

# Complete Guide to Spanish Verbs

Guía Completa de Verbos en Español

IdiomAry

## What are Spanish verbs?

Spanish verbs (verbos) are action words that express what someone or something does, feels, or experiences. Unlike English, Spanish verbs change their endings based on who performs the action (person), when it happens (tense), and the speaker's attitude toward the action (mood). Mastering Spanish verbs is crucial for effective communication and achieving fluency.

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# 1 Essential Daily Verbs

*Verbos Esenciales Diarios - Most common verbs for everyday communication*

## 1.1 Basic Action Verbs

- **Ser** (to be (permanent)) - *describing identity, characteristics*  
Soy estudiante. - I am a student.  
Ella es inteligente. - She is intelligent.
- **Estar** (to be (temporary)) - *describing states, locations*  
Estoy cansado. - I am tired.  
El libro está en la mesa. - The book is on the table.
- **Tener** (to have) - *possession, age, feelings*  
Tengo hambre. - I am hungry.  
Él tiene 25 años. - He is 25 years old.
- **Hacer** (to do/make) - *actions, weather*  
¿Qué haces? - What are you doing?  
Hace calor. - It's hot.
- **Ir** (to go) - *movement, future plans*  
Voy al trabajo. - I'm going to work.  
Vamos a estudiar. - We're going to study.
- **Venir** (to come) - *approaching movement*  
Vengo de casa. - I'm coming from home.  
¿Vienes conmigo? - Are you coming with me?

## 1.2 Communication Verbs

- **Hablar** (to speak/talk) - *communication*  
Hablo español e inglés. - I speak Spanish and English.  
Hablamos por teléfono. - We talk on the phone.
- **Decir** (to say/tell) - *expressing information*  
Digo la verdad. - I tell the truth.  
¿Qué dice el profesor? - What does the teacher say?
- **Preguntar** (to ask) - *requesting information*  
Pregunto la hora. - I ask for the time.  
Ella pregunta por ti. - She asks about you.
- **Responder / Contestar** (to answer/respond) - *giving information*  
Respondo rápidamente. - I answer quickly.  
Contesta el teléfono. - Answer the phone.

- **Escuchar** (to listen) - *receiving audio*  
Escucho música. - I listen to music.  
Escuchamos al profesor. - We listen to the teacher.
- **Entender / Comprender** (to understand) - *grasping meaning*  
No entiendo español. - I don't understand Spanish.  
Comprendo el problema. - I understand the problem.

## 2 Physical Action Verbs

*Verbos de Acción Física* - Verbs describing physical activities

### 2.1 Movement Verbs

- **Caminar** (to walk) - *moving on foot*  
Camino al parque. - I walk to the park.  
Caminamos juntos. - We walk together.
- **Correr** (to run) - *fast movement*  
Corro en el parque. - I run in the park.  
Él corre muy rápido. - He runs very fast.
- **Saltar** (to jump) - *upward movement*  
Los niños saltan. - The children jump.  
Salto de alegría. - I jump for joy.
- **Subir** (to go up/climb) - *upward movement*  
Subo las escaleras. - I go up the stairs.  
Subimos la montaña. - We climb the mountain.
- **Bajar** (to go down/descend) - *downward movement*  
Bajo del autobús. - I get off the bus.  
Bajamos al sótano. - We go down to the basement.
- **Volar** (to fly) - *air movement*  
El avión vuela alto. - The plane flies high.  
Los pájaros vuelan. - The birds fly.

### 2.2 Hand Actions

- **Tomar / Coger** (to take/grab) - *grasping objects*  
Tomo el autobús. - I take the bus.  
Coge el libro. - Take the book.
- **Dar** (to give) - *transferring objects*  
Doy un regalo. - I give a gift.  
Él da dinero. - He gives money.

