

# Spanish Grammar

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# 1 Subjects and Verbs

The key in learning an new language is to understand how to use the verbs. Therefore, we concentrate on these. There exist two tracks of verbs in Spanish, those verbs ending in **-ar** and those ending in **-er** or **-ir**. For instance, we have **hablar** for to **speak**, and **comer** for to eat and **vivir** meaning to live<sup>1</sup>.

tracks of  
verbs

**Pronunciation.** The pronunciation is easy in Spanish as words are pronounced as they are written but there can only **one single stress** in each word. If there is an apostrophe the corresponding vowel/syllable is stressed, otherwise the second to last syllable is stressed. For instance, we have **hab-lar**, thus **hab** is stressed. In Spanish the leading **h** is not pronounced, thus hablar is pronounced as **ah**-blahr, with the bold part being stressed. All vowel sounds, even unstressed, have to come out clearly and always pronounced the same: a, e like in let, i, o like in obey, u like in food. Furthermore, the **v** is pronounced as **b**, and **ll** as **j**.

**Present Tense Conjugation.** To conjugate -ar verbs, remove the -ar ending and add the corresponding ending of the desired subject. For instance with the word **hablar** (to speak) we get the top part in Table 19.

Note that **el** is masculine, **ella** is feminine and **usted** is formal for you. In case of group of peoples we have **ellos** for groups of man or mixed groups, **ellas** for groups consisting only of woman, and **ustedes** for taking formally to a group. For -er endings, remove the -er ending and add the corresponding subject ending. We use **comer** (to eat) as example, cf. Table 19.

And very similar to the -er verbs, are the -ir verbs, where only the **nosotros** and **vosotros** endings are different. For **vivir** (to live) is presented in the bottom part of Table 19.

[**MS: Pronouns + in the infinite form the pronoun?** is adapted to the word. **levantarse**. **levantarme**, **yo me levanto**.]

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<sup>1</sup>also see <https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-present-tense-forms>

Subject	ar-Ending	Example (hablar)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo hablo	I speak
tú	-as	tú hablas	you (informal) speak
el/ella/usted	-a	el habla	he/she/you (formal) speak(s)
nosotros	-amos	nosotros hablamos	we speak
vosotros	-áis	vosotros habláis	you (informal) speak
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-an	ellos hablan	they/they (fem.)/you speak

Subject	er-Ending	Example (comer)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo como	I eat
tú	-es	tú comes	you eat
el/ella/usted	-e	el come	he/she/you eat(s)
nosotros	-emos	nosotros comemos	we eat
vosotros	-éis	vosotros coméis	you eat
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-en	ellos comen	they/you eat

Subject	ir-Ending	Example (vivir)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo vivo	I live
tú	-es	tú vives	you live
el/ella/usted	-e	el vive	he/she/you live(s)
nosotros	-imos	nosotros vivimos	we live
vosotros	-ís	vosotros vivís	you live
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-en	ellos viven	they/you live

Table 1: Standard rules for the conjugation of verbs to different subjects.

## 2 Special, Stem-Changing and Irregular Verbs

**Special Verbs.** First of all there are a handful special verbs that do not follow the regular pattern in the **yo** form, though they are easy to remember as they are very common. This of course also means that they are important to know. These are:

Infinitive	Meaning	yo form	Meaning
decir	to say/tell	yo digo	I tell
hacer	to do	yo hago	I do
poner	to put	yo pongo	I put
salir	to go out/leave	yo salgo	I go out
suponer	to suppose	yo supongo	I suppose
tener	to have	yo tengo	I have
traer	to bring	yo traigo	I bring
venir	to come	yo vengo	I come

Table 2: Irregular verbs.

We call these words the **go-go words** as they end in -go. Additionally to these words other words ending in -poner fall into the same category. There is one more word that is different, but not a go-go word: **haber** (to have). As **tener** it also means **to have**, but it is used when talking about the past. We will investigate this in detail later.

go-go  
words

**Spelling Changes.** Some verbs do not follow the rules of the previous section, i.e. there is a spelling change in the **yo** form <sup>2</sup>.

- **Verbs ending in -guir the yo form ends in go.** The **yo** form ends in **go**, e.g. **extinguir** (to extinguish) is **yo extingo**.
- **Verbs ending in -ger or -gir, the g in the yo form changes to a j.** For instance **direct** (to direct) we get ‘yo dirijo’ for ‘I direct’.

Here are some common verbs that use these two rules:

Infinitive	Meaning	yo form
extinguir	to extinguish	extingo
dirigir	to direct	dirijo
escoger	to choose	escojo
exigir	to demand	exijo
recoger	to pick up	recojo

Table 3: Verbs with -guir, -ger and -gir ending have different **yo** forms.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-present-tense-forms>

**Vowel Changes.** In the present tense some verbs undergo a vowel change in the last vowel of the stem of the verb, when it is *stressed*. Recall that without accent the second to last syllable is stressed and always only one syllable of each word is stressed in Spanish. There can be following changes.

1. **e becomes ie.** For instance the word **querer** (to want) conjugates as follows:

Subject	er-Ending	Example (querer)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo qu <b>ie</b> ro	I want
tú	-es	tú qu <b>ie</b> res	you want
el/ella/usted	-e	el qu <b>ie</b> re	he/she/you want(s)
nosotros	-emos	nostros qu <b>ie</b> remos	we want
vosotros	-éis	vosotros qu <b>ie</b> réis	you want
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-en	ellos qu <b>ie</b> ren	they/you want

Table 4: The verb *querer* conjugated.

