

# 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.



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             | <b>El</b>  | <b>La</b>            |
| plural               | <b>Los</b> | <b>Las</b>           |
| el gato - the cat    |            | la taza - the cup    |
| los gatos - the cats |            | las tazas - the cups |

## Indefinite articles:

|                        | masculine   | feminine               |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| singular               | <b>Un</b>   | <b>Una</b>             |
| plural                 | <b>Unos</b> | <b>Unas</b>            |
| 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

# Verbs

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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.

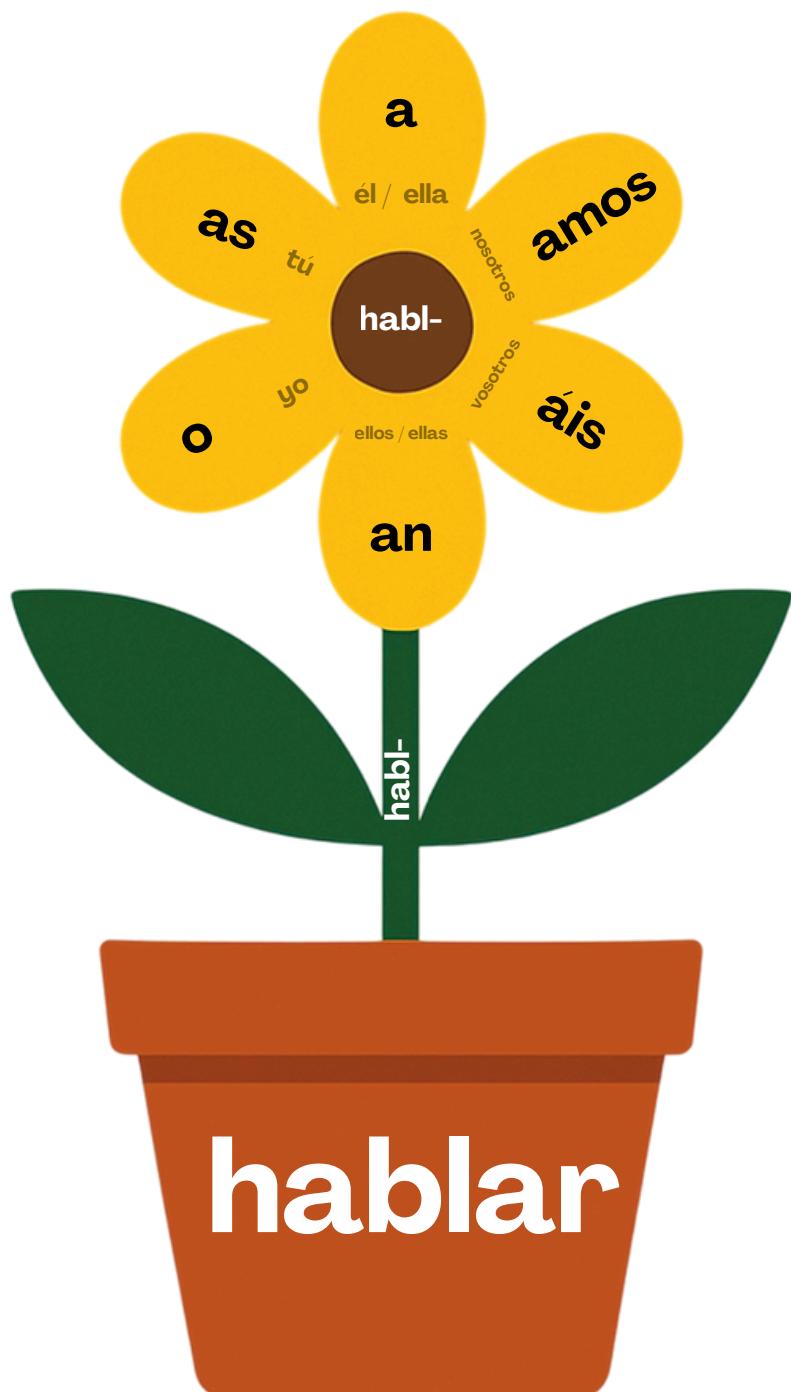
An infinitive is the base form of a verb, before you change (or “conjugate”) it. It’s the form you’ll find in the dictionary — the “to + verb” form in English. For example, ‘to run’, ‘to speak’.