- **Poner** (to put/place) - *positioning objects*  
Pongo la mesa. - I set the table.  
Ponemos los libros aquí. - We put the books here.
- **Llevar** (to carry/take) - *transporting objects*  
Llevo una mochila. - I carry a backpack.  
Llevamos comida. - We bring food.
- **Traer** (to bring) - *bringing objects*  
Traigo café. - I bring coffee.  
¿Traes tu teléfono? - Are you bringing your phone?
- **Tocar** (to touch/play) - *physical contact*  
No toques eso. - Don't touch that.  
Toco la guitarra. - I play the guitar.

## 3 Mental and Emotional Verbs

*Verbos Mentales y Emocionales - Verbs expressing thoughts and feelings*

### 3.1 Thinking Verbs

- **Pensar** (to think) - *mental activity*  
Pienso en ti. - I think about you.  
¿Qué piensas? - What do you think?
- **Saber** (to know) - *factual knowledge*  
Sé español. - I know Spanish.  
Sabemos la respuesta. - We know the answer.
- **Conocer** (to know/meet) - *people, places*  
Conozco Madrid. - I know Madrid.  
¿Conoces a María? - Do you know María?
- **Recordar** (to remember) - *memory*  
Recuerdo tu nombre. - I remember your name.  
No recordamos eso. - We don't remember that.
- **Olvídar** (to forget) - *loss of memory*  
Olvido las llaves. - I forget the keys.  
Ella olvida todo. - She forgets everything.
- **Aprender** (to learn) - *acquiring knowledge*  
Aprendo español. - I learn Spanish.  
Aprendemos rápido. - We learn quickly.

### 3.2 Feeling Verbs

- **Amar / Querer** (to love) - *strong affection*  
Amo a mi familia. - I love my family.  
Te quiero mucho. - I love you very much.
- **Gustar** (to like) - *preference*  
Me gusta el café. - I like coffee.  
Nos gusta viajar. - We like to travel.
- **Odiar** (to hate) - *strong dislike*  
Odio levantarme temprano. - I hate getting up early.  
Odiamos el tráfico. - We hate traffic.
- **Sentir** (to feel) - *emotions, physical sensations*  
Siento frío. - I feel cold.  
Sentimos tristeza. - We feel sadness.
- **Esperar** (to hope/wait) - *expectation*  
Espero buenas noticias. - I hope for good news.  
Esperamos el autobús. - We wait for the bus.
- **Temer / Tener miedo** (to fear) - *feeling afraid*  
Temo a las arañas. - I fear spiders.  
Tengo miedo de volar. - I'm afraid of flying.

## 4 Daily Routine Verbs

*Verbos de Rutina Diaria - Verbs for describing daily activities*

### 4.1 Morning Routine

- **Levantarse** (to get up) - *waking up*  
Me levanto a las 7. - I get up at 7.  
Se levanta temprano. - He gets up early.
- **Despertarse** (to wake up) - *becoming awake*  
Me despierto solo. - I wake up alone.  
Nos despertamos tarde. - We wake up late.
- **Ducharse / Bañarse** (to shower/bathe) - *cleaning oneself*  
Me ducho por la mañana. - I shower in the morning.  
Se baña en la noche. - She bathes at night.
- **Vestirse** (to get dressed) - *putting on clothes*  
Me visto rápidamente. - I get dressed quickly.  
Se viste elegante. - He dresses elegantly.

- **Desayunar** (to have breakfast) - *morning meal*  
Desayuno cereales. - I have cereal for breakfast.  
Desayunamos en casa. - We have breakfast at home.
- **Salir** (to leave/go out) - *departing*  
Salgo de casa a las 8. - I leave home at 8.  
Salimos juntos. - We go out together.

## 4.2 Evening Routine

- **Llegar** (to arrive) - *reaching destination*  
Llego a casa tarde. - I arrive home late.  
Llegamos puntuales. - We arrive on time.
- **Cenar** (to have dinner) - *evening meal*  
Ceno con mi familia. - I have dinner with my family.  
Cenamos en el restaurante. - We dine at the restaurant.
- **Ver** (to see/watch) - *visual perception*  
Veo televisión. - I watch television.  
Vemos una película. - We watch a movie.
- **Leer** (to read) - *processing text*  
Leo un libro. - I read a book.  
Leemos las noticias. - We read the news.
- **Dormir** (to sleep) - *resting*  
Duermo 8 horas. - I sleep 8 hours.  
Dormimos bien. - We sleep well.
- **Acostarse** (to go to bed) - *preparing for sleep*  
Me acuesto a las 10. - I go to bed at 10.  
Se acuesta temprano. - She goes to bed early.

