

Nouns

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea. Examples of nouns in English include ‘park’, ‘Madrid’ and ‘noun’. In Spanish, every noun is either **masculine** or **feminine**. This does not mean the nouns are actually ‘male’ or ‘female’. It is simply a way to split nouns into two groups. Here are some ways to identify whether a noun is masculine or feminine.

Masculine

Most Spanish words that end in ‘**o**’ are

masculine:

libro - book

cerebro - brain

Feminine

Most Spanish words that end in ‘**a**’ are

feminine:

mesa - table

casa - house

Most Spanish words that end in ‘**dad**’ are

feminine:

ciudad - city

Navidad - Christmas

Most Spanish words that end in ‘**ción**’ or ‘**sión**’ are

feminine:

natación - swimming

televisión - television

There are some exceptions to these rules. For example the noun ‘**mano**’ means ‘**hand**’ but it is **feminine** despite ending in an **o**.

And the noun ‘**problema**’ means ‘**problem**’ but it is **masculine** despite ending in an **a**.

Articles

In grammar, an **article** is a word like ‘**a**’, ‘**an**’ or ‘**the**’ that comes before a **noun** to specify whether it is **general** or **specific**. In English, there are **definite** articles and **indefinite** articles.

Definite article - ‘**the**’ - when talking about something specific - I like the dog

Indefinite article - ‘**a**’ / ‘**an**’ / ‘**some**’ - when talking about something general - I have a dog

Spanish also has **definite** and **indefinite** articles. But in Spanish, they change depending on the **gender** (masculine or feminine) and **number** (singular or plural) of the noun. Nouns in Spanish are made plural by adding an ‘**s**’ on the end, or an ‘**es**’ if the noun ends in a consonant.

Definite articles:

	masculine	feminine
singular	El	La
plural	Los	Las
el gato - the cat		la taza - the cup
los gatos - the cats		las tazas - the cups

Indefinite articles:

	masculine	feminine
singular	Un	Una
plural	Unos	Unas
un gato - a cat		una taza - a cup
unos gatos - some cats		unas tazas - some cups

Adjectives

An adjective is a word that describes a noun. Examples in English are ‘green’, ‘slow’ and ‘English’. In Spanish the adjective usually comes **after** the noun, and must also agree with the noun’s **gender** and **number**. This means when an adjective describes a singular, masculine noun, the adjective must also be in the singular, masculine form. Here is how to do that with different Spanish adjectives. Most adjectives follow these rules:

Most Spanish adjectives end in ‘o’ - for example, **rojo** (red) :

	masculine	feminine
singular	rojo	roja
plural	rojos	rojas
el gato rojo – the red cat		
la taza roja – the red cup		
los gatos rojos – the red cats		
las tazas rojas – the red cups		

Some Spanish adjectives end in ‘e’ - for example, **grande** (big) :

	masculine	feminine
singular	grande	grande
plural	grandes	grandes

Changes for
number, but not
for gender

Some Spanish adjectives end in a consonant - for example, **azul** (blue) :

	masculine	feminine
singular	azul	azul
plural	azules	azules

Changes for
number, but not
for gender

el gato azul – the blue cat

la taza azul – the blue cup

los gatos azules – the blue cats

las tazas azules – the blue cups

Comparatives

A **comparative** is a word form (usually an adjective or adverb) used to compare two things, showing more or less of a quality — e.g., taller, more interesting, faster.

In Spanish, comparatives express differences between two things by using más, menos, or special irregular forms.

You say **más + adjective + que** to mean “more ... than,” like más alto que (“taller than”).

To say “less ... than,” you use **menos + adjective + que**, as in menos caro que (“less expensive than”).

To say things are **equal**, you use **tan + adjective + como**, such as tan rápido como (“as fast as”).

Some adjectives are irregular, like **mejor** (better), **peor** (worse), **mayor** (older), and **menor** (younger).

Mi casa es **más grande que**
la tuya.
My house is bigger than yours.

Este libro es **menos**
interesante **que** el otro.
This book is less interesting than the other one.

Mi hermano es **mayor que yo**.
My brother is older than me.

Superlatives

A **superlative** shows that something has the highest or lowest degree of a quality — it’s the “most” or “least” form, like the tallest, the fastest, or the most beautiful.

In Spanish, superlatives show that something has the highest or lowest degree of a quality. They’re formed with **el/la/los/las + más or menos + adjective**, matching the noun’s gender and number — for example, **la chica más alta** (“the tallest girl”) or **el coche menos caro** (“the least expensive car”).

