

Spanish Grammar

Manuel Schneckenreither

November 30, 2020

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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 live¹.

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**.]

¹also 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 the 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 ².

- **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.

²<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 quiero | I want |
| tú | -es | tú quieres | you want |
| el/ella/usted | -e | el quiere | he/she/you want(s) |
| nosotros | -emos | nosotros queremos | we want |
| vosotros | -éis | vosotros queréis | you want |
| ellos/ellas/ustedes | -en | ellos quieren | 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 sueño | I dream |
| tú | -as | tú sueñas | you dream |
| el/ella/usted | -a | el sueña | he/she/you dream(s) |
| nosotros | -amos | nostros sonamos | we dream |
| vosotros | -áis | vosotros soñáis | you dream |
| ellos/ellas/ustedes | -an | ellos sueñan | 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 huelo | I smell |
| tú | -es | tú huelas | You smell |
| el/ella/usted | -e | el huele | he/she/you smell(s) |
| nosotros | -emos | nostros olemos | we smell |
| vosotros | -éis | vosotros oléis | you smell |
| ellos/ellas/ustedes | -en | ellos huelen | 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 ito | I repeat |
| tú | -es | tú rep ites | You repeat |
| el/ella/usted | -e | el rep ite | he/she/you repeat(s) |
| nosotros | -imos | nosotros rep etimos | we repeat |
| vosotros | -ís | vosotros rep etís | you repeat |
| ellos/ellas/ustedes | -en | ellos rep iten | 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 igo |
| corregir | to correct | yo corri jo |
| decir | to say/tell | yo dig o |
| despedir | to fire/to say goodbye/to dismiss | yo desp ido |
| elegir | to elect | yo el ijo |
| impedir | to impede/prevent | yo imp ido |
| medir | to measure | yo mid o |
| pedir | to ask for | yo pid o |
| perseguir | to follow/chase | yo pers igo |
| repetir | to repeat | yo rep ito |
| reírse | to laugh | yo me r ío |
| seguir | to follow | yo sig o |
| servir | to serve | yo sir vo |
| sonreírse | to smile at | yo me sonr ío (to smile at me) |
| vestirse | to get dressed | yo me vist o |

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 adqu iero | I acquire |
| tú | -es | tú adqu ieres | You acquire |
| el/ella/usted | -e | el adqu iere | he/she/you acquire(s) |
| nosotros | -imos | nostros adqu irimos | we acquire |
| vosotros | -ís | vosotros adqu irís | you acquire |
| ellos/ellas/ustedes | -en | ellos adqu ieren | they/you acquire |

Table 11: The verb *adquirir* conjugated.

| Subject | ir-Ending | Example (inquirir) | Meaning |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| yo | -o | yo inqu iero | I inquire |
| tú | -es | tú inqu ieres | You inquire |
| el/ella/usted | -e | el inqu iere | he/she/you inquire(s) |
| nosotros | -imos | nostros inqu irimos | we inquire |
| vosotros | -ís | vosotros inqu irís | you inquire |
| ellos/ellas/ustedes | -en | ellos inqu 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 ju ego | I play |
| tú | -as | tú ju egas | You play |
| el/ella/usted | -a | el ju ega | he/she/you play(s) |
| nosotros | -amos | nostros ju gamos | we play |
| vosotros | -áis | vosotros ju gáis | you play |
| ellos/ellas/ustedes | -an | ellos ju egan | they/you play |

Table 13: The verb *jugar* conjugated.

Irregular Verbs. Finally there are some common verbs with irregular yo forms³, otherwise they follow the standard patterns of the -ar tack and the -er/-ir track (in the so far discussed present tense):

³<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 are⁴:

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

| Subject | Conjugation of ser | 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 estar | 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 ir | 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 haber | 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 Spanish⁵:

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):

⁵<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.⁶
2. Things happening now: ¿Cómo estas?⁷ ¿Qué haces?⁸ Estoy bien, gracias.⁹ Limpio la cocina.¹⁰
3. Timeless events/universal truths: Uno más uno son dos.¹¹ El hombre es mortal.¹²

⁶I get up at six thirty every morning.

⁷How are you?

⁸What are you doing?

⁹I am fine, thanks.

