Software Evaluations

Alana White

State University of New York College at Oneonta
Discover Spanish

This software can be used for students in grades 3 and up. “Discover Spanish” helps students do just as the title states, discover Spanish, with immersion situations through animated computer activities on 6 different CD’s as well as 42 audio reinforcement lessons to be used through an mp3 player. Topics covered in the software include a range of vocabulary, grammar and cultural topics through drill and practice, tutorial, and educational games. This software needs a CD-ROM drive and either Windows or Mac platform.

Hooked on Spanish Box Set, Ages 4-6
“Hooked on Spanish” can be used for students in grades Pre-K through 1. This software helps students develop fundamental language skills in Spanish mainly through drill and practice and educational games. Basic language topics are covered in this software, including greetings, numbers, colors, family members, opposites, and parts of the body. This software needs a CD-ROM drive; however, the required operating system is not specified in the product description. In addition to the three CD’s, the software also comes with three workbooks, a library of nine books, three sets of flash cards, progress posters and stickers, and a parent’s guide.

Living Language Spanish, Complete Edition: Beginner through Advanced course

This software includes three course books with forty-six lessons, nine audio CDs, free online learning through interactive games, and a bonus notebook for extra practice space. The content covered in this software ranges from Beginner to Advanced material. This software uses educational games, tutorials, drill and practice, and educational simulation. A CD-ROM disk drive is required and a high-speed broadband Internet connection is recommended. This software requires the Windows or Mac operating system, a modern web browser (e.g. Internet Explorer 8 and up, Firefox, Safari, Chrome), Adobe Flash player, and audio playback capability.
**Rosetta Stone Spanish (Spain) Level 1:**

This software can be used for beginner Spanish language students of all ages. According to the product description on Amazon.com, this software helps students “build a foundation of fundamental vocabulary and essential language structure” through speech activation, native socialization, and natural discovery. The method of the software is based on educational simulation by recreating how students learned their native language through immersion. The topics covered with this software include greetings, introductions, simple questions and answers, and shopping. This software is offered either as CD-ROM or a download for both PC and MAC, and also needs Windows XP, 7, 8, or Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard to run. The software also comes with access to online lessons and a mobile application for iPhone and iPod Touch devices.
Educational Software Evaluation Form

Title: Discover Spanish
Publisher: Discover Spanish
Copyright: ______ Version: ________
Platform/version: X Mac _ X Windows
Media: _ Diskette _ X CD-ROM _ _ DVD
Also Needs: _ Internet _ _ Microphone _ Other _ X_
Cost: $29.95

Teacher Support
DOCUMENTATION: _ Binder _ Booklet _ Included on media _ on Internet
INSTRUCTION MANUAL HAS:
__ Objectives __ Lesson plans __ X_Sample screens
__ Resource information __ Reproducible student pages
__ Student booklets
__ Other __________________________________________________________

Content
Material is presented impartially and without bias or distortion: _ X_Yes __ No
Compared to the standards from: New York State
Meets these standards: (Mark only one)
__ Inadequately __ Minimally __ X_Accurately __ Exceeds Them
Content is current. __ No __ Some __ Mostly __ X_Yes
Content is thorough. __ No __ Some __ Mostly __ X_Yes
Content is age appropriate. __ No __ Some __ Mostly __ X_Yes
Content is reliable. __ No __ Some __ Mostly __ X_Yes
Content is clear. __ No __ Some __ Mostly __ X_Yes
Content is fully referenced. __ No __ Some __ Mostly __ X_Yes

Assessment
Has pretest. __ Yes __ X_No
Has posttest. __ X_Yes __ No
Has record keeping by student. __ X_Yes __ No
Has record keeping by group. __ Yes __ X_No
Has assessment guidelines. __ Yes __ X_No

Technical Quality
Installation and Setup: __ Difficult __ Time consuming __ X_Simple
Sound is: _ X_Essential __ High quality __ Supplemental
Videos: __ Run jerkily __ Run smoothly __ X_Are essential __ Not essential