Some adjectives are irregular, such as **el mejor** (“the best”) and **el peor** (“the worst”).

María es la **más** inteligente de la clase.

María is the most intelligent in the class.

Este hotel es el **menos** caro de la ciudad.

This hotel is the least expensive in the city.

Ellos son los **mejores** del equipo.

They are the best on the team.

Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjectives show **ownership** or **relationship** — they tell us whose something is.

In English, these are words like **my, your, his, her, our, their**.

In Spanish, they agree with the gender and number of the noun they modify, not the owner.

owner	mASCULINE SINGULAR	fEMININE SINGULAR	mASCULINE PLURAL	fEMININE PLURAL
yo	mi	mi	mis	mis
tú	tu	tu	tus	tus
él / ella	su	su	sus	sus
nosotros	nuestro	nuestra	nuestros	nuestras
vosotros	vuestro	vuestra	vuestros	vuestras
ellos / ellas	su	su	sus	sus

Mi hermana y mi hermano van a su nueva escuela.

My sister and my brother go to their new school.

Tu padre y tu madre vendieron su casa.

Your father and your mother sold their house.

Nuestros amigos y nuestras primas vienen a su fiesta.

Our friends and our cousins (all female) are coming to his party.

Verbs

A verb is an action word. Examples in English include ‘play’, ‘run’ and ‘include’. In English, we change the verb slightly depending on who is doing it and when they did it. For example we say ‘I play’, ‘he plays’ and ,in the past tense, ‘I played’. This is called **verb conjugation** – the process of changing a verb depending on who is doing it and when they did it.

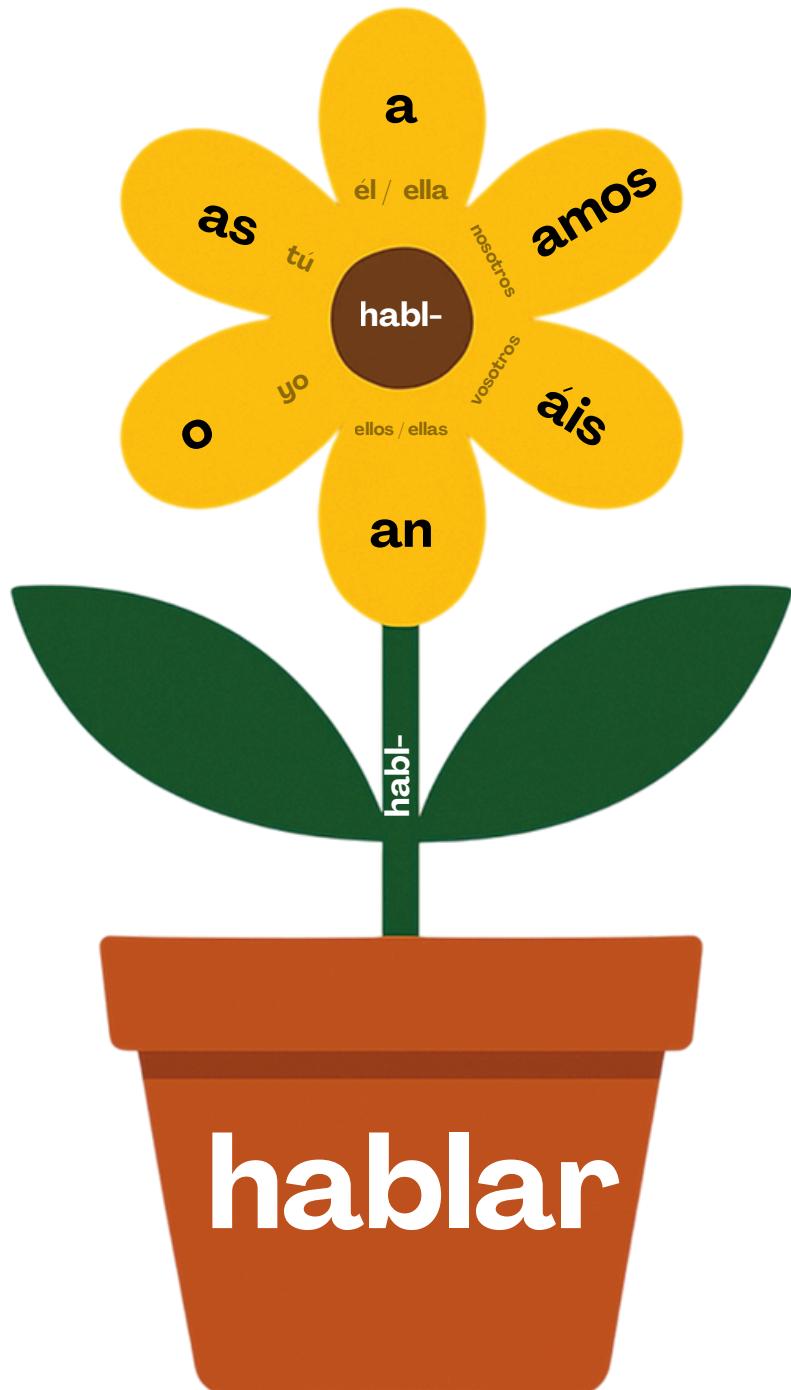
An infinitive is the base form of a verb, before you change (or “conjugate”) it. It’s the form you’ll find in the dictionary — the “to + verb” form in English. For example, ‘to run’, ‘to speak’.