Here are some common verbs for which **e** become **ie**, note that these follow the same pattern as *querer* in Table 4:

Verb	Meaning	Example
acertar	to hit/guess	yo acierto
atender	to attend to	yo atiando
atravesar	to cross/go through	yo atravieso
calentar	to warm	yo caliento
cerrar	to close	yo cierro
comenzar	to begin	yo comienzo
confesar	to confess	yo confieso
defender	to defend	yo defiendo
descender	to descend	yo desciendo
despertarse	to wake up	yo me despierto
divertirse	to have fun	yo me divierto
empezar	to begin	yo empiezo
encender	to light/turn on	yo enciendo
encerrar	to enclose/lock	yo encierro
entender	to understand	yo entiendo
fregar	to scrub/wash	yo friego
gobernar	to govern/rule	yo gobierno
helar	to freeze	yo hiel
mentir	to lie	yo miento
negar	to deny	yo niego
nevar	to snow	yo nievo
pensar	to think	yo pienso
perder	to lose	yo pierdo
preferir	to prefer	yo prefiero
querer	to want	yo quiero
recomendar	to recommend	yo recomiendo
remendar	to mend/patch	yo remiendo
sentar(se)	to sit down	yo me siento
sentir	to feel	yo siento
sugerir	to suggest	yo sugiero
tener	to have	tú tienes
tropezar	to stumble	yo tropiezo
venir	to come	tú vienes

Table 5: Some common verbs for which the last e in the stem becomes ie when conjugated.

2. **o becomes ue.** For example the word **soñar** (to dream) conjugates as follows:

Subject	ar-Ending	Example (soñar)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo <b>sueño</b>	I dream
tú	-as	tú <b>sueñas</b>	you dream
el/ella/usted	-a	el <b>sueña</b>	he/she/you dream(s)
nosotros	-amos	nostros sonamos	we dream
vosotros	-áis	vosotros soñáis	you dream
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-an	ellos <b>sueñan</b>	they/you dream

Table 6: The verb sonar conjugated.

Another one is the word **oler** (to smell), for which also an h is added at the beginning when the first letter of the word is changed:

Subject	er-Ending	Example (oler)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo <b>huelo</b>	I smell
tú	-es	tú <b>huelas</b>	You smell
el/ella/usted	-e	el <b>huele</b>	he/she/you smell(s)
nosotros	-emos	nostros olemos	we smell
vosotros	-éis	vosotros oléis	you smell
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-en	ellos <b>huelen</b>	they/you smell

Table 7: The verb oler conjugated.

Below again you can find common verbs with this vowel change.

Verb	Meaning	Example
absolver	to absolve	yo absuelo
acordarse (de)	to agree on/remember	yo me acuerdo de
almorzar	to have lunch	yo almuerzo
aprobar	to approve	yo apruebo
cocer	to boil/bake	yo cueco
colgar	to hang (up)	yo cuelgo
conmover	to move	yo conmuevo
contar	to count	yo cuento
costar	to cost	yo cuesto
demoler	to demolish	yo demuelo
demostrar	to demonstrate/prove	yo demuestro
devolver	to return	yo devuelvo
disolver	to dissolve	yo disuelvo
doler	to hurt	yo duelo
dormir	to sleep	yo duermo
encontrar	to find	yo encuentro
envolver	to wrap	yo envuelvo
llover	to rain	yo lluevo
moler	to grind	yo muelo
morder	to bite	yo muerdo
morir	to die	yo muero
mostrar	to show	yo muestro
mover	to move	yo muevo
oler	to smell	yo huelo
poder	to be able to	yo puedo
probar	to taste, to prove	yo pruebo
promover	to promote	yo promuevo
recordar	to remember	yo recuerdo
remover	to remove	yo remuevo
resolver	to resolve	yo resuelvo
retorcer	to twist	yo retuerto [MS: why -to?]
revolver	to mix/shake	yo revuelvo
rogar	to beg	yo ruego
soler	to be accustomed to	yo suelo (means: I usually)
sonar	to sound	yo sueno
soñar	to dream	yo sueño
torcer	to twist	yo tuerzo
tronar	to thunder	yo trueno
volar	to fly	yo vuelo

Table 8: Some common verbs for which the o in the stem becomes ue when conjugated.

Again for all of these and the following vowel changes prefixes count as well. For instance the words **comprobar** (to check/prove), **descontar** (to deduct/exclude) and **descolgar** (to take down) undergo a vowel change as well.



3. **e becomes i.** As an example we use **repetir** (to repeat).

Subject	ir-Ending	Example (repetir)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo rep <b>ito</b>	I repeat
tú	-es	tú rep <b>ites</b>	You repeat
el/ella/usted	-e	el rep <b>ite</b>	he/she/you repeat(s)
nosotros	-imos	nostros rep <b>etimos</b>	we repeat
vosotros	-ís	vosotros rep <b>etís</b>	you repeat
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-en	ellos rep <b>iten</b>	they/you repeat

Table 9: The verb repetir conjugated.

There are only a few common words with that scheme:

Verb	Meaning	Example
conseguir	to get	yo cons <b>igo</b>
corregir	to correct	yo corri <b>jo</b>
decir	to say/tell	yo dig <b>o</b>
despedir	to fire/to say goodbye/to dismiss	yo desp <b>ido</b>
elegir	to elect	yo el <b>ijo</b>
impedir	to impede/prevent	yo imp <b>ido</b>
medir	to measure	yo mid <b>o</b>
pedir	to ask for	yo pid <b>o</b>
perseguir	to follow/chase	yo pers <b>igo</b>
repetir	to repeat	yo rep <b>ito</b>
reírse	to laugh	yo me r <b>ío</b>
seguir	to follow	yo sig <b>o</b>
servir	to serve	yo sir <b>vo</b>
sonreírse	to smile at	yo me sonr <b>ío</b> (to smile at me)
vestirse	to get dressed	yo me vist <b>o</b>

Table 10: Some common verbs for which e becomes i in the stem when conjugated.

