

Student worksheet: Bridging the gap

Unit 1: La Guía de la buena esposa

Introduction

The 'Good wife's guide' was written in 1953 by Pilar Primo de Rivera. She was the sister of the leader of the *Falange Española*, a Spanish political party founded in 1933. The text shows ideas about gender roles and family life that were common during Franco's dictatorship. In your A-level course, you will explore and challenge different political viewpoints and learn about how they have influenced society in countries where the target language is spoken. You will have the opportunity to contrast life under Franco with life in modern day Spain. Here are some extracts from her advice on what a woman should do for her husband (su marido) in order to be "una buena esposa".



A. Ten lista la cena.

Planea con tiempo una deliciosa cena para su llegada.

Prepara su plato favorito.

B. ¡Luce hermosa!

Retoca tu maquillaje, ponte un listón en el cabello y luce lo mejor posible para él.

Recuerda que ha tenido un día duro.





C. Arregla tu casa.

Levanta libros de escuela, juguetes etc. Y limpia con un plumero las mesas.

D. Minimiza el ruido.

A la hora de su llegada apaga lavadora, secadora y aspiradora e intenta que los niños estén callados. Piensa en todo el ruido que él ha tenido que soportar durante su pesado día de oficina.



E. Escúchalo.

Puede que tengas una docena de cosas importantes que decirle. Déjalo hablar antes, recuerda que sus temas son más importantes que los tuyos.



F. Ponte en sus zapatos.

No te quejes si llega tarde, si va a divertirse sin ti o si no llega en toda la noche. Trata de entender su mundo de presión y compromisos.



1. Vocabulary-related activity

It is important to understand how to use the dictionary and to be able to look up the basic forms of words.

These verbs are used in the advice in the text. Fill in the rest of the table using a dictionary to look up any that you don't know.

Verb from the text	Infinitive	Meaning
ten	tener	to have
planea		
prepara		
luce		
retoca		
recuerda		
levanta		
limpia		
minimiza		
apaga		
intenta		
piensa		
escucha		
pon		
trata (de)		

2. Comprehension task based on text

Match these phrases to the correct piece of advice in the text. Write the correct letter in each box.

Advice	Letter
Tidy the house.	
Listen to him.	
Have the evening meal ready.	
Put yourself in his shoes.	
Keep the noise down.	
Look lovely.	

3. Grammar toolbox: expressions of obligation

Study these verbs, all of which are followed by the infinitive. You will need them in the next activity.

debe + infinitive	he/she must...
debería + infinitive	he/she should...
tiene que + infinitive	he/she has to...
necesita + infinitive	he/she needs to...

4. Comprehension task based on text

Answer the following questions about the text, using the same expression of obligation that appears in the question.

Example

¿Qué **debe** hacer la esposa para cuando llega el marido?

_____ ***Debe tener lista la cena.*** _____

Hint If the infinitive ends in *-te*, it will change to *-se* when taking about she/her. Also, *tu/tus* (your) will change to *su/sus* (his/her).

1. Qué debería hacer para la cena?

2. ¿Qué debe hacer para estar guapa? Da dos detalles.

3. ¿Cómo tiene que arreglar la casa antes de la llegada de su marido?

4. ¿Por qué necesita apagar todos los electrodomésticos cuando llega el marido?

5. ¿Qué debería hacer la esposa antes de hablar de sus 'cosas importantes'?

6. ¿Qué no debe hacer la esposa si el marido llega tarde?

5. Vocabulary development

It is important to be able to develop your own language skills by imitating and adapting Spanish you know to be correct. Find these phrases in the text – you will need to use them in activity 6.

English	Spanish
He has had a hard day	
He has had a hard day	
A tough day at the office	
Let him talk	
His issues are more important than yours	
Try to understand	
His world of pressure and commitment	

6. Translation into Spanish

Using phrases and vocabulary from the text and previous activities, translate these sentences into Spanish.

1. A good wife needs to remember that her husband has had a hard day.

2. He has had to put up with a lot of noise.

3. A good wife should try to put herself in her husband's shoes.

4. She must listen and not talk, because his issues are more important.

5. There is a lot of pressure in a tough day at the office.

7. Independent follow-up task

If you would like to see more of the rather astonishing advice from the guide, you can find the full version of *La guía de la buena esposa* on various websites, often in pdf form.

Answers

1. Vocabulary development and dictionary skills

ten	tener	to have
planea	planear	to plan
prepara	preparar	to prepare
luce	lucir	to look / appear
retoca	retocar	to touch up
recuerda	recordar	to remember
levanta	levantar	to raise, lift, pick up
limpia	limpiar	to clean
minimiza	minimizar	to minimise
apaga	apagar	to turn off
intenta	intentar	to try (to)
piensa	pensar	to think
escucha	escuchar	to listen
pon	poner	to put
trata (de)	tratar (de)	to try (to)

2. Comprehension task based on text

Tidy the house.	C
Listen to him.	E
Have the evening meal ready.	A
Put yourself in his shoes.	F
Keep the noise down.	D
Look lovely.	B

3. Grammar toolbox

- 1 Debería preparar su plato favorito. / Debería preparar el plato favorito de su marido.
- 2 Debe retocar el maquillaje y (debe) poner un listón en el cabello.
- 3 Tiene que levantar los libros de escuela y juguetes y (tiene que) limpiar (con un plumero) las mesas.
- 4 Necesita minimizar el ruido.
- 5 Debería escuchar a su marido. / Debería dejar hablar a su marido antes.
- 6 No debe quejarse.

4. Comprehension task based on text

He has had a hard day	Ha tenido un día duro
He has had to put up with	Ha tenido que soportar
A tough day at the office	un día duro de oficina
Let him talk	Déjalo hablar
His issues are more important than yours	Sus temas son más importantes que los tuyos
Try to understand	Trata de entender
His world of pressure and commitment	su mundo de presión y compromisos

5. Vocabulary development

1. Una buena esposa necesita recordar que su marido ha tenido un día duro.
2. Ha tenido que soportar mucho ruido.
3. Una buena esposa debería tratar de ponerse en los zapatos de su marido.
4. Debe escuchar y no hablar, porque sus temas son más importantes.
5. Hay mucha presión en un día duro de oficina.

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