“Hola with Lola”, an Interactive Spanish Grammar Digital Tool

“Hola with Lola” began with the desire to create a relevant and interesting yet useful study tool for high school Spanish students. It then evolved into an online resource that can serve any number of purposes, such as an accompaniment to a high school or college Spanish class, a study aid for tests, extra practice, a refresher on information already learned, or even as a simple way to learn a new language. Both inside and outside of the classroom, the site focuses on a crucial concept of language learning: the importance of context. “Hola with Lola” develops a continuous context throughout its lessons, each one with its own “telenovela”-like story, dialogues, and cartoon comics. Language-learners follow Lola and her friends through the ups and downs of love, friendship, school, and learning Spanish all wrapped up into one, at the same time that they increase and reinforce their Spanish learning. Lessons are organized by parts of speech and each one includes a mini-lesson on the subject, cross-links to related topics covered in the lesson, a dialogue and comics from Lola and her friends for context, and a self-check quiz. These elements combined create an at-home learning environment which is essential for the increasing number of secondary education flipped classrooms. Students can learn the lesson at home, take the self-check quiz to see which parts of the lesson might need clarification, and then practice the concepts in class and ask questions as needed. This digital tool is not intended to be used as a stand-alone Spanish language course, but rather as supplemental material to clarify and give a different perspective on many of the grammatical concepts. Since the site focuses on grammar rather than vocabulary, Lola and her friends add humor and real-life scenarios to each concept. This extra layer of context increases interest and concept comprehension, which is the main goal of “Hola with Lola” for all who use the site.