...) por ejemplo: preguntarle "¿qué me sugieres que haga en la universidad?"
- Opiniones (creer que..., es posible que..., es verdad que...); pueden hablar de sus opiniones sobre la universidad. ¿es verdad que I.S. es muy difícil?"
- Planes para el fin de semana o las vacaciones

Remember: These are only suggested topics. There is not enough time to cover each topic, so decide what information you would most like to know about your partner. Also, this is not an interrogation. Do not slam your partner with question after question. If your partner gives an answer and you would like to know more, feel free to expand on that topic. **The structure of the charla should reflect that of a natural conversation and should not appear memorized or rehearsed. Important note:** Try to stay generally within the limits of the vocabulary and grammar we have seen in the text and used in class. Do not talk about something too unusual or your partner will have trouble understanding and thinking of relevant questions for you to answer. In this case neither one of you will be able to perform well.

***Each person may bring a note card with 10 single words written on it to help jog your memory should you lose your place. (Please note: 10 single words, not full phrases or sentences.)**

***Each group should include at least 2 uses of subjunctive per person.**

Evaluation: The Charla is worth 50 points. The distribution of the 50 points will be as follows:
10 pts. for **comprehension** of your partner and being comprehensible to him or her (including pronunciation and speaking in a loud voice)

10 pts. for **cohesion**—do your responses naturally and logically follow from your partner's?

10 pts. for **fluency** in speaking, avoiding extended, silent gaps

10 pts. for **lexical accuracy** (vocabulary)

10 pts. for **grammatical accuracy** (verb conjugations, pronouns, noun-adjective agreement, etc.)