



# Spanish: A new vision of Life

## The Dominican Republic: El Merengue

The Merengue is the national dance of Dominican Republic and originated in the first half of the 19th century.

The origin of the Merengue is not known, but it is supposed to be a combination of European dance forms based on the contredanse, mazurka, polka, quadrille, and waltz.

In Merengue, men and women hold each other in waltz-like position and step to their side in what is known as "paso de

la empalizada". They can turn clockwise or counterclockwise.

There are different forms of Merengue: "el Merengue de salon", slower than the one danced in clubs and restaurants, while maintaining a closed dance position, and "el Merengue de figura" in which dancers perform turns individually while holding onto at least one hand of their partner. Merengue is now one of the standard Latin American dances.



The road to success is not straight. There is a curb called Failure, a loop called Confusion; speed bumps called Friends; red lights called Enemies; caution lights called Family. You will have flats called jobs. But, if you have a spare called Determination; an engine called Perseverance; insurance called Faith, and a driver called Jesus, you will make it to a place called Success!! Author Unknown

We will be learning about:

Holidays

Holidays Activities

Party foods

Party activities

Getting ready for activities

### Special points of interest:

- Preterite of -er and -ir verbs
- Review of the preterite
- Pensar que and pensar with infinitives
- Conoces and personal a
- Present progressive
- Review of direct object pronouns

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know about the developments in our Spanish class, and I am pleased to inform you about our progress. We now are moving on to Unidad 9. This unit concentrates on the people, places, and traditions of Dominican Republic while presenting your child with a diverse set of activities to fos-

ter developing reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in Dominican Republic.

Upon finishing Unidad 9, your child will be able to use the new vocabulary and grammar to talk and write about his/her own experiences. Additionally, your child will be able to compare Spanish language and culture to his/her own cultural backgrounds.

### Culture

- ◆ Dominican carnival
- ◆ Hispanic celebrations in Florida
- ◆ Special birthdays: la quinceañera
- ◆ Dancing at parties