## 5 Work and Study Verbs

*Verbos de Trabajo y Estudio - Professional and academic verbs*

### 5.1 Professional Verbs

- **Trabajar** (to work) - *professional activity*  
Trabajo en una oficina. - I work in an office.  
Trabajamos en equipo. - We work as a team.
- **Ganar** (to earn/win) - *obtaining money/victory*  
Gano dinero. - I earn money.  
Ganamos el proyecto. - We win the project.

- **Vender** (to sell) - *commercial transaction*  
Vendo mi coche. - I sell my car.  
Vendemos productos. - We sell products.
- **Comprar** (to buy) - *purchasing*  
Compro comida. - I buy food.  
Compramos ropa. - We buy clothes.
- **Dirigir** (to direct/manage) - *leadership*  
Dirijo el equipo. - I direct the team.  
Dirige la empresa. - He manages the company.
- **Ayudar** (to help) - *assistance*  
Ayudo a mis colegas. - I help my colleagues.  
Ayudamos con el proyecto. - We help with the project.

## 5.2 Academic Verbs

- **Estudiar** (to study) - *learning activity*  
Estudio medicina. - I study medicine.  
Estudiamos juntos. - We study together.
- **Enseñar** (to teach) - *instructing*  
Enseño español. - I teach Spanish.  
Enseñamos a los niños. - We teach the children.
- **Escribir** (to write) - *creating text*  
Escribo un ensayo. - I write an essay.  
Escribimos cartas. - We write letters.
- **Leer** (to read) - *processing information*  
Leo libros científicos. - I read scientific books.  
Leemos artículos. - We read articles.
- **Investigar** (to research) - *studying deeply*  
Investigo el tema. - I research the topic.  
Investigamos historia. - We research history.
- **Explicar** (to explain) - *clarifying*  
Explico la lección. - I explain the lesson.  
Explicamos el proceso. - We explain the process.

## 6 Irregular Verbs

*Verbos Irregulares - Important verbs with irregular conjugations*

## 6.1 Most Common Irregular Verbs

- **Ser** (to be (permanent)) - *identity, characteristics*  
**Present:** soy, eres, es, somos, sois, son  
Soy médico. - I am a doctor.
- **Estar** (to be (temporary)) - *states, locations*  
**Present:** estoy, estás, está, estamos, estáis, están  
Estoy en casa. - I am at home.
- **Tener** (to have) - *possession*  
**Present:** tengo, tienes, tiene, tenemos, tenéis, tienen  
Tengo dos hermanos. - I have two brothers.
- **Hacer** (to do/make) - *actions*  
**Present:** hago, haces, hace, hacemos, hacéis, hacen  
Hago ejercicio. - I exercise.
- **Ir** (to go) - *movement*  
**Present:** voy, vas, va, vamos, vais, van  
Voy al cine. - I go to the movies.
- **Venir** (to come) - *approaching*  
**Present:** vengo, vienes, viene, venimos, venís, vienen  
Vengo mañana. - I'm coming tomorrow.

## 6.2 Stem-Changing Verbs

- **Poder** (to be able to/can) - *ability*  
**Present:** puedo, puedes, puede, podemos, podéis, pueden  
Puedo hablar español. - I can speak Spanish.
- **Querer** (to want/love) - *desire*  
**Present:** quiero, quieres, quiere, queremos, queréis, quieren  
Quiero café. - I want coffee.
- **Pensar** (to think) - *mental activity*  
**Present:** pienso, piensas, piensa, pensamos, pensáis, piensan  
Pienso en español. - I think in Spanish.
- **Dormir** (to sleep) - *resting*  
**Present:** duermo, duermes, duerme, dormimos, dormís, duermen  
Duermo bien. - I sleep well.
- **Empezar** (to begin/start) - *initiation*  
**Present:** empiezo, empiezas, empieza, empezamos, empezáis, empiezan  
Empiezo a trabajar. - I start working.
- **Cerrar** (to close) - *shutting*  
**Present:** cierra, cierras, cierra, cerramos, cerráis, cierran  
Cierro la puerta. - I close the door.