4. **i becomes ie.** There exist only two commonly used verbs with this vocal change: **adquirir** (to acquire) and **inquirir** (to inquire).

Subject	ir-Ending	Example (adquirir)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo ad <u>qu</u> iero	I acquire
tú	-es	tú ad <u>qu</u> ieres	You acquire
el/ella/usted	-e	el ad <u>qu</u> iere	he/she/you acquire(s)
nosotros	-imos	nosotros ad <u>qu</u> irimos	we acquire
vosotros	-ís	vosotros ad <u>qu</u> irís	you acquire
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-en	ellos ad <u>qu</u> ieren	they/you acquire

Table 11: The verb *adquirir* conjugated.

Subject	ir-Ending	Example (inquirir)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo in <u>qu</u> iero	I inquire
tú	-es	tú in <u>qu</u> ieres	You inquire
el/ella/usted	-e	el in <u>qu</u> iere	he/she/you inquire(s)
nosotros	-imos	nosotros in <u>qu</u> irimos	we inquire
vosotros	-ís	vosotros in <u>qu</u> irís	you inquire
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-en	ellos in <u>qu</u> ieren	they/you inquire

Table 12: The verb *inquirir* conjugated.

5. **u becomes ue.** Finally for this vowel change, there is only one commonly used verb: **jugar** (to play).

Subject	ar-Ending	Example (jugar)	Meaning
yo	-o	yo <b>ju</b> ego	I play
tú	-as	tú <b>ju</b> egas	You play
el/ella/usted	-a	el <b>ju</b> ega	he/she/you play(s)
nosotros	-amos	nosotros <b>ju</b> gamos	we play
vosotros	-áis	vosotros <b>ju</b> gáis	you play
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-an	ellos <b>ju</b> egan	they/you play

Table 13: The verb *jugar* conjugated.

**Irregular Verbs.** Finally there are some common verbs with irregular yo forms<sup>3</sup>, otherwise they follow the standard patterns of the -ar tack and the -er/-ir track (in the so far discussed present tense):

<sup>3</sup><https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-present-tense-forms>

Infinitive	Meaning	yo form
caber	to fit	quepo
caer	to fall	caigo
conocer	to know	conozco
dar	to give	doy
hacer	to do/make	hago
poner	to put	pongo
saber	to know	sé
salir	to leave/to go out	salgo
traducir	to translate	traduzco
traer	to bring	traigo
valer	to be worth	valgo
ver	to see	veo

Table 14: Verbs with irregular yo forms.

Furthermore there are four of the most common verbs that are irregular. These are **ser** (to be), **estar** (to be), **ir** (to go) and **haber** (to have). The corresponding conjugations are<sup>4</sup>:

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-irregular-present-tense>

Subject	Conjugation of <b>ser</b>	Meaning
yo	yo soy	I am
tú	tú eres	you are
el/ella/usted	el es	he/she is, you are
nosotros	nosotros somos	we are
vosotros	vosotros sois	you are
ellos/ellas/ustedes	ellos son	they/you are

Subject	Conjugation of <b>estar</b>	Meaning
yo	yo estoy	I am
tú	tú estás	you are
el/ella/usted	el está	he/she is, you are
nosotros	nosotros estamos	we are
vosotros	vosotros estáis	you are
ellos/ellas/ustedes	ellos están	they/you are

Subject	Conjugation of <b>ir</b>	Meaning
yo	yo voy	I go
tú	tú vas	you go
el/ella/usted	el va	he/she/you go(s)
nosotros	nosotros vamos	we go
vosotros	vosotros vais	you go
ellos/ellas/ustedes	ellos van	they/you go

Subject	Conjugation of <b>haber</b>	Meaning
yo	yo he	I have
tú	tú has	you have
el/ella/usted	el hay, usted ha	he/she has, you have
nosotros	nosotros hemos	we have
vosotros	vosotros habéis	you have
ellos/ellas/ustedes	ellos han	they/you have

Table 15: Very common irregular verbs.

### 3 Pronouns

In the positive infinite form pronouns are attached in the opposite order as in English to the word. For instance,

### 4 Moods in Spanish

There exist three **moods** in Spanish<sup>5</sup>:

1. **Imperative mood:** for giving commands. Remember that we have two tracks of verbs, the -ar track and the -ir/-er track. However, the informal commands are built differently. We start with them. Furthermore, in the imperative mode the go-go words turn into ga-ga's! For instance **digo** (I tell/I say) becomes **diga** (Tell! or Say!).
- **Positive (Affirmative) informal commands on the -ar track:** Use the present tense and drop the -s ending. For instance with the words **comprar** (to buy), **aprender** (to learn) and **escribir** (to write) we have following.

Imperative  
Mood,  
i.e. Com-  
mands

Verb	Present tense	Tú command	Example	Meaning
comprar	tu compras	compra	Compra la camiseta!	Buy the T-shirt!
aprender	tu aprendes	aprende	Aprende español!	Learn Spanish!
escribir	tu escribes	escribe	Escribe el ensayoel ensayo (the essay)!	Write the essay!

