

THE SPANISH VERB WALL: CONJUGATE OR COMMUNICATE?

presented by Pam Kaatz

The SPANISH VERB WALL is a classroom display (8' x 18') used as a reference tool that enables students to acquire verbs randomly through communication rather than sequentially through conjugation. This overview of the entire Spanish verb system uses colors, symbols, fonts, graphics and locations to empower students to begin communicating in tenses they have not yet "studied" or "mastered." Like a visitor to a city with his map, the student maneuvers his way through the complicated verb system, learning as he goes.

Demonstration lessons will show teachers how to:

- ▶▶ give meaningful context to verb tenses
- ▶▶ break free of conjugation order
- ▶▶ re-think the teaching of verbs in the traditional sequence of tenses
- ▶▶ strengthen their own understanding of the inner-workings of Spanish verb forms
- ▶▶ teach grammar without “grammarest”

Students who are taught verbs by rote conjugation suffer from **LLBDS**—**Language Learners Brain Damage Syndrome**. They are unable to move freely from one form to another, from one tense to another without listing the forms.

In order for teachers to understand how to use the SVW, this workshop is usually taught by blending in aspects of the Building Artificial Realities Workshop. For example, several demonstration lessons are conducted in Russian so that the participants experience learning pronouns and verbs with the visual and physical approach.