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<br>I                  | o    | o    | o    |
| Tú<br>You                | as   | es   | es   |
| Él / Ella<br>He / She    | a    | e    | e    |
| Nosotros<br>We           | amos | emos | imos |
| Vosotros<br>You (plural) | áis  | éis  | ís   |
| Ellos / Ellas<br>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).

|                                 | <b>ser</b>                    | <b>ir</b>                       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Yo</b><br>I                  | <b>soy</b><br>I am            | <b>voy</b><br>I go              |
| <b>Tú</b><br>You                | <b>eres</b><br>You are        | <b>vas</b><br>You go            |
| <b>Él / Ella</b><br>He / She    | <b>es</b><br>He / She / It is | <b>va</b><br>He / She / It goes |
| <b>Nosotros</b><br>We           | <b>somos</b><br>We are        | <b>vamos</b><br>We go           |
| <b>Vosotros</b><br>You (plural) | <b>sois</b><br>You (pl) are   | <b>vais</b><br>You (pl) go      |
| <b>Ellos / Ellas</b><br>They    | <b>son</b><br>They are        | <b>van</b><br>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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

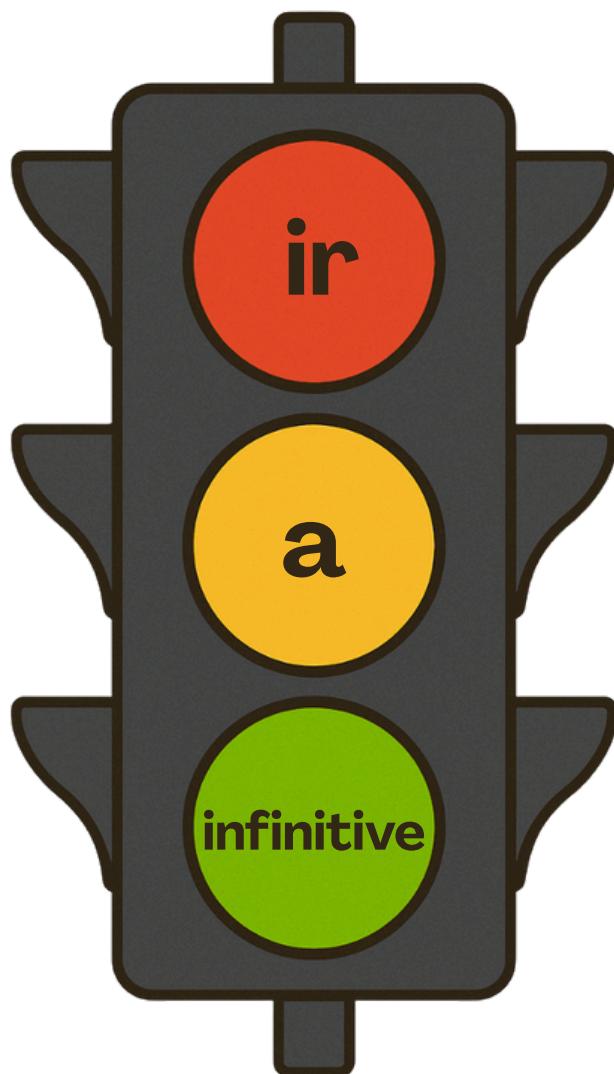
# Near future tense

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

# 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 |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>yo</b>            | <b>mi</b>          | <b>mi</b>         | <b>mis</b>       | <b>mis</b>      |
| <b>tú</b>            | <b>tu</b>          | <b>tu</b>         | <b>tus</b>       | <b>tus</b>      |
| <b>él / ella</b>     | <b>su</b>          | <b>su</b>         | <b>sus</b>       | <b>sus</b>      |
| <b>nosotros</b>      | <b>nuestro</b>     | <b>nuestra</b>    | <b>nuestros</b>  | <b>nuestras</b> |
| <b>vosotros</b>      | <b>vuestro</b>     | <b>vuestra</b>    | <b>vuestros</b>  | <b>vuestras</b> |
| <b>ellos / ellas</b> | <b>su</b>          | <b>su</b>         | <b>sus</b>       | <b>sus</b>      |

**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.

# 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.