

My Spanish Nissenberg Notes

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Chapter 1

The present tense of regular verbs, irregular verbs, and verbs with spelling changes

1.1

- to conjugate a verb in any tense you need two pieces of information: the root of the verb and the ending (suffix) that contains the information about the action framed in a form the speaker desires to convey.
- the root of a word is also called the radical. In english infinitives tend to be preceded by 'to', as in 'to learn', 'to say', etc. However in Spanish infinitives are instead indicated by suffixes: -ar, -er, or -ir. Thus for hablar, beber, and decidir the roots are habl-, beb-, and decid-, and the suffixes are respectively -ar, -er, and -ir.
- the conjugations are numbered: -ar is called the first conjugation, -er is called the second conjugation, and -ir is called the third conjugation.
- Thus conjugations are formed by removing the suffix from the infinitive and replacing it with the required suffix.
- Since conjugation contains information about the subject, subject pronouns tend to be omitted from a sentence. An example is "vendo", meaning "I sell" which states that the individual is speaking about themselves in first person, *I* = "-o" in this case.
- Conjugations contain information about the individual being described, the tense and the gender.
- Moods express the attitude of the speaker.

- Moods include indicative, subjunctive, conditional and imperative.
- The indicative mood is spoken as "modo indicativo" and is used when verbs describe situations which are real, true, or taken as fact.
- The suffix of the verb contains information about the following: who does the action, when it happened, and the mood of the speaker.

1.2 Regular verbs in the present tense

- the present tense of a verb is formed by dropping the suffix and selecting a new suffix that indicates the subject.
- The author recommends using the verbs "comprar", "aprender" and "recibir" as models.
- The author presents conjugation tables of two columns: singular and plural, iterating down the subjects: first, second and third. Thus all verbs will have 6 conjugations in the present tense.
- subject pronouns and their translations are as follows: yo: I, tú: you, él: he, ella: she, usted: you (formal), nosotros: we, nosotras we (fem.), vosotros: you, vosotras you, (fem.), ustedes: you (formal)
- some notes about present tense conjugation: 1. yo uses the same suffix for all conjugations (first, second, third), 2. for the second and third conjugation, all third person singular forms have the same suffix 3. in spanish, subject pronouns tend to be omitted.
- common first conjugation verbs include: bajar, cocinar, comprar, conversar, cooperar, dibujar, escuchar, limpiar, preparar, sacar, sumar, trabajar
- common second conjugation verbs include: beber, comer, comprender, correr, creer, leer, responder, romper, temer, vender
- common third conjugation verbs include: abrir, compartir, cubrir, decidir, discutir, escribir, repartir, subir, sufrir, vivir

1.3 Exercises

Appendix A

Dictionary (Spanish to English)

comprar	to buy
aprender	to learn
recibir	to receive

Appendix B

Log

A log of my studies

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