There are three types of infinitive in Spanish: ones that end in ‘-ar’ (e.g. hablar – to speak), ones that end in ‘-er’ (e.g. comer – to eat), and ones that end in ‘-ir’ (e.g. vivir – to live).

This is how they are conjugated in the present tense:

	-ar	-er	-ir
Yo I	o	o	o
Tú You	as	es	es
Él / Ella He / She	a	e	e
Nosotros We	amos	emos	imos
Vosotros You (plural)	áis	éis	ís
Ellos / Ellas They	an	en	en

Conjugation



3. Add the appropriate ending to the verb stem. For example, 'I speak' would be 'yo hablo'.

2. Remove the infinitive ending (either ar, er, or ir) to get the verb stem - 'habl'

1. Start off with the infinitive - hablar

Irregular Verbs

There are some verbs that do not follow these rules at all. These verbs are called **irregular verbs**. They change unpredictably so their conjugations must be memorised. Two very important ones are **ser** (to be) and **ir** (to go).

	ser	ir
Yo I	soy I am	voy I go
Tú You	eres You are	vas You go
Él / Ella He / She	es He / She / It is	va He / She / It goes
Nosotros We	somos We are	vamos We go
Vosotros You (plural)	sois You (pl) are	vais You (pl) go
Ellos / Ellas They	son They are	van They go

Examples:

Las tazas **son** rojas - The cups are red

don't forget the adjective has to be feminine and plural

Voy a la piscina - I go to the swimming pool

Stem - changing verbs

A **stem-changing verb** is a verb where the middle part of the word (the stem) **changes** spelling when you conjugate it, but the endings stay regular. In Spanish, every verb has two parts:

the stem, which gives the basic meaning

the ending (-ar, -er, or -ir), which shows the verb family

For example, in **pensar** (to think):

stem = pens-

ending = -ar

When you conjugate pensar, the endings follow the normal -ar pattern, but the stem pens- changes to **piens-** in some forms:
yo pienso, tú piensas, él piensa, ellos piensan.

However, the **nosotros** and **vosotros** forms stay **regular**: pensamos, pensáis.

So, a stem-changing verb is one that changes its vowel sound inside the stem for most forms but keeps the regular endings.

Common types of changes are:

e → ie (pensar → pienso)

o → ue (poder → puedo)

e → i (pedir → pido)

u → ue (jugar → juego)

For stem changing verbs, the stem does not usually change in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

Opinion verbs

Some Spanish verbs are used to talk about **opinions** and feelings, such as what you like, love, or find interesting.

They don't work like normal verbs.

In Spanish you don't say "I like chocolate", you say "**chocolate pleases me.**"
So the sentence is built the other way round.

You use a small pronoun before the verb to show who feels it.

For example:

me gusta el chocolate → I like chocolate

te gusta la pizza → you like pizza

le gusta el fútbol → he or she likes football

nos gusta el cine → we like the cinema

os gusta la camiseta → you (pl) like the T-shirt

les gusta la música → they like music

Notice that in Spanish you must use the **article** (el, la, los, las) before the thing you like.

You can't just say me gusta chocolate — it must be **me gusta el chocolate**.

Spanish always treats the thing as something specific, not general.

The verb changes depending on what comes after it.

If the thing you like is singular or an activity, use gusta.

Example: me gusta el helado, me gusta bailar.

