

Using the Present Indicative in Spanish

The **present indicative** or **el presente del indicativo** is a very important tense for day-to-day communication. It can be used to express the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Universal truths | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordering in restaurants and stores |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Routine | <input type="checkbox"/> Current state |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Near future | <input type="checkbox"/> Traits or characteristics |

Verbs denote an action. As in English, the form of the verb will change based on who or what is performing the action. We will start by introducing 10 Spanish **pronouns**.

Review of Pronouns

Below is a table of pronouns in Spanish. The pronouns in the same text color are conjugated in the same way.

yo	<i>I</i>	nosotros	<i>we</i>
tú	<i>you*</i> (informal)	vosotros*	<i>you</i> (plural and informal)
usted*	<i>you*</i> (formal)	ustedes*	<i>you*</i> (plural and formal)
él	<i>he</i>	ellos	they (masculine)
ella	<i>she</i>	ellas	they (feminine)

Additional Information

- ☐ Formal and informal pronouns (denoted with a *) do not have an exact English equivalent.
- ☐ Vosotros is not generally used outside of Spain.
- ☐ For a group of mixed gender, use the masculine form (él or ellos).

Conjugation

Verbs are generally learned in their **infinitive** form. These end in either *-ar*, *-er*, or *-ir* like the following examples.

hablar
to speak

comer
to eat

vivir
to live

Verbs are conjugated, so they will change to reflect who or what is performing the action. Therefore, with proper context, it is not necessary to include a pronoun. This decision is largely a stylistic choice.

Regular Verbs

Verbs that are **regular** in the **present indicative** will exactly follow the rules outlined in the example tables below:

Verbs ending in -ar

Pronoun	Singular	Pronoun	Plural
yo	-o	nosotros	-amos
tú	-as	vosotros	áis
usted / él / ella	-a	ustedes/ellos/ellas	-an

Example: Conjugating *hablar*

yo *hablo*

nosotros *hablamos*

tú *hablas*

vosotros *habláis*

usted / él / ella *habla*

ustedes/ellos/ellas *hablan*

Practice

You may practice conjugating regular -ar verbs at this [link](#).

Verbs ending in -er

Pronoun	Singular	Pronoun	Plural
yo	-o	nosotros	-emos
tú	-es	vosotros	éis
usted / él / ella	-e	ustedes/ellos/ellas	en

Example: Conjugating *comer*

yo *como*

nosotros *comemos*

tú *comes*

vosotros *coméis*

usted / él / ella *come*

ustedes/ellos/ellas *comen*

Practice

You may practice conjugating regular -er verbs at this [link](#).

Verbs ending in -ir

Pronoun	Singular	Pronoun	Plural
yo	-o	nosotros	-imos
tú	-es	vosotros	ís
usted / él / ella	-e	ustedes/ellos/ellas	-en

Example: Conjugating *vivir*

yo *vivo*

nosotros *vivimos*

tú *vives*

vosotros *vivís*

usted / él / ella *vive*

ustedes/ellos/ellas *viven*

Practice

You may practice conjugating regular -ir verbs at this [link](#).

Irregular Verbs

All the verbs we have learned thus far have exactly followed the same conjugation rules. However, many verbs are irregular in the present indicative tense. Despite their irregularity, there is a pattern to how these verbs do conjugate. These are known as **stem-changing verbs**. We will now learn three types:

e → ie

o → ue

e → i

Examples

Below are examples of how to conjugate **stem-changing verbs** in the **present indicative**. The irregularity will be shown in **red**. The verb endings are underlined.

Note: These verbs do not change in the *nosotros* and *vosotros* forms.

e → ie Conjugating *pensar*

yo *pienso*

nosotros *pensamos*

tú *piensas*

vosotros *pensáis*

usted / él / ella *piensa*

ustedes/ellos/ellas *piensan*

Stem-changing Verbs List

Below is a list of verbs that are irregular. You may practice conjugating stem-changing verbs at this [link](#).

☐ pensar

☐ entender

☐ negar

☐ cerrar

☐ despertar

☐ querer

☐ confesar

☐ querer

☐ preferir

☐ comenzar

☐ defender

☐ perder

☐ calentar

☐ convertir

☐ divertir

o → ue Conjugating *dormir*

yo *duermo*

tú *duermes*

usted / él / ella *duerme*

nosotros *dormimos*

vosotros *dormis*

ustedes/ellos/ellas *duermen*

Stem-changing Verbs List

Below is a list of verbs that are irregular. You may practice conjugating stem-changing verbs at this [link](#).

☐ almorzar

☐ morir

☐ mostrar

☐ colgar

☐ contar

☐ probar

☐ costar

☐ recordar

☐ volver

☐ devolver

☐ resolver

☐ encontrar

☐ morder

☐ volar

☐ soñar

e → i Conjugating *pedir*

yo *pido*

tú *pides*

usted / él / ella *pide*

nosotros *pedimos*

vosotros *pedis*

ustedes/ellos/ellas *piden*

Stem-changing Verbs List

Below is a list of verbs that are irregular. You may practice conjugating stem-changing verbs at this [link](#).

☐ impedir

☐ colegir

☐ competir

☐ medir

☐ conseguir

☐ corregir

☐ perseguir

☐ reír

☐ despedir

☐ repetir

☐ elegir

☐ seguir

☐ servir

☐ sonreír

☐ freír