**Pronoun placement.** The pronouns have to be attached to the verb as it is a positive command and often an accent is used:

Verb	Tu form	Pronouns	Example	Meaning
traer	traes	lo (it)lo (it)	Traelo.	Bring it.
traer	traes	me (me)me (me), lo (it)	Tráemelo.	Bring it to me.
decir	dices	lo (it)	Dígalo. (or dilo)	Say it.
decir	dices	se (him/her)se (him/her), lo (it)	Dígaselo.	Say it to her.
comprar	compras	se (him/her), lo (it)	Cómpraselo.	Buy it for him.
poner	pones	los (them)los (them)	Ponte los zapatos ¡Póntelos!	Put on your shoes. Put them on!

- **Negative informal commands on the -ar track:** For the negative informal commands, go to the stem word, take the present tense form and switch tracks. That is words ending in -ar become -er and vice versa and of course use a negative word **no** (not) or **nunca**(never):

<sup>5</sup><https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/subjunctive-vs-indicative-in-spanish>

Verb	Present tense	Tú command	Example	Meaning
comprar	tu compras	no compres	No compres la camiseta!	Don't buy ...!
aprender	tu aprendes	no aprendas	No aprendas español!	Don't learn ...!
escribir	tu escribes	no escribas	Nunca escribas el ensayo!	Never write ...!

- **Formal commands:**
- **Nosotros commands**
- **Indirect commands**
- **Informal commands on the -ir/-er track:** Use the present tense and drop the -r ending

2. **Indicative mood:** to talk about facts or things that are believed to be true and concrete.
3. **Subjunctive mood:** to talk about desired, doubts, wishes, conjectures, and possibilities.

## 5 Tenses

There exist present, past and future tenses in Spanish:

### 5.1 El tiempo presente (The Present Tense)

The present tense is signaled by stressing the second to last syllable. This stress signals the present tense and the ears tune in on the ending to find out the subject that is talked about.

#### 5.1.1 Simple Present Tense.

That is actually what we have been using all the time up to this point. You can use it to talk about

1. Habitual Actions: Me levanto a las seis y media cada mañana.<sup>6</sup>
2. Things happening now: ¿Cómo estas?<sup>7</sup> ¿Qué haces?<sup>8</sup> Estoy bien, gracias.<sup>9</sup> Limpio la cocina.<sup>10</sup>
3. Timeless events/universal truths: Uno más uno son dos.<sup>11</sup> El hombre es mortal.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>I get up at six thirty every morning.

<sup>7</sup>How are you?

<sup>8</sup>What are you doing?

<sup>9</sup>I am fine, thanks.

<sup>10</sup>I clean the kitchen. (I am cleaning the kitchen.)

<sup>11</sup>One plus one is two.

<sup>12</sup>Mankind is mortal.

4. Hypothetical situations: Si llega Marcos, salgo.<sup>13</sup> Si llueve, la fiesta termina.<sup>14</sup>
5. Lapses of time by using *hace* + [time period] + *que* + [present tense verb]: Hace tres años que esperamos tu llamada.<sup>15</sup>
6. Ordering something in a restaurant: Me trae un café, por favor.<sup>16</sup> Quiero el arroz con pollo.<sup>17</sup>

## 5.2 The Future Tenses

There are two to three ways to talk about the future in Spanish, by using **will** (the simple future tense), **would** (the conditional tense) or with **going to** (*ir a*, e.g. *voy a*). The **would** form may be included in the set of future tenses or not.

- **Simple Future Tense (Will):** For the will-tense the whole infinitive version of the verb is used. Thus one can see this tense in two version: First all three tracks have different endings by rebuilding the verb, or second one can say that there is only one ending that is attached to the infinitive.

The simple future was originally formed by adding **haber** to an infinitive. For example, *Viajar he*. (Literally, Travel I must.)<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup>If Marcos comes, I am out.

<sup>14</sup>If it rains, the party is over.

<sup>15</sup>We have been waiting three years for your call.

<sup>16</sup>Would you bring me a coffee please?

<sup>17</sup>I would like the chicken and rice.

<sup>18</sup><https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/simple-future-regular-forms-and-tenses>

Subject	ar-Ending	Example (hablar)	Meaning
yo	-aré	yo hablaré	I will speak
tú	-aras	tú hablarás	you will speak
el/ella/usted	-ará	el hablará	he/she/you will speak
nosotros	-aremos	nosotros hablaremos	we will speak
vosotros	-aréis	vosotros hablaréis	you (informal) will speak
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-arán	ellos hablarán	they/they/you will speak

Subject	er-Ending	Example (comer)	Meaning
yo	-eré	yo comeré	I will eat
tú	-erás	tú comerás	you will eat
el/ella/usted	-erá	el comerá	he/she/you will eat
nosotros	-eremos	nosotros comeremos	we will eat
vosotros	-eréis	vosotros comeréis	you will eat
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-erán	ellos comerán	they/you will eat

Subject	ir-Ending	Example (vivir)	Meaning
yo	-iré	yo viviré	I will live
tú	-irás	tú vivirás	you will live
el/ella/usted	-irá	el vivirá	he/she/you will live
nosotros	-iremos	nosotros viviremos	we will live
vosotros	-iréis	vosotros viviréis	you will live
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-irán	ellos vivirán	they/you will live

Table 16: Standard rules for the conjugation of verbs to the simple future tense.

You can use the simple future tense to talk about<sup>19</sup>

1. Conjectures, Possibilities, and Probabilities: Anita estará en la playa ahora.<sup>20</sup> Los niños tendrán hambre.<sup>21</sup> Serán las ocho de la mañana.<sup>22</sup> Dónde estarán mis llaves?<sup>23</sup> Cuanto años tendrá mi profesor?<sup>24</sup>
2. Predictions about the Future: Me casaré con un hombre guapo.<sup>25</sup> Encontrará un trabajo bueno.<sup>26</sup>
3. Solemn Commands (this is an uncommon way to use the simple future tense): No robarás.<sup>27</sup> Te sentarás aquí hasta que regrese.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>19</sup><https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/simple-future-regular-forms-and-tenses>

<sup>20</sup>Anita is probably at the beach right now.