If the thing you like is plural, use gustan.

Example: me gustan los helados, nos gustan los animales.

Other verbs work in the same way as gustar.

me encanta la música → I love music

me interesan los deportes → I'm interested in sports

me molestan los deberes → homework annoys me

me importa mi familia → my family matters to me

So remember: the thing is doing the action, not the person.

gusta really means "it pleases", so "me gusta" means "it pleases me."

Ser vs Estar

Key points about the verb 'to be' in Spanish

The verbs ser and estar both mean 'to be'.

Ser is used with permanent things.

Estar is used with temporary things.

Adjectives can change their meaning according to whether ser or estar is used.

Estoy aburrido - I am bored

Soy aburrido - I am boring

When to use **ser**:

Identity / profession

Origin / nationality

Characteristics / Personality

Time and date

Possession

Material

Events (location of)

Soy camarero - I am a waiter

Lucas es de Inglaterra - Lucas is from England

Marco es gordo - Marco is fat

Son las doce de la noche - It's 12 at night

La fiesta es en mi casa - The party is at my house

El bolígrafo es de Juan - The pen is Juan's

La mesa es de madera - The table is made of wood

La Navidad es el 25 de diciembre - Christmas is on the 25th of December

When to use **estar**:

Location (of people/things)

Temporary states / conditions

Emotions

Estoy en casa - I'm at home

Estoy cansado - I'm tired

Ella está triste - She is sad

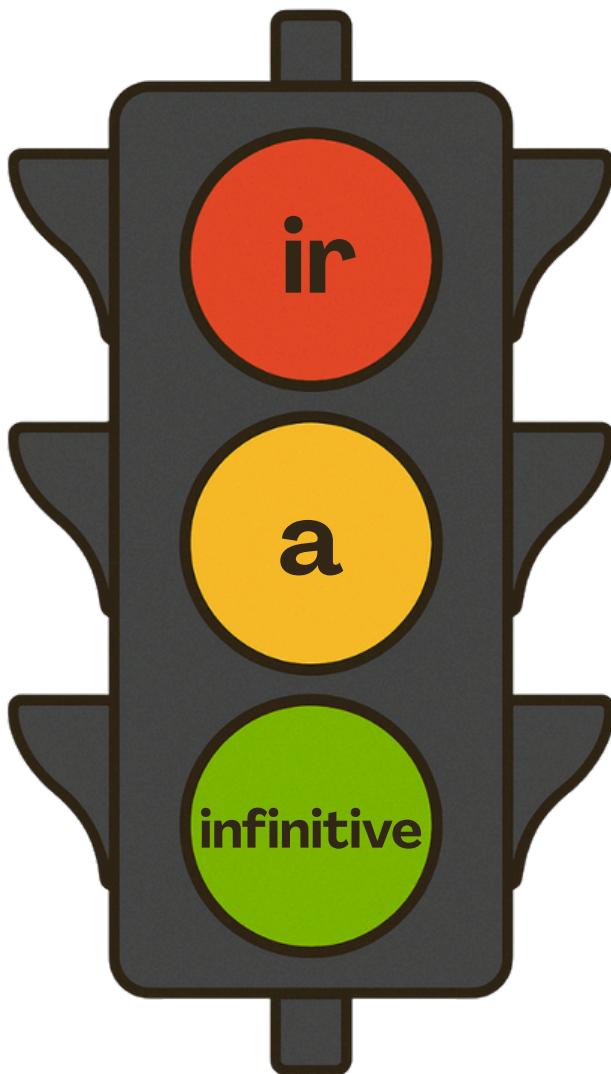
Near future tense

The near future tense is a tense which, in English, is expressed using the verb ‘to go’. For example, ‘I am going to run’ or ‘we are going to have fun’.

In Spanish it is formed using the verb ‘**ir**’, meaning ‘to go’. This verb is irregular.

There are three steps to forming the near future tense.

A breakdown of the process to say ‘you are going to dance’:



Start off with the infinitive ‘**ir**’. This needs to be conjugated. We want to say ‘**you go**’ which is the tú form, so this becomes ‘**vas**’.

The next step is to always add ‘**a**’ which means ‘to’. This never changes.

Finally we must add the infinitive. We want ‘to dance’ which is ‘**bailar**’. It must always be in the infinitive form, **never conjugated**.

vas

a

bailar

vas a bailar

you are going to dance

Examples:

Voy a jugar - I am going to play

Van a decir - They are going to say

No va a hablar - He / She / it is not going to speak

Preterite

How to use the preterite:

Use the Spanish **preterite tense** for completed actions in the past that had a definite beginning and end.