Reviewers Name: Alana White
Contact Information: whitac41@suny.oneonta.edu

Dated: 6/5/14
Instructional Design

CIRCLE THE MODES THAT APPLY

AC  AU  BL  CA  CP  DE  DP  EG  EX  GP  IN  LEP  MM  PS  RF  SI  TE  TL  TU

PROMOTES

Creativity
Higher-order thinking

Motivational

Student controls pacing
Stimulates curiosity

STRENGTHS: The software offers computer activities as well as an audio CD for on the go reinforcement. Also, it is both compatible with PC and MAC.

WEAKNESSES: Scripted conversations demonstrated are not authentic and colloquial.

DESCRIBE THE LEARNING STRATEGY INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN:
The learning strategy is a three step process; first explore, second learn, third practice. The student controls the pace at which they work.

RECOMMENDATIONS: I would recommend this software to individuals who wish to brush up on their Spanish, however I do not believe this software would be as effective in a classroom setting.
Educational Software Evaluation Form

Title: Hooked on Spanish Box Set, Ages 4-6
Publisher: Hooked on Phonics

Cost: $35.87

Teacher Support
DOCUMENTATION: _Binder _Booklet _Included on media _on Internet
INSTRUCTION MANUAL HAS:
__Objectives __Lesson plans __Sample screens
__Resource information __Reproducible student pages
_X_Student booklets
__Other ____________________________________________________________

Content
Material is presented impartially and without bias or distortion: _X_Yes ___No

Validated against the standards from: New York State
Meets these standards: (Mark only one)
_X_Inadequately _Minimaly _Appropriately _Exceeds Them

Content is current. _No __Some __Mostly X_Yes
Content is thorough. _No __Some __Mostly ___Yes
Content is age appropriate. _No __Some __Mostly X_Yes
Content is reliable. _No __Some __Mostly X_Yes
Content is clear. _No __Some __Mostly X_Yes
Content is fully referenced. _No __Some __Mostly X_Yes

Assessment
Has pretest. _Yes X_No
Has posttest. X_Yes ___No
Has record keeping by student. X_Yes ___No
Has record keeping by group. _Yes X_No
Has assessment guidelines. _Yes X_No

Technical Quality
Installation and Setup: __Difficult __Time consuming X_Simple
Sound: _X_Essential __High quality __Supplemental
Videos: __Run jerkily __Run smoothly X_Are essential __Not essential

Reviewer's Name: Alana White
Contact Information: whitac41@suny.oneonta.edu
Dated: 6/5/14

YOUR OVERALL RATING A-
Instructional Design

CIRCLE THE MODES THAT APPLY

AC  AU  BL  CA  CP  DE  DP  FG  EX  GP  IN  LEP  MM  PS  RF  SI  TE  TL  TU

PROMOTES

_ X_ Creativity  ___ Higher-order thinking  ___ Collaboration  ___ Problem solving  ___ Discovery  ___ X_ Memorization

MOTIVATIONAL

_ X_ Student controls pacing  _ X_ Stimulates curiosity  ___ X_ Challenging  ___ X_ Real-world connections

STRENGTHS:
The product is inexpensive for the resources provided. In addition to 3 CD’s, the user gets workbooks, a library of nine books, flash cards, and motivational tools as well. Also, the topics covered are right on track with the curriculum of an introductory course in Spanish. Even though the software is meant for PreK – 1, the topics covered are identical to Spanish 7 curriculum, so it could be used at the middle school level as well.

WEAKNESSES:
The product is dated in the sense that there are no internet facets or mobile apps available like many other current software products.

DESCRIBE THE LEARNING STRATEGY INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN:
Students work their way step-by-step through three levels of interactive CD-ROM’s, workbooks, and library books. According to the product description on Amazon.com, the student controls the pace at which they work through the material while “having fun at the same time.”

