

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 - The cup

Unos gatos - Some cats Unas tazas - The 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

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 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 red cat

la taza azul - the red cup

los gatos azules - the red cats

las tazas azules - the red 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 their best on the team.

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.

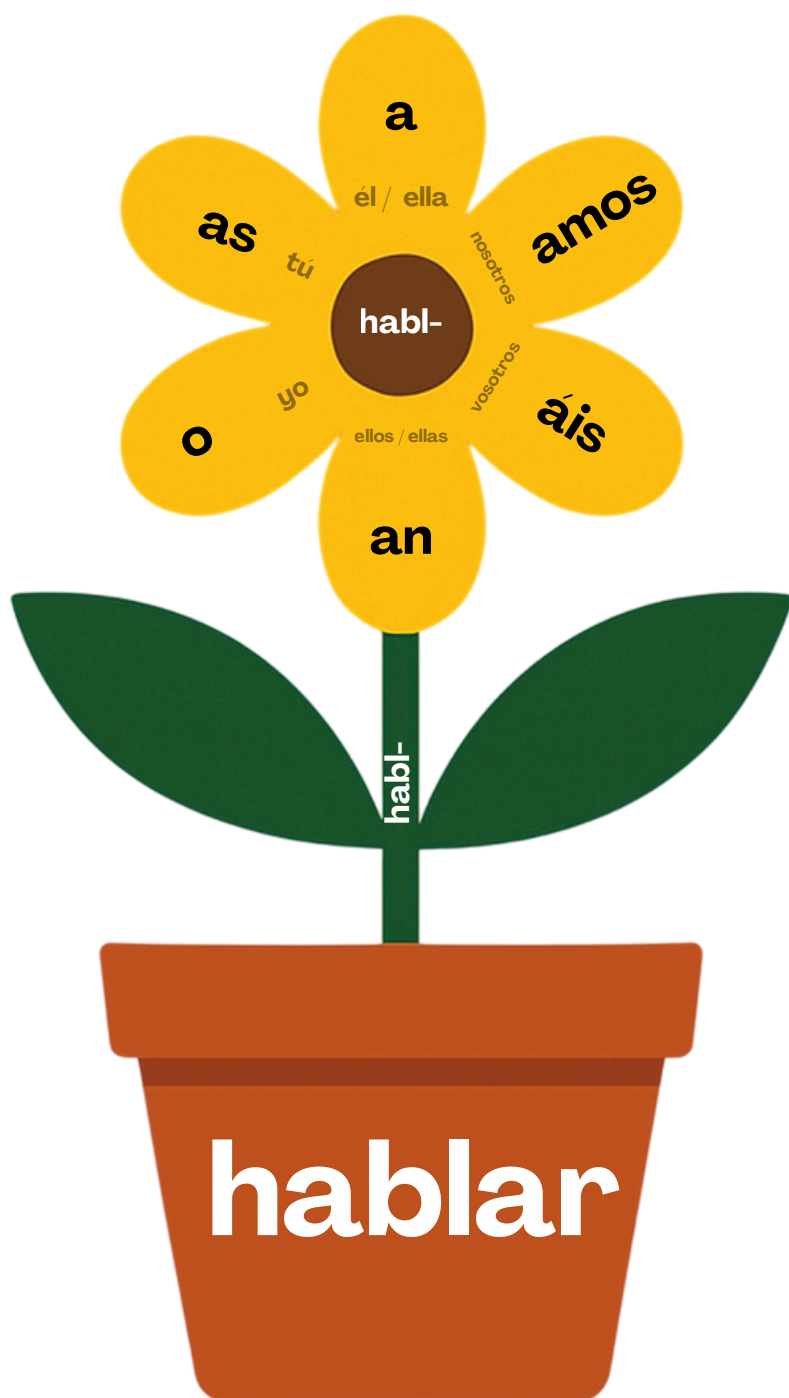
An infinitive is the base form of a verb, before you change (or “conjugate”) it. It's the form you'll find in the dictionary — the “to + verb” form in English. For example, 'to run', 'to speak'.

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 <small>I</small>	o	o	o
Tú <small>You</small>	as	es	es
Él / Ella <small>He / She</small>	a	e	e
Nosotros <small>We</small>	amos	emos	emos
Vosotros <small>You (plural)</small>	áis	éis	éis
Ellos / Ellas <small>They</small>	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 <small>I</small>	soy <small>I am</small>	voy <small>I go</small>
Tú <small>You</small>	eres <small>You are</small>	vas <small>You go</small>
Él / Ella <small>He / She</small>	es <small>He / She / It is</small>	va <small>He / She / It goes</small>
Nosotros <small>We</small>	somos <small>We are</small>	vamos <small>We go</small>
Vosotros <small>You (plural)</small>	sois <small>You (pl) are</small>	vais <small>You (pl) go</small>
Ellos / Ellas <small>They</small>	son <small>They are</small>	van <small>They go</small>

Examples:

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

don't forget the adjective has
to 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