<sup>21</sup>The children might be probably hungry.

<sup>22</sup>It must be eight o'clock in the morning.

<sup>23</sup>Where could my keys be?

<sup>24</sup>I wonder how old the professor is?

<sup>25</sup>I will marry a handsome man.

<sup>26</sup>He will find a good job.

<sup>27</sup>You shall/will not steal.

<sup>28</sup>You shall/will sit right here until I return.



**Note:** In Spanish, it is very common for the present tense to be used to talk about future events that are certain:

Te veo mañana en la escuela.<sup>29</sup> Me caso el 6 de mayo.<sup>30</sup> Mis padres me visitan mañana.<sup>31</sup>

- **Conditional Tense (Would):** Very similar to the will-forms is the would-form. A easy way to remember the its endings is by thinking that you have to go into the woods (woulds), where you find a female river, as *el río* (the river) becomes the ending *-ría*.

Subject	ar-Ending	Example (hablar)	Meaning
yo	-aría	yo hablaría	I would speak
tú	-arías	tú hablarías	you would speak
el/ella/usted	-aría	el hablaría	he/she/you would speak
nosotros	-aríamos	nosotros hablaríamos	we would speak
vosotros	-aríais	vosotros hablaríais	you would speak
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-arían	ellos hablarían	they/they/you would speak

Subject	er-Ending	Example (comer)	Meaning
yo	-ería	yo comería	I would eat
tú	-erías	tú comerías	you would eat
el/ella/usted	-ería	el comería	he/she/you would eat
nosotros	-eríamos	nosotros comeríamos	we would eat
vosotros	-eríais	vosotros comeríais	you would eat
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-erían	ellos comerían	they/you would eat

Subject	ir-Ending	Example (vivir)	Meaning
yo	-iría	yo viviría	I would live
tú	-irías	tú vivirías	you would live
el/ella/usted	-iría	el viviría	he/she/you would live
nosotros	-iríamos	nosotros viviríamos	we would live
vosotros	-iríais	vosotros viviríais	you would live
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-irían	ellos vivirían	they/you would live

Table 17: Standard rules for the conjugation of verbs to the simple future tense.

- **Going to:**

Voy al parque. ¿Vienes?<sup>32</sup>

<sup>29</sup>I'll see you tomorrow at school.

<sup>30</sup>I am getting married on May 6.

<sup>31</sup>My parents are going to visit me tomorrow.

<sup>32</sup>I am going to the park. Do you want to come?

## 5.3 Past

### 5.3.1 Simple Past Tense — Preterite.

The tense **el pretérito** (the preterite) is used to talk about actions completed at a point in the past, but not for continuous actions like habits that do not have a specific beginning or ending. For this the imperfect tense is used.

To use the preterite simple past tense just use different endings for the two tracks. We use the same three words as before, **hablar** (to speak), **comer** (to eat) and **vivir** (to live). Note that the pronunciation is always at the end/after the infinitive.

Subject	ar-Ending	Example (hablar)	Meaning
yo	-é	yo hablé	I spoke
tú	-aste	tú hablaste	you (informal) spoke
el/ella/usted	-ó	el habló	he/she/you (formal) spoke
nosotros	-amos	nosotros hablamos	we spoke
vosotros	-asteis	vosotros hablasteis	you (informal) spoke
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-aron	ellos hablaron	they/they (fem.)/you spoke

Subject	er-Ending	Example (comer)	Meaning
yo	-í	yo comí	I ate
tú	-iste	tú comiste	you ate
el/ella/usted	-ió	el comió	he/she/you ate
nosotros	-imos	nosotros comimos	we ate
vosotros	-isteis	vosotros comisteis	you ate
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-ieron	ellos comieron	they/you ate

Subject	ir-Ending	Example (vivir)	Meaning
yo	-í	yo viví	I lived
tú	-iste	tú viviste	you lived
el/ella/usted	-ió	el vivió	he/she/you lived
nosotros	-imos	nosotros vivimos	we lived
vosotros	-isteis	vosotros vivisteis	you lived
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-ieron	ellos vivieron	they/you lived

Table 18: Standard rules for the conjugation of verbs to different subjects.

### 5.3.2 Simple Past Tense — Imperfect.

To use the imperfect simple past tense we again use different endings for the two tracks. Note that the pronunciation is again at the end/after the infinitive.

Subject	ar-Ending	Example (hablar)	Meaning
yo	-aba	yo hablaba [MS: todo]	I was talking
tú	-abas	tú hablabas	you (informal) were speaking
el/ella/usted	-aba	el hablaba	he/she/you (formal) spoke
nosotros	-ábamos	nosotros hablábamos	we spoke
vosotros	-abais	vosotros hablabais	you (informal) spoke
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-aban	ellos hablaban	they/they (fem.)/you spoke

Subject	er-Ending	Example (comer)	Meaning
yo	-í	yo comí	I ate
tú	-iste	tú comiste	you ate
el/ella/usted	-ió	el comió	he/she/you ate
nosotros	-imos	nosotros comimos	we ate
vosotros	-isteis	vosotros comisteis	you ate
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-ieron	ellos comieron	they/you ate

Subject	ir-Ending	Example (vivir)	Meaning
yo	-í	yo viví	I lived
tú	-iste	tú viviste	you lived
el/ella/usted	-ió	el vivió	he/she/you lived
nosotros	-imos	nosotros vivimos	we lived
vosotros	-isteis	vosotros vivisteis	you lived
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-ieron	ellos vivieron	they/you lived

Table 19: Standard rules for the conjugation of verbs to different subjects.

