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Nota di contenuto	1 Gender of nouns -- 2 Plural of nouns -- 3 Articles -- 4 Adjectives -- 5 Comparison of adjectives and adverbs -- 6 Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns -- 7 Neuter article and pronouns -- 8 Possessive adjectives and pronouns -- 9 Miscellaneous adjectives and pronouns -- 10 Numerals -- 11 Personal pronouns -- 12 Le/les and lo/la/los/las -- 13 Forms of verbs -- 14 Use of indicative (non-continuous) verb forms -- 15 Continuous forms of the verb -- 16 The subjunctive -- 17 The imperative -- 18 The infinitive -- 19 Participles -- 20 The gerund -- 21 Modal auxiliary verbs -- 22 Personal a -- 23 Negation -- 24 Interrogation and exclamation -- 25 Conditional sentences -- 26 Pronominal verbs -- 27 Verbs of becoming -- 28 Passive and impersonal sentences -- 29 Ser and estar -- 30 Existential sentences(' there is/are', etc.) -- 31 Adverbs -- 32 Expressions of time -- 33 Conjunctions -- 34 Prepositions -- 35 Relative clauses and pronouns -- 36 Nominalizers and cleft sentences -- 37 Word order -- 38 Diminutive, augmentative and pejorative suffixes -- 39 Spelling, accent rules, punctuation and word division -- Bibliography and sources -- Index of English words -- Index of Spanish words and grammatical points.

(abridged and revised) This reference grammar offers intermediate and advanced students a reasonably comprehensive guide to the morphology and syntax of educated speech and plain prose in Spain and Latin America at the end of the twentieth century. Spanish is the main, usually the sole official language of twenty-one countries, and it is set fair to overtake English by the year 2000 in numbers of native speakers. This vast geographical and political diversity ensures that Spanish is a good deal less unified than French, German or even English, the latter more or less internationally standardized according to either American or British norms. Until the 1960s, the criteria of internationally correct Spanish were dictated by the Real Academia Espanola, but the prestige of this institution has now sunk so low that its most solemn decrees are hardly taken seriously - witness the fate of the spelling reforms listed in the Nuevas normas de prosodia y ortografia, which were supposed to come into force in all Spanish-speaking countries in 1959 and, nearly forty years later, are still selectively ignored by publishers and literate persons everywhere. The fact is that in Spanish 'correctness' is nowadays decided, as it is in all living languages, by the consensus of native speakers; but consensus about linguistic usage is obviously difficult to achieve between more than twenty independent, widely scattered and sometimes mutually hostile countries. Peninsular Spanish is itself in flux.