¹⁰I clean the kitchen. (I am cleaning the kitchen.)

¹¹One plus one is two.

¹²Mankind is mortal.

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

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.)¹⁸.

¹³If Marcos comes, I am out.

¹⁴If it rains, the party is over.

¹⁵We have been waiting three years for your call.

¹⁶Would you bring me a coffee please?

¹⁷I would like the chicken and rice.

¹⁸<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 hablaras | 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 about¹⁹

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

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

²⁰Anita is probably at the beach right now.

²¹The children might be probably hungry.

²²It must be eight o'clock in the morning.

²³Where could my keys be?

²⁴I wonder how old the professor is?

²⁵I will marry a handsome man.

²⁶He will find a good job.

²⁷You shall/will not steal.

²⁸You 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.²⁹ Me caso el 6 de mayo.³⁰ Mis padres me visitan mañana.³¹

- **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?³²

²⁹I'll see you tomorrow at school.

³⁰I am getting married on May 6.

³¹My parents are going to visit me tomorrow.

³²I 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 | nostros 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 | nostros 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 | nostros 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 Additional Adjectives

amarga (bitter)
tanto (so much)

10 Additional Adverbs

probable (probably)

probablemente (probably)

11 Additional Prepositions

hacia (towards/to)

12 Additional Phrases

Es como³³
Luego te cuento³⁴
Te cuento³⁵
Me encanta tu forma de ser³⁶
No pidas perdón³⁷
pero creo que sí³⁸
Bueno ya veremos³⁹
no es tu culpa⁴⁰
para explicar⁴¹
me da igual⁴²
me ha gustado hablar contigo⁴³
de todos modos⁴⁴
No se explicarlo.⁴⁵
Tengo muchas ganas⁴⁶
Ya se verá⁴⁷
buenas noches⁴⁸
entonces me entiendes⁴⁹
por ejemplo⁵⁰
hasta mañana⁵¹
justo como pensé⁵²
no pasa nada⁵³
no sé qué pasará más adelante⁵⁴
o si no⁵⁵

³³it is like

³⁴I (will) tell you later

³⁵I (will) tell you

³⁶I love the way you are

³⁷Do not say sorry

³⁸But I think so/I believe yes

³⁹We will see

⁴⁰it is not your fault

⁴¹to explain

⁴²I don't care

⁴³I have enjoyed talking to you

⁴⁴anyhow

⁴⁵I don't know how to explain.

⁴⁶I really want to

⁴⁷We will see

⁴⁸good night

⁴⁹Then you understand me

⁵⁰for example

⁵¹See you tomorrow (lit: until tomorrow)

⁵²just as I thought

⁵³no problem

⁵⁴I don't know what will happen later

⁵⁵or otherwise (lit: or if not)

pues⁵⁶
quiero averiguar⁵⁷
una forma de aprender⁵⁸
¿en serio?⁵⁹
Qué te gusta hacer?⁶⁰
Oye una pregunta⁶¹
de hecho⁶²
Me da miedo eso⁶³
Ni yo sé⁶⁴
Te mato⁶⁵
A nadie le gusta⁶⁶
No me gusta⁶⁷
Como lo ves?⁶⁸
Porque soy yo?⁶⁹
Me alegro⁷⁰

⁵⁶well

⁵⁷I want to find out

⁵⁸one way of learning

⁵⁹really?

⁶⁰What do you like to do?

⁶¹Hey, I got a question

⁶²in fact

⁶³That scares me

⁶⁴Not even I know

⁶⁵I kill you

⁶⁶Nobody likes it

⁶⁷I don't like it

⁶⁸What do you think?

⁶⁹Why is it me? (Because I am?)