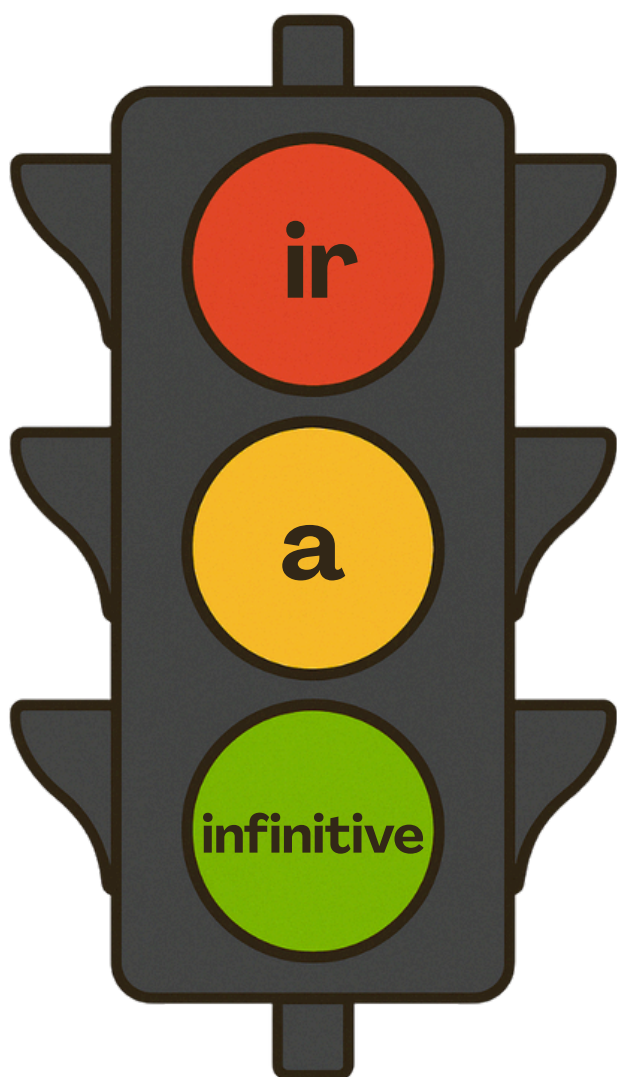
Near future tense

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 '**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 <small>I</small>	é	í	í
Tú <small>You</small>	aste	iste	iste
Él / Ella <small>He / She</small>	ó	ió	ió
Nosotros <small>We</small>	amos	imos	imos
Vosotros <small>You (plural)</small>	asteis	isteis	isteis
Ellos / Ellas <small>They</small>	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.**

Imperfect

How to use the imperfect:

The Spanish **imperfect tense** is used to talk about past actions without a clear beginning or end, or things that **used to** happen regularly. It describes background details, such as time, age, weather, and emotions, rather than completed events. You use it for **ongoing actions, descriptions, and habits in the past** — for example:

Cuando **era** niño, **jugaba** con mis amigos (“When I was a child, I used to play with my friends”).

	-ar	-er	-ir
Yo <small>I</small>	aba	ía	ía
Tú <small>You</small>	abas	ías	ías
Él / Ella <small>He / She</small>	aba	ía	ía
Nosotros <small>We</small>	ábamos	íamos	íamos
Vosotros <small>You (plural)</small>	abais	íais	íais
Ellos / Ellas <small>They</small>	aban	ían	ían

Yo **jugaba** en el parque. → I used to play in the park.

Ella **leía** todos los días. → She used to read every day.

Nosotros **vivíamos** en España. → We used to live in Spain.

The preterite and imperfect are both past tenses in Spanish, but they're used in different ways. The preterite describes completed actions or events that happened once and ended — like Fui al mercado (“I went to the market”).

The imperfect describes ongoing, repeated, or background actions — like Iba al mercado todos los días (“I used to go to the market every day”).

It's also used for time, weather, emotions, or age in the past.

Often, the two tenses work together: the imperfect sets the scene, and the preterite shows an action that interrupts it — for example:

Yo **leía** cuando sonó el teléfono (“I was reading when the phone rang”).

Irregular verbs in the preterite

Here are the conjugations for some irregular verbs in the preterite:

	ser / ir <small>to be / to go</small>	hacer <small>to do</small>	tener <small>to have</small>	estar <small>to be</small>
Yo <small>I</small>	fui	hice	tuve	estuve
Tú <small>You</small>	fuiste	hiciste	tuviste	estuviste
Él / Ella <small>He / She</small>	fue	hizo	tuvo	estuvo
Nosotros <small>We</small>	fuimos	hicimos	tuvimos	estuvimos
Vosotros <small>You (plural)</small>	fuisteis	hicisteis	tuvisteis	estuvisteis
Ellos / Ellas <small>They</small>	fueron	hicieron	tuvieron	estuvieron

	decir <small>to say</small>	venir <small>to come</small>	dar <small>to give</small>	poder <small>to be able to</small>
Yo <small>I</small>	dije	vine	di	pude
Tú <small>You</small>	dijiste	viniste	diste	pudiste
Él / Ella <small>He / She</small>	dijo	vino	dio	pudo
Nosotros <small>We</small>	dijimos	vinimos	dimos	pudimos
Vosotros <small>You (plural)</small>	dijisteis	vinisteis	disteis	pudisteis
Ellos / Ellas <small>They</small>	dijeron	vinieron	dieron	pudieron

	ver to see	andar to walk	querer to want	traer to bring
Yo I	vi	anduve	quise	traje
Tú You	viste	anduviste	quisiste	trajiste
Él / Ella He / She	vio	anduvo	quiso	trajo
Nosotros We	vimos	anduvimos	quisimos	trajimos
Vosotros You (plural)	visteis	anduvisteis	quisisteis	trajisteis
Ellos / Ellas They	vieron	anduvieron	quisieron	trajeron

Imperfect

There are only three irregular verbs in the imperfect tense: ir, ser, and ver.

	ir to go	ser to be	ver to see
Yo I	iba	era	veía
Tú You	ibas	eras	veías
Él / Ella He / She	iba	era	veía
Nosotros We	íbamos	éramos	veíamos
Vosotros You (plural)	ibais	erais	veíais
Ellos / Ellas They	iban	eran	veían

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