RECOMMENDATIONS:
Educational Software Evaluation Form

Title: Living Language Spanish, Complete Edition: Beginner through Advanced course
Publisher: Random House, LLC.
Copyright: 2011 Version: _________
Platform/version: _X_ Mac _X_ Windows
Media: __ Diskette __ CD-ROM ___ DVD
Also Needs: _X_ Internet _X_ Microphone _ Other ______
Cost: $49.99

Teacher Support
DOCUMENTATION: _ Binder _ Booklet _ Included on media _ on Internet
INSTRUCTION MANUAL HAS:
__ Objectives _X_ Lesson plans __ Sample screens
__ Resource information __ Reproducible student pages
__ Student booklets
__ Other ______________________________

Content
Material is presented impartially and without bias or distortion: _X_ Yes ___ No

Assessment
Has pretest. __ Yes _X_ No
Has posttest. _X_ Yes ___ No
Has record keeping by student. _X_ Yes ___ No
Has record keeping by group. _X_ Yes ___ No
Has assessment guidelines. _X_ Yes ___ No

Technical Quality
Installation and Setup: _Difficult ___ Time consuming _X_Simple
Sound: _X_Essential _X_High quality _ Supplemental
Videos: _X_Run jerkily ___ Run smoothly _X_Are essential ___ Not essential

Reviewer's Name: Alana White
Contact Information: whitac41@gmail.com

Dated: 6/5/14

Classroom
SUBJECT AREAS—Please circle all that apply

ASSESS IT MC SW
AT IN MM SC
CC KB PS SS
EC LA PRO DEV SN
HPR MA RL TE

Topic: Spanish Language

GRADESABILITY LEVELS—Circle the range
PK K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12
__Teacher also __Teacher only

READABILITY LEVEL—Circle one
Easier __Consistent ___ More difficult

STUDENT GROUPING
__X_ Individuals ___ Groups of 3 or 4
____ Pairs ___ Whole group

DESCRIPT THE CONTENT: This software includes three course books with forty-six lessons, nine audio CDs, free online learning through interactive games, and a bonus notebook for extra practice space. The content covered in this software ranges from Beginner to Advanced material. A CD-ROM disk drive is required as well as internet access in order to take advantage of the online interactive games and practice activities.

PROVIDES
Student journal _X_ Yes ___ No
E-mail option _X_ Yes ___ No
Spreadsheet _X_ Yes ___ No
Calculator _X_ Yes ___ No
Print options _X_ Yes ___ No
Other ______________________________

FINAL REPORT CARD
Teacher support A B C D F
Content A B C D F
Assessment A B C D F
Technical quality A B C D F
Instructional design A B C D F

YOUR OVERALL RATING __A__
Instructional Design

CIRCLE THE MODES THAT APPLY

AC  AU  BL  CA  CP  DE  DP  EX  GP  IN  LEP  MM  PS  RF  SI  TE  TL  TU

PROMOTES

__ Creativity  __ Higher-order thinking  __ Collaboration  __ Problem solving  X Discovery  X Memorization

MOTIVATIONAL

X Student controls pacing  X Stimulates curiosity  X Challenging  X Real-world connections

STRENGTHS:
This software has many strengths. First, it is technologically up to date. It offers not only CD's but an online component as well. Living Language also has a mobile application and twitter account that also prove useful for language learning. Second, the software is reasonably priced. Third, the software is designed appropriately for foreign language learners because it focuses on the individual needs of the student. The software does not expect adults to learn as if babies would through immersion alone, however it provides immersion opportunity with explicit instruction to compliment immersion.

WEAKNESSES:
The software does not offer live video chat with native speakers, you must take the “online course” in order to receive e-Tutoring services.