⁷⁰I am glad

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 as⁷¹:
 - How?
 - How long?
 - How often?
 - When?
 - Where?
- Pronouns (los pronombres) **los pronombres** (the pronouns)
- Prepositions (las preposiciones) **las preposiciones** (the prepositions)

⁷¹<https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-adverbs>

Verbs

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| a visitarme | to visit me | cf., 18 |
| absolver | to absolve | cf., 8 |
| acertar | to hit/guess | cf., 6 |
| acordarse de | to agree on/remember | cf., 8 |
| adquirir | to acquire | cf., 11 |
| airear | to freshen/to air | cf., 21 |
| almorzar | to have lunch | cf., 8 |
| aprender | to learn | cf., 14 |
| aprobar | to approve | cf., 8 |
| atender | to attend to | cf., 6 |
| atravesar | to cross/go through | cf., 6 |
| caber | to fit | cf., 12 |
| caer | to fall | cf., 12, 21 |
| calentar | to warm | cf., 6 |
| caminar | to walk | cf., 21 |
| casarse | to marry | cf., 17, 18 |
| 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, 17–20 |
| comprar | to buy | cf., 14 |
| comprobar | to check/prove | cf., 8 |
| confesar | to confess | cf., 6 |
| conmover | to move | cf., 8 |
| conocer | to know | cf., 12 |
| conseguir | to get | cf., 10 |
| contar | to count | cf., 8 |
| corregir | to correct | cf., 10 |
| correr | to run | cf., 21 |
| costar | to cost | cf., 8 |
| dar | to give | cf., 12 |
| decir | to say/tell | cf., 10 |
| defender | to defend | cf., 6 |
| demoler | to demolish | cf., 8 |
| demostrar | to demonstrate/prove | cf., 8 |
| descender | to descend | cf., 6 |
| descolgar | to take down | cf., 9 |
| descontar | to deduct/exclude | cf., 8 |
| despedir | to fire/to say goodbye/to dismiss | cf., 10 |
| despertarse | to wake up | cf., 6 |
| despertar | to wake up | cf., 21 |
| 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., 10 |
| 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., 17 |
| entender | to understand | cf., 6 |
| envolver | to wrap | cf., 8 |
| escoger | to choose | cf., 4 |
| escribir | to write | cf., 14 |
| esperar | to wait | cf., 16 |
| estar | to be | cf., 12, 15 |
| 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, 12 |
| hablar | to speak | cf., 2, 3, 17–20 |
| hacer | to do | cf., 4, 15 |
| hacer | to do/make | cf., 12 |
| hay | there is/are (impersonal verb) | cf., 21 |
| helar | to freeze | cf., 6 |
| impedir | to impede/prevent | cf., 10 |
| inquirir | to inquire | cf., 11 |
| ir | to go | cf., 12 |
| jugar | to play | cf., 11 |
| llegar | to come | cf., 16 |
| llover | to rain | cf., 8, 16 |
| matar | to kill | cf., 21 |
| medir | to measure | cf., 10 |
| 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., 10 |
| pensar | to think | cf., 6 |

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| perder | to lose | cf., 6 |
| perseguir | to follow/chase | cf., 10 |
| poder | to be able to | cf., 8 |
| poner | to put | cf., 12 |
| preferir | to prefer | cf., 6 |
| probar | to taste, to prove | cf., 8 |
| promover | to promote | cf., 8 |
| querer | to want | cf., 5, 6, 16 |
| recoger | to pick up | cf., 4 |
| recomendar | to recommend | cf., 6 |
| recordar | to remember | cf., 8 |
| regresar | to return | cf., 17 |
| remendar | to mend/patch | cf., 6 |
| remover | to remove | cf., 8 |
| repetir | to repeat | cf., 10 |
| resolver | to resolve | cf., 8 |
| retorcer | to twist | cf., 8 |
| revolver | to mix/shake | cf., 8 |
| reírse | to laugh | cf., 10 |
| robar | to steal | cf., 17 |
| rogar | to beg | cf., 8 |
| saber | to know | cf., 12 |
| salir | to leave | cf., 16 |
| salir | to leave/to go out | cf., 12 |
| seguir | to follow | cf., 10 |
| sentar | to sit | cf., 17 |
| sentar | to sit down | cf., 6 |
| sentir | to feel | cf., 6 |
| servir | to serve | cf., 10 |
| ser | to be | cf., 12, 17 |
| soler | to be accustomed to | cf., 8 |
| sonar | to dream | cf., 7 |
| sonar | to sound | cf., 8 |
| sonreírse | to smile at | cf., 10 |
| soñar | to dream | cf., 8 |
| sugerir | to suggest | cf., 6 |
| tener | to have | cf., 6 |
| terminar | to finish | cf., 16 |
| to clean | limpiar | cf., 15 |
| torcer | to twist | cf., 8 |
| traducir | to translate | cf., 12 |
| traer | to bring | cf., 12, 14, 16 |
| tronar | to thunder | cf., 8 |
| tropezar | to stumble | cf., 6 |
| valer | to be worth | cf., 12 |
| venir | to come | cf., 6 |