	-ar	-er	-ir
Yo	é	í	í
Tú You	aste	iste	iste
Él / Ella He / She	ó	ío	ío
Nosotros We	amos	imos	imos
Vosotros You (plural)	asteis	isteis	isteis
Ellos / Ellas They	aron	ieron	ieron

Fui al mercado. → I went to the market.

Comí una manzana. → I ate an apple.

Ellos **estudiaron** mucho. → They studied a lot.

Ella **escribió** una carta. → She wrote a letter.

Nosotros **viajamos** a México. → We travelled to Mexico.

Tú vs Usted

Usted is a polite form of **tú** (which means **you**), which is used with:

- People older than you**
- Strangers**
- Other formal settings**

There is also a plural for **usted** which is **ustedes** used when you are addressing **multiple people** politely.

Tú eres cortés - Usted es cortés - You are polite
Vosotros sois grandes - Ustedes son grandes - You (pl) are tall

When using **usted**, verbs are **conjugated in the he/she/it form instead of the tu form**.

For **ustedes**, verbs are **conjugated in the they form instead of the vosotros form**.

*Outside of Spain, the vosotros form is not frequently used and **ustedes** is preferred.

Reflexive Verbs

SUBJECT PRONOUN	REFLEXIVE PRONOUN
YO	ME
TÚ	TE
EL/ELLA	SE
NOSOTROS	NOS
VOSOTROS	OS
ELLOS/ELLAS	SE

Reflexive verbs are verbs which usually have an action done to the subject of the verb, but do not have to be (for example **quejarse** - to complain). These verbs need **reflexive pronouns**, which in English are words like 'myself'. These make it clear who the action is being done to.

Me lavo – I wash myself
Se acuesta – He goes to bed
Nos divertimos – We enjoy ourselves

The reflexive pronoun goes **between the subject pronoun and the conjugated verb**.

When reflexive verbs are written in the infinitive form,
(in the dictionary, equivalent to English 'to + verb')
the reflexive pronoun **se** is included, this has to be changed when conjugating to **match the subject pronoun**.

lavarse = to wash oneself
te lavas = you wash yourself

Adverbs

An **adverb** is a word that describes or modifies a **verb, adjective**, or another **adverb**. It tells us **how, when, where, or to what extent** something happens.

Ella habla **suavemente**. → She speaks **gently**.

Estoy **muy** cansado. → I am **very** tired.

Most adjectives undergo the following process to be turned into adverbs:

(1)

claro

(2)

clara

(3)

claramente
clearly

constante

constante

constantemente
constantly

Adjective

Make adjective feminine

Add '-mente'

bueno → **bien**

Él canta bien. → He sings well.

mejor → **mejor**

Ella juega mejor. → She plays better.

malo → **mal**

Me siento mal. → I feel bad

peor → **peor**

Ella juega peor. → She plays worse

Prepositions

Prepositions are words that **indicate the relationship** between the words that they link,

In English, examples of prepositions are words such as: '**of**', '**at**', '**to**', '**inside**', '**since**'.

Since Spanish and English prepositions have a wide range of uses, where English uses the same preposition for two different sentences, Spanish may use different ones.

General translations of common Spanish prepositions:

a - to

(Anywhere where there is an a + el, it changes to al)

de - of / from

(Anywhere where there is an de + el, it changes to del)

en - in / on

sobre - about

con - with

sin - without

Examples:

1. Voy **a** la escuela. – I go to school.
2. El regalo es **de** mi madre. – The gift is from my mother.
3. El gato está **en** la cama. – The cat is on the bed.
4. Hablamos **sobre** los animales. – We talk about animals.
5. Estudio **para** sacar buenas notas. – I study in order to get good grades.
6. No puedo vivir **sin** música. – I can't live without music.
7. Bebo café **con** leche. – I drink coffee with milk.
8. Vamos **al** parque. – We go to the park. (a + el → al)
9. El libro **del** profesor es nuevo. – The teacher's book is new. (de + el → del)
10. El perro duerme **en** el jardín. – The dog sleeps in the garden.
11. Escribo un texto **sobre** mi familia. – I write a text about my family.
12. El té está **sin** azúcar. – The tea is without sugar.
13. Voy **con** mis amigos al cine. – I go with my friends to the cinema.