DESCRIBE THE LEARNING STRATEGY INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN:
The software uses the “Living Language Method” which was developed originally for the U.S. State Department. The four steps of the “Living Language Method” are 1. Build a Foundation, 2. Progress with Confidence, 3. Retain what you’ve Learned, and 4. Achieve your Goals. The method is based on student's “working with what they have” by using the same techniques that have helped them with their own native language as individuals. The method fails Rosetta Stone’s method because it breaks down the language into steps whereas Rosetta Stone requires students to absorb a language as an infant would. Living Language does not require students to only absorb, it provides the immersion aspect with the explicit instruction adults need to complement immersion.

RECOMMENDATIONS: I would recommend this software to anyone looking to learn Spanish. The methodology is sound and this software could be used in an individual or classroom setting. I hope to purchase this software for my own classroom.
Educational Software Evaluation Form

Title: Rosetta Stone Spanish (Spain) Level 1
Publisher: Rosetta Stone
Copyright: ______ Version: ______
Platform/version: X Mac _ X Windows
Media: _ Diskette _ CD-ROM _ DVD
Also Needs: _ X Internet _ X Microphone _ Other ______
Cost: $179.00

Teacher Support
DOCUMENTATION: _ _Binder _Booklet _Included on media _on Internet
INSTRUCTION MANUAL HAS:
__ Objectives __ Lesson plans __ Sample screens
__ Resource information __ Reproducible student pages
__ Student booklets __ Other _________________________

Content
Material is presented impartially and without bias or distortion: _ X Yes _ No
Compared to the standards from: New York State
Meets these standards: (Mark only one)
__ Inadequately ___ Minimaly _ _X Appropriately ___ Exceeds Them
Content is current. _ _No __ Some __ Mostly _ X Yes
Content is thorough. _ _No __ Some __ Mostly _ X Yes
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Content is reliable. _ _No __ Some __ Mostly _ X Yes
Content is clear. _ _No __ Some __ X Mostly _ X Yes
Content is fully referenced. _ _No __ Some __ Mostly _ X Yes

Assessment
Has pretest. _ _Yes _ _X No
Has posttest. _ _Yes _ _X No
Has record keeping by student. _ _Yes _ _X No
Has record keeping by group. _ _Yes _ _X No
Has assessment guidelines. _ _Yes _ _X No

Technical Quality
Installation and Setup: _ _Difficult _ _Time consuming _ X Simple
Sound is: _ X Essential _ _High quality _ _Supplemental
Videos: _ _Run jerkily _ _Run smoothly _ _Are essential _ _Not essential

DISCRIBE THE CONTENT: This software helps students build a foundation of fundamental vocabulary and essential language structure through speech activation, native socialization, and natural discovery. The method of the software is based on recreating how students learned their native language through immersion. The topics covered with this software include greetings, introductions, simple questions and answers, and shopping.

PROVIDES
Student journal _ _X Yes _ _X No
E-mail option _ _Yes _ _X No
Spreadsheet _ _Yes _ _X No
Calculator _ _Yes _ _X No
Print options _ _Yes _ _X No
Other _________________________

Teacher Support
DOCUMENTATION: _ _Binder _Booklet _Included on media _on Internet
INSTRUCTION MANUAL HAS:
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Calculator _ _Yes _ _X No
Print options _ _Yes _ _X No
Other _________________________

FINAL REPORT CARD
Teacher support A B C D F
Content A B C D F
Assessment A B C D F
Technical quality A B C D F
Instructional design A B C D F

YOUR OVERALL RATING : C
Instructional Design

CIRCLE THE MODES THAT APPLY

AC  AU  BL  CA  CP  DE  DP  EG  EX  GP  IN  LEP  MM  PS  RF  SI  TE  TL  TU

PROMOTES

__ Creativity  __ Higher-order thinking  ____ Collaboration  __ Problem solving  __ X Discovery  _ X Memorization

MOTIVATIONAL

X Student controls pacing  X Stimulates curiosity  _ X Challenging  _ X Real-world connections

STRENGTHS:

This software is compatible with both Mac and PC in addition to offering a mobile application for Apple devices. The software can also support up to 5 different users on 2 different computers.

