

SUBJECT PRONOUNS

A *subject pronoun* replaces a noun that performs the action of the verb. Spanish subject pronouns are not as widely used as their English counterparts (except for *Ud.* and *Uds.*) because Spanish verb endings indicate the subject. You use Spanish subject pronouns when you want to be polite, to emphasize the subject, or to be clear as to whom the subject is. Like English subject pronouns, a Spanish subject pronoun has a person and a number, as shown in the following table:

	Singular		Plural	
	Spanish	English	Spanish	English
1st Person	<i>yo</i>	I	<i>nosotros (nosotras)</i>	we
2nd Person	<i>tú</i>	you	<i>vosotros (vosotras)</i>	you
3rd Person	<i>usted (Ud.)</i>	you	<i>ustedes (Uds.)</i>	you
	<i>Él</i>	he	<i>ellos</i>	they
	<i>ella</i>	she	<i>ellas</i>	they

Spanish subject pronouns are not capitalized (except for the *Ud.* and *Uds.* abbreviations) unless they begin a sentence.

It is important to know the following about Spanish subject pronouns:

- ***tú* and *Ud.*:** *Tú* addresses one friend, relative, child, or pet and is the informal singular form of “you.” *Ud.* shows respect to an older person, to a stranger, or to someone you do not know well. *Ud.* is the formal singular form of “you”:

¿*Dónde trabajas tú?* Where do you work?

¿*Dónde trabaja Ud.?* Where do you live?

- ***vosotros (vosotras)* and *Uds.*:** *Vosotros* and *vosotras* are used primarily in Spain (and only rarely in Latin America) to address more than one friend, relative, child, or pet and are the informal plural forms of “you.” *Vosotros* is used when speaking to a group of males or to a combined group of males and females. *Vosotras* is used only when speaking to a group of females. *Uds.* is used throughout the Spanish-speaking world to show respect to more than one older person or when speaking to strangers or people you do not know well. *Uds.* is the formal plural form of “you” and replaces *vosotros (vosotras)* in Latin America. Note, however, that the *vosotros* form is widely used in Argentina:

¿*Dónde trabajáis vosotros?* Where do you work?

¿*Dónde trabajan Uds.?* Where do you work?

- ***Él* and *ella*:** *Él* (“he,” “it”) and *ella* (“she,” “it”) may refer to a person or to a thing:

El niño entra. The boy enters.

El frío entra. The cold enters.

Él entra. He (It) enters.

La niña es grande. The girl is big.

La falda es grande. The skirt is big.

Ella es grande. She (It) is big.

- **Ellos and ellas:** *Ellos* refers to more than one male or to a combined group of males and females, regardless of the number of each sex present. *Ellas* refers only to a group of females:

Juan y Luís hablan. Ellos hablan. Juan and Luís speak. They speak.

Ana y Luz hablan. Ellas hablan. Ann and Luz speak. They speak.

Juan y Luz hablan. Ellos hablan. Juan and Luz speak. They speak.

- **Nosotros and nosotras:** *Nosotros* refers to more than one male or a combined group of males and females, regardless of the number of each sex present. *Nosotras* refers only to a group of females:

Nosotros (Nosotras) estudiamos. We study.