## 6 Other Rules

The word for **and** in Spanish is **y**, but if the consecutive word starts with **i** or **hi** and sounds like **y**, then **e** is used instead. Por ejemplo: . . . , **e** irán mejorando los tratamientos paliativos means . . . , and palliative treatments will improve. Otro ejemplo es: español **e** inglés.

## 7 Additional Verbs

despertar (to wake up)

correr (to run)

caminar (to walk)

matar (to kill)

caer (to fall)

airear (to freshen/to air)

matar (to kill)

hay (there is/are (impersonal verb))

## 8 Additional Nouns

la oreja (the ear)

el ojo (the eye)

la pierna (the leg)

la voz (the voice)

la diferencia (the difference)

el veneno (the poison)

## 9 Adjectives

amarga (bitter)  
tanto (so much)

## 10 Adverbs

probable (probably)

probablement (probably)

## 11 Phrases

Es como<sup>33</sup>  
Luego te cuento<sup>34</sup>  
Te cuento<sup>35</sup>  
Me encanta tu forma de ser<sup>36</sup>  
No pidas perdón<sup>37</sup>  
pero creo que sí<sup>38</sup>  
Bueno ya veremos<sup>39</sup>  
no es tu culpa<sup>40</sup>  
para explicar<sup>41</sup>  
me da igual<sup>42</sup>  
me ha gustado hablar contigo<sup>43</sup>  
de todos modos<sup>44</sup>  
No se explicarlo.<sup>45</sup>  
Tengo muchas ganas<sup>46</sup>  
Ya se verá<sup>47</sup>  
buenas noches<sup>48</sup>  
encontes me entiendes<sup>49</sup>  
por ejemplo<sup>50</sup>  
hasta mañana<sup>51</sup>  
justo como pensé<sup>52</sup>  
no pasa nada<sup>53</sup>  
no sé qué pasará más adelante<sup>54</sup>  
o si no<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>33</sup>it is like

<sup>34</sup>I will tell you later

<sup>35</sup>I will tell you

<sup>36</sup>I love the way you are

<sup>37</sup>Do not say sorry

<sup>38</sup>But I think so/I believe yes

<sup>39</sup>We will see

<sup>40</sup>it is not your fault

<sup>41</sup>to explain

<sup>42</sup>I don't care

<sup>43</sup>I have enjoyed talking to you

<sup>44</sup>anyhow

<sup>45</sup>I don't know how to explain.

<sup>46</sup>I really want to

<sup>47</sup>We will see

<sup>48</sup>good night

<sup>49</sup>Then you understand me

<sup>50</sup>for example

<sup>51</sup>See you tomorrow (lit: until tomorrow)

<sup>52</sup>just as I thought

<sup>53</sup>no problem

<sup>54</sup>I don't know what will happen later

<sup>55</sup>or otherwise (lit: or if not)



pues<sup>56</sup>  
quiero averiguar<sup>57</sup>  
una forma de aprender<sup>58</sup>  
¿en serio?<sup>59</sup>  
Qué te gusta hacer?<sup>60</sup>  
Oye una pregunta<sup>61</sup>  
de hecho<sup>62</sup>  
Me da miedo eso<sup>63</sup>  
Ni yo sé<sup>64</sup>  
Te mato<sup>65</sup>  
A nadie le gusta<sup>66</sup>  
No me gusta<sup>67</sup>  
Como lo ves?<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>56</sup>well

<sup>57</sup>I want to find out

<sup>58</sup>one way of learning

<sup>59</sup>really?

<sup>60</sup>What do you like to do?

<sup>61</sup>Hey, I got a question

<sup>62</sup>in fact

<sup>63</sup>That scares me

<sup>64</sup>Not even I know

<sup>65</sup>I kill you

<sup>66</sup>Nobody likes it

<sup>67</sup>I don't like it

<sup>68</sup>What do you think?

In the sequel we list some important and often used words and phrases. We cover following types of words:

- Verbs (los verbos) **los verbos** (the verbs)
- Nouns (los sustantivos) **los sustantivos** (the nouns)
- Adjective (los adjetivos) **los adjetivos** (the adjectives)
- **Adverbs** are used to modify or describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. An adverb can give information about time, place, manner, or number and answer questions such as<sup>69</sup>:
  - How?
  - How long?
  - How often?
  - When?
  - Where?
- Pronouns (los pronombres) **los pronombres** (the pronouns)
- Prepositions (las preposiciones) **las preposiciones** (the prepositions)

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<sup>69</sup><https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-adverbs>

