

# Spanish Review Handbook

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A Catcode Production

## Introduction

This handbook covers the major topics in Spanish, but is by no means complete.

## Accents

When we pronounce English words, one syllable is usually emphasized (**stressed**, in linguistic terms). The stressed syllable is underlined in the following words: computer, language, development, succeeds. Spanish words also have a stressed syllable, and there are rules for determining which syllable carries the emphasis.

1. If a syllable has an accent mark, that syllable always gets the stress: acción (action), teléfono.
2. If the word ends with a vowel, **n**, or **s**, the next-to-last syllable gets the stress: amigo, hablan (they talk), animales.

3. All other words are accented on the last syllable:  
*hotel* , *similar* , *español* .

## Parts of Speech

Words fall into one of seven classes, known as parts of speech. We will deal with only four of them.

### Nouns

A person, place, or thing. (*Juan, telephone*)

### Verbs

An action or state of being. (*run, become*)

### Adjectives

A word that describes a noun. (*red, big*)

### Adverbs

A word that tells when, where, or to what extent a verb performs its action (*quickly, directly*)

## Verbs

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Regular Spanish verbs come in three groups:

- Verbs ending in **-ar**, like **cantar** (to sing).
- Verbs ending in **-er**, like **comer** (to eat).
- Verbs ending in **-ir**, like **vivir** (to live).

Here is the pattern for conjugating **cantar** in the present tense.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
yo canto	nosotros cantamos
tú cantas	vosotros cantáis
él canta ella canta	ellos cantan ellas cantan