| | | |
|----------|----------------|------------------|
| ver | to see | cf., 12 |
| vestirse | to get dressed | cf., 10 |
| vivir | to live | cf., 2, 3, 17–20 |
| volar | to fly | cf., 8 |
| volver | to come back | cf., 17 |

Nouns

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| arroz | rice | cf., 16 |
| café | coffee | cf., 16 |
| el año | the year | cf., 16, 17 |
| el ensayo | the essay | cf., 14 |
| el hombre | mankind | cf., 15 |
| el hombre | the man | cf., 17 |
| el mayo | the May | cf., 18 |
| el niño | the boy/the child | cf., 17 |
| el ojo | the eye | cf., 22 |
| el padre | the father | cf., 18 |
| el pretérito | the preterite | cf., 19 |
| el profesor | the professor | cf., 17 |
| el río | the river | cf., 18 |
| el trabajo | the job | cf., 17 |
| el veneno | the poison | cf., 22 |
| gracias | thank you | cf., 15 |
| la clave | the key | cf., 17 |
| la cocina | the kitchen | cf., 15 |
| la diferencia | the difference | cf., 22 |
| la escuela | the school | cf., 18 |
| la fiest | the party | cf., 16 |
| la llamada | the call | cf., 16 |
| la madre | the mother | cf., 18 |
| la oreja | the ear | cf., 22 |
| la pierna | the leg | cf., 22 |
| la playa | the beach | cf., 17 |
| la voz | the voice | cf., 22 |
| las llaves | the keys | cf., 17 |
| las preposiciones | the prepositions | cf., 28 |
| los adjetivos | the adjectives | cf., 28 |
| los padres | the parents | cf., 18 |
| los pronombres | the pronouns | cf., 28 |
| los substantivos | the nouns | cf., 28 |
| los verbos | the verbs | cf., 28 |
| pollo | chicken | cf., 16 |
| por favor | please | cf., 16 |

Adjectives

| | | |
|-------------|----------|---------|
| amarga | bitter | cf., 23 |
| bueno/buena | good | cf., 17 |
| guapo/guapa | handsome | cf., 17 |
| mortal | mortal | cf., 15 |
| tanto | so much | cf., 23 |

Adverbs

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------|
| Cómo | How | cf., 15 |
| Qué | What | cf., 15 |
| ahora mismo | right now | cf., 17 |
| ahora | now | cf., 17 |
| aquí | here | cf., 17 |
| bien | fine/well/okay | cf., 15 |
| cuanto | how much | cf., 17 |
| dónde | where/wherever | cf., 17 |
| mañana | tomorrow | cf., 18 |
| probablemente | probably | cf., 24 |
| probable | probably | cf., 24 |

Pronouns

| | | |
|-----|-------------|---------|
| los | them | cf., 14 |
| lo | it | cf., 14 |
| me | me | cf., 14 |
| mis | my (plural) | cf., 18 |
| que | that | cf., 17 |
| se | him/her | cf., 14 |

Prepositions

| | | |
|-------|-------------|---------|
| con | with | cf., 16 |
| hacia | torwards/to | cf., 25 |
| hasta | until | cf., 17 |