## Verbs

a visitarme	to visit me	cf., 17
absolver	to absolve	cf., 8
acertar	to hit/guess	cf., 6
acordarse de	to agree on/remember	cf., 8
adquirir	to acquire	cf., 10
airear	to freshen/to air	cf., 20
almorzar	to have lunch	cf., 8
aprender	to learn	cf., 13
aprobar	to approve	cf., 8
atender	to attend to	cf., 6
atravesar	to cross/go through	cf., 6
caber	to fit	cf., 11
caer	to fall	cf., 11, 20
calentar	to warm	cf., 6
caminar	to walk	cf., 20
casarse	to marry	cf., 16, 17
cerrar	to close	cf., 6
cocer	to boil/bake	cf., 8
colgar	to hang (up)	cf., 8
comenzar	to begin	cf., 6
comer	to eat	cf., 2, 3, 16–19
comprar	to buy	cf., 13
comprobar	to check/prove	cf., 8
confesar	to confess	cf., 6
conmover	to move	cf., 8
conocer	to know	cf., 11
conseguir	to get	cf., 9
contar	to count	cf., 8
corregir	to correct	cf., 9
correr	to run	cf., 20
costar	to cost	cf., 8
dar	to give	cf., 11
decir	to say/tell	cf., 9
defender	to defend	cf., 6
demoler	to demolish	cf., 8
demonstrar	to demonstrate/prove	cf., 8
descender	to descend	cf., 6
descolgar	to take down	cf., 8
descontar	to deduct/exclude	cf., 8
despedir	to fire/to say goodbye/to dismiss	cf., 9
despertarse	to wake up	cf., 6
despertar	to wake up	cf., 20
devolver	to return	cf., 8
direct	to direct	cf., 4

dirigir	to direct	cf., 4
disolver	to dissolve	cf., 8
divertirse	to have fun	cf., 6
doler	to hurt	cf., 8
dormir	to sleep	cf., 8
elegir	to elect	cf., 9
empezar	to begin	cf., 6
encender	to light/turn on	cf., 6
encerrar	to enclose/lock	cf., 6
encontrar	to find	cf., 8
encontrar	to find/encounter	cf., 16
entender	to understand	cf., 6
envolver	to wrap	cf., 8
escoger	to choose	cf., 4
escribir	to write	cf., 13
esperar	to wait	cf., 15
estar	to be	cf., 11, 14
exigir	to demand	cf., 4
extinguir	to extinguish	cf., 4
fregar	to scrub/wash	cf., 6
gobernar	to govern/rule	cf., 6
haber	to have	cf., 4, 11
hablar	to speak	cf., 2, 3, 16–19
hacer	to do	cf., 4, 14
hacer	to do/make	cf., 11
hay	there is/are (impersonal verb)	cf., 20
helar	to freeze	cf., 6
impedir	to impede/prevent	cf., 9
inquirir	to inquire	cf., 10
ir	to go	cf., 11
jugar	to play	cf., 10
llegar	to come	cf., 15
llover	to rain	cf., 8, 15
matar	to kill	cf., 20
medir	to measure	cf., 9
mentir	to lie	cf., 6
moler	to grind	cf., 8
morder	to bite	cf., 8
morir	to die	cf., 8
mostrar	to show	cf., 8
mover	to move	cf., 8
negar	to deny	cf., 6
nevar	to snow	cf., 6
oler	to smell	cf., 7, 8
pedir	to ask for	cf., 9
pensar	to think	cf., 6

perder	to lose	cf., 6
perseguir	to follow/chase	cf., 9
poder	to be able to	cf., 8
poner	to put	cf., 11
preferir	to prefer	cf., 6
probar	to taste, to prove	cf., 8
promover	to promote	cf., 8
querer	to want	cf., 5, 6, 15
recoger	to pick up	cf., 4
recomendar	to recommend	cf., 6
recordar	to remember	cf., 8
regresar	to return	cf., 16
remendar	to mend/patch	cf., 6
remover	to remove	cf., 8
repetir	to repeat	cf., 9
resolver	to resolve	cf., 8
retorcer	to twist	cf., 8
revolver	to mix/shake	cf., 8
reírse	to laugh	cf., 9
robar	to steal	cf., 16
rogar	to beg	cf., 8
saber	to know	cf., 11
salir	to leave	cf., 15
salir	to leave/to go out	cf., 11
seguir	to follow	cf., 9
sentar	to sit	cf., 16
sentar	to sit down	cf., 6
sentir	to feel	cf., 6
servir	to serve	cf., 9
ser	to be	cf., 11, 16
soler	to be accustomed to	cf., 8
sonar	to dream	cf., 7
sonar	to sound	cf., 8
sonreírse	to smile at	cf., 9
soñar	to dream	cf., 8
sugerir	to suggest	cf., 6
tener	to have	cf., 6
terminar	to finish	cf., 15
to clean	limpiar	cf., 14
torcer	to twist	cf., 8
traducir	to translate	cf., 11
traer	to bring	cf., 11, 13, 15
tronar	to thunder	cf., 8
tropezar	to stumble	cf., 6
valer	to be worth	cf., 11
venir	to come	cf., 6

ver	to see	cf., 11
vestirse	to get dressed	cf., 9
vivir	to live	cf., 2, 3, 16–19
volar	to fly	cf., 8
volver	to come back	cf., 16

# Nouns

arroz	rice	cf., 15
café	coffee	cf., 15
el año	the year	cf., 15, 16
el ensayo	the essay	cf., 13
el hombre	mankind	cf., 14
el hombre	the man	cf., 16
el mayo	the May	cf., 17
el niño	the boy/the child	cf., 16
el ojo	the eye	cf., 21
el padre	the father	cf., 17
el pretérito	the preterite	cf., 18
el profesor	the professor	cf., 16
el río	the river	cf., 17
el trabajo	the job	cf., 16
el veneno	the poison	cf., 21
gracias	thank you	cf., 14
la clave	the key	cf., 16
la cocina	the kitchen	cf., 14
la diferencia	the difference	cf., 21
la escuela	the school	cf., 17
la fiest	the party	cf., 15
la llamada	the call	cf., 15
la madre	the mother	cf., 17
la oreja	the ear	cf., 21
la pierna	the leg	cf., 21
la playa	the beach	cf., 16
la voz	the voice	cf., 21
las llaves	the keys	cf., 16
las preposiciones	the prepositions	cf., 26
los adjetivos	the adjectives	cf., 26
los padres	the parents	cf., 17
los pronombres	the pronouns	cf., 26
los substantivos	the nouns	cf., 26
los verbos	the verbs	cf., 26
pollo	chicken	cf., 15
por favor	please	cf., 15