Also, the program offers native speaker tutors for live video conferencing in the target language.

Finally, the program promotes discovery and gives real-world connections for vocabulary.

WEAKNESSES:

For adults, the concept of learning a foreign language as a native language through natural discovery is not always the most effective way to learn. Adults and students in middle and high school typically need explicit instruction of the conventions of a foreign language accompanied by immersion, not just immersion alone. Rosetta Stone unfortunately does not offer this explicit instruction necessary for long term retention and deep understanding for adult learners.

Also, the pronunciation assessment is not very accurate at all. As a fluent Spanish speaker testing the demo software of Rosetta Stone, according to the software I was only able to produce 1 correct pronunciation of 4 simple Spanish words. I was positive my pronunciation was accurate, however the program was not able to recognize the correct pronunciation. If I had been a beginner, I would have thought my pronunciation was incorrect when in fact it was not. Although this function may look good on paper, in practice it is not effective.

DESCRIBE THE LEARNING STRATEGY INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN:

The method of the software is based on recreating how students learned their native language through immersion.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

I might recommend this software for individuals reviewing Spanish skills, not to beginners or to teachers looking for software to serve as an instructional tool. This could be a good resource for older students and adult learners looking to brush up on language skills before traveling, but I would not recommend it to a beginner with no previous concept of the grammatical structures of the target language.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Alana White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Stockbridge Valley Central School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade or Department</td>
<td><strong>Spanish</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Software Title</td>
<td>Living Language Spanish: Complete Edition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Random House, LLC.</td>
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<td>Content Area</td>
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<td>Topic</td>
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<td>Targeted Grade Level</td>
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**TYPE OF LICENSE TO BE PURCHASED** *(CHECK ONE)*

- ✔ Single Computer
- ✔ Site License
- ✔ Lab Pack
- ✔ Network License

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer / Processor Required</td>
<td>Hard-Drive Space Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM Required</td>
<td>Additional Hardware Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compatibility With Existing Software</td>
<td>Other Requirements</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**SOFTWARE CATEGORY**

- ✔ Presentation
- ✔ Multimedia
- ✔ Simulation
- ✔ Data Processing
- ✔ Tutorial
- ✔ Educational Game
- ✔ Reference
- ✔ Graphics

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claim</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The directions are clear and easy to follow.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s easy to start and exit the program.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Users can easily resume where they left off in the program.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The program functions well and is free of bugs.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The program is enjoyable to use.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The graphic elements are meaningful and appropriate.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound can be turned on and off.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The software contains useful management features.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic tasks are easily learned and intuitive.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced features are easy to access and apply.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menu-driven tutorials are built into the program.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What specific curricular and technology standards will be addressed by this software?
This software will improve students' Spanish language and 21st century media literacy skills.

What are your instructional goals for using this software?
To improve students' Spanish language skills with individualized, engaging material.

Have you found reviews of this software? If so, summarize comments from the reviews:
Yes. Most reviews of verified purchasers have compared the product to Rosetta Stone and have preferred this product.

Have you tested the software in the classroom? If so, summarize what you did with the software, and rate its usefulness to the learning process:
I have not yet tested the software in a classroom setting.

If you haven’t used the software before, do you know colleagues who have? If so, indicate how they used the software and their general evaluation:
I have not used the software before, but I have used the free online language resources available. These resources are appropriate and effective.

Other comments or information:
**PURCHASING INFORMATION**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
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<td>Product ID Number</td>
<td>ISBN: 9780307478597</td>
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<td>Recommended Vendor</td>
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<td>see website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor Phone Number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Selection Committee Comments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Purchase Recommendation</td>
<td>✔ Yes ✔ No</td>
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**Technology Coordinator Notes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of purchase</td>
<td>6/5/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software license number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation information, notes, and location(s)</td>
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</table>