Phrases

| | | |
|--|---|---------|
| A mi no me importa. | I don't care. | cf., 17 |
| A nadie le gusta | Nobody likes it | cf., 27 |
| Anita estará en la playa ahora. | Anita is probably at the beach right now. | |
| cf., 17 | | |
| Bueno ya veremos | We will see | cf., 26 |
| Como lo ves? | What do you think? | cf., 27 |
| Cuanto años tendrá mi profesor? | I wonder how old the professor is? | cf., 17 |
| Dónde estarán mis llaves? | Where could my keys be? | cf., 17 |
| El hombre es mortal. | Mankind is mortal. | cf., 15 |
| Encontrará un trabajo bueno. | He will find a good job. | cf., 17 |
| Es como | it is like | cf., 26 |
| Estoy bien, gracias. | I am fine, thanks. | cf., 15 |
| Hace tres años que esperamos tu llamada. | We have been waiting three years for your | |
| call. | | cf., 16 |
| Limpio la cocina. | I clean the kitchen. (I am cleaning the | |
| kitchen.) | | cf., 15 |
| Los niños tendrán hambre. | The children might be probably hungry. | |
| cf., 17 | | |
| Luego te cuento | I (will) tell you later | cf., 26 |
| Me alegro | I am glad | cf., 27 |
| Me casaré con un hombre guapo. | I will marry a handsome man. | cf., 17 |
| Me caso el 6 de mayo. | I am getting married on May 6. | cf., 18 |
| Me da miedo eso | That scares me | cf., 27 |
| Me encanta tu forma de ser | I love the way you are | cf., 26 |
| Me levanto a las seis y media cada mañana. | I get up at six thirty every morning. | cf., 15 |
| Me trae un café, por favor. | Would you bring me a coffee please? | cf., 16 |
| Mis padres me visitan mañana. | My parents are going to visit me | |
| tomorrow. | | cf., 18 |
| Ni yo sé | Not even I know | cf., 27 |
| No me gusta | I don't like it | cf., 27 |
| No pidas perdón | Do not say sorry | cf., 26 |
| No robarás. | You shall/will not steal. | cf., 17 |
| No se explicarlo. | I don't know how to explain. | cf., 26 |
| Oye una pregunta | Hey, I got a question | cf., 27 |
| Porque soy yo? | Why is it me? (Because I am?) | cf., 27 |
| Quiero el arroz con pollo. | I would like the chicken and rice. | cf., 16 |
| Qué te gusta hacer? | What do you like to do? | cf., 27 |
| Sal a dónde quieras. A mi no me importa. | Go wherever you want. I don't care. | cf., 17 |
| Serán las ocho de la mañana. | It must be eight o'clock in the morning. | |
| cf., 17 | | |
| Si llega Marcos, salgo. | If Marcos comes, I am out. | cf., 16 |
| Si llueve, la fiesta termina. | If it rains, the party is over. | cf., 16 |
| Te cuento | I (will) tell you | cf., 26 |
| Te mato | I kill you | cf., 27 |

Te sentarás aquí hasta que regrese.
cf., 17

Te veo mañana en la escuela.

Tengo muchas ganas

Uno más uno son dos.

Voy al parque. ¿Vienes?
come?

Ya se verá

buenas noches

cuanto años tener

de hecho

de todos modos

el 6 de mayo

encontes me entiendes

hasta mañana

26

hasta que regrese

justo como pensé

las ocho y media de la mañana

mañana en/por la mañana

me da igual

me ha gustado hablar contigo

no es tu culpa

no pasa nada

no sé qué pasará más adelante

o si no

para explicar

pero creo que si

por ejemplo

pues

quiero averiguar

te veo

tener hambre

una forma de aprender

¿Cómo estas?

¿Qué haces?

¿en serio?

You shall/will sit right here until I return.

I'll see you tomorrow at school. cf., 18

I really want to cf., 26

One plus one is two. cf., 15

I am going to the park. Do you want to
cf., 18

We will see cf., 26

good night cf., 26

how old (how many years to have) cf., 17

in fact cf., 27

anyhow cf., 26

on May 6 cf., 18

Then you understand me cf., 26

See you tomorrow (lit: until tomorrow) cf.,

until I return cf., 17

just as I thought cf., 26

at eight thirty in the morning cf., 17

tomorrow in the morning cf., 17

I don't care cf., 26

I have enjoyed talking to you cf., 26

it is not your fault cf., 26

no problem cf., 26

I don't know what will happen later cf., 26

or otherwise (lit: or if not) cf., 26

to explain cf., 26

But I think so/I believe yes cf., 26

for example cf., 20, 26

well cf., 27

I want to find out cf., 27

I see you/I will see you cf., 18

to be hungry cf., 17

one way of learning cf., 27

How are you? cf., 15

What are you doing? cf., 15

really? cf., 27