## Adjectives

amarga	bitter	cf., 22
bueno/buena	good	cf., 16
guapo/guapa	handsome	cf., 16
mortal	mortal	cf., 14
tanto	so much	cf., 22



## Adverbs

Cómo	How	cf., 14
Qué	What	cf., 14
ahora mismo	right now	cf., 16
ahora	now	cf., 16
aquí	here	cf., 16
bien	fine/well/okay	cf., 14
cuanto	how much	cf., 16
dónde	where/wherever	cf., 16
mañana	tomorrow	cf., 17
probablemente	probably	cf., 23
probable	probably	cf., 23

## Pronouns

los	them	cf., 13
lo	it	cf., 13
me	me	cf., 13
mis	my (plural)	cf., 17
que	that	cf., 16
se	him/her	cf., 13

# Prepositions

con  
hasta

with  
until

cf., 15  
cf., 16

## Phrases

A mi no me importa.	I don't care.	cf., 16
A nadie le gusta	Nobody likes it	cf., 25
Anita estará en la playa ahora. cf., 16	Anita is probably at the beach right now.	
Bueno ya veremos	We will see	cf., 24
Como lo ves?	What do you think?	cf., 25
Cuanto años tendrá mi profesor?	I wonder how old the professor is?	cf., 16
Dónde estarán mis llaves?	Where could my keys be?	cf., 16
El hombre es mortal.	Mankind is mortal.	cf., 14
Encontraré un trabajo bueno.	He will find a good job.	cf., 16
Es como	it is like	cf., 24
Estoy bien, gracias.	I am fine, thanks.	cf., 14
Hace tres años que esperamos tu llamada. call.	We have been waiting three years for your	cf., 15
Limpio la cocina. kitchen.)	I clean the kitchen. (I am cleaning the	cf., 14
Los niños tendrán hambre. cf., 16	The children might be probably hungry.	
Luego te cuento	I will tell you later	cf., 24
Me casaré con un hombre guapo.	I will marry a handsome man.	cf., 16
Me caso el 6 de mayo.	I am getting married on May 6.	cf., 17
Me da miedo eso	That scares me	cf., 25
Me encanta tu forma de ser	I love the way you are	cf., 24
Me levanto a las seis y media cada mañana.	I get up at six thirty every morning.	cf., 14
Me trae un café, por favor.	Would you bring me a coffee please?	cf., 15
Mis padres me visitan mañana. tomorrow.	My parents are going to visit me	cf., 17
Ni yo sé	Not even I know	cf., 25
No me gusta	I don't like it	cf., 25
No pidas perdón	Do not say sorry	cf., 24
No robarás.	You shall/will not steal.	cf., 16
No se explicarlo.	I don't know how to explain.	cf., 24
Oye una pregunta	Hey, I got a question	cf., 25
Quiero el arroz con pollo.	I would like the chicken and rice.	cf., 15
Qué te gusta hacer?	What do you like to do?	cf., 25
Sal a dónde quieras. A mi no me importa.	Go wherever you want. I don't care.	cf., 16
Serán las ocho de la mañana. cf., 16	It must be eight o'clock in the morning.	
Si llega Marcos, salgo.	If Marcos comes, I am out.	cf., 15
Si llueve, la fiesta termina.	If it rains, the party is over.	cf., 15
Te cuento	I will tell you	cf., 24
Te mato	I kill you	cf., 25
Te sentarás aquí hasta que regrese. cf., 16	You shall/will sit right here until I return.	

Te veo mañana en la escuela.	I'll see you tomorrow at school.	cf., 17
Tengo muchas ganas	I really want to	cf., 24
Uno más uno son dos.	One plus one is two.	cf., 14
Voy al parque. ¿Vienes?	I am going to the park. Do you want to	cf., 17
come?		
Ya se verá	We will see	cf., 24
buenas noches	good night	cf., 24
cuanto años tener	how old (how many years to have)	cf., 16
de hecho	in fact	cf., 25
de todos modos	anyhow	cf., 24
el 6 de mayo	on May 6	cf., 17
encontes me entiendes	Then you understand me	cf., 24
hasta mañana	See you tomorrow (lit: until tomorrow)	cf.,
24		
hasta que regrese	until I return	cf., 16
justo como pensé	just as I thought	cf., 24
las ocho y media de la mañana	at eight thirty in the morning	cf., 16
mañana en/por la mañana	tomorrow in the morning	cf., 16
me da igual	I don't care	cf., 24
me ha gustado hablar contigo	I have enjoyed talking to you	cf., 24
no es tu culpa	it is not your fault	cf., 24
no pasa nada	no problem	cf., 24
no sé qué pasará más adelante	I don't know what will happen later	cf., 24
o si no	or otherwise (lit: or if not)	cf., 24
para explicar	to explain	cf., 24
pero creo que si	But I think so/I believe yes	cf., 24
por ejemplo	for example	cf., 19, 24
pues	well	cf., 25
quiero averiguar	I want to find out	cf., 25
te veo	I see you/I will see you	cf., 17
tener hambre	to be hungry	cf., 16
una forma de aprender	one way of learning	cf., 25
¿Cómo estas?	How are you?	cf., 14
¿Qué haces?	What are you doing?	cf., 14
¿en serio?	really?	cf., 25