## 7 Verb Conjugation Patterns

### Regular Verb Patterns:

#### -AR verbs (like hablar):

- Present: hablo, hablas, habla, hablamos, habláis, hablan
- Preterite: hablé, hablaste, habló, hablamos, hablasteis, hablaron
- Imperfect: hablaba, hablabas, hablaba, hablábamos, hablabais, hablaban

#### -ER verbs (like comer):

- Present: como, comes, come, comemos, coméis, comen
- Preterite: comí, comiste, comió, comimos, comisteis, comieron
- Imperfect: comía, comías, comía, comíamos, comíais, comían

#### -IR verbs (like vivir):

- Present: vivo, vives, vive, vivimos, vivís, viven
- Preterite: viví, viviste, vivió, vivimos, vivisteis, vivieron
- Imperfect: vivía, vivías, vivía, vivíamos, vivíais, vivían

## 8 Common Mistakes and Tips

### Common Mistakes to Avoid:

1. **Ser vs. Estar confusion:** Remember ser for permanent, estar for temporary
2. **Forgetting reflexive pronouns:** Don't forget "me, te, se" with reflexive verbs
3. **Wrong verb endings:** Pay attention to -ar, -er, -ir conjugation patterns
4. **Irregular verb forms:** Memorize common irregular verbs like ser, estar, tener
5. **Gustar construction:** Remember "me gusta" not "yo gusto"

### Pro Tips for Learning Spanish Verbs:

1. **Start with present tense:** Master present conjugations before other tenses
2. **Learn in context:** Study verbs within complete sentences
3. **Practice daily:** Use new verbs in your daily Spanish practice

4. **Group similar verbs:** Study stem-changing verbs together
5. **Use mnemonics:** Create memory aids for irregular verbs
6. **Listen actively:** Pay attention to verb forms in Spanish media

## 9 Quick Reference Table

Spanish Verb	English	Example	Type
ser	to be	Soy estudiante	Irregular
estar	to be	Estoy cansado	Irregular
tener	to have	Tengo hambre	Irregular
hacer	to do/make	Hago ejercicio	Irregular
ir	to go	Voy al trabajo	Irregular
venir	to come	Vengo mañana	Irregular
poder	can/to be able	Puedo ayudar	Stem-changing
querer	to want/love	Quiero café	Stem-changing
saber	to know	Sé español	Irregular
conocer	to know/meet	Conozco París	Regular
hablar	to speak	Hablo inglés	Regular
comer	to eat	Como frutas	Regular
vivir	to live	Vivo en Madrid	Regular
trabajar	to work	Trabajo aquí	Regular
estudiar	to study	Estudio español	Regular
dormir	to sleep	Duermo bien	Stem-changing
pensar	to think	Pienso en ti	Stem-changing
empezar	to begin	Empiezo a leer	Stem-changing
gustar	to like	Me gusta música	Special
llamarse	to be called	Me llamo Juan	Reflexive

## 10 Practice Exercises

### Exercise 1: Conjugate the verbs

Complete with the correct present tense form:

1. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ (hablar) español.

2. Tú \_\_\_\_\_ (comer) pizza.
3. Él \_\_\_\_\_ (vivir) en México.
4. Nosotros \_\_\_\_\_ (ser) estudiantes.
5. Ellos \_\_\_\_\_ (tener) hambre.

**Exercise 2: Choose ser or estar**

Complete with the correct form of ser or estar:

1. María \_\_\_\_\_ doctora. (profession)
2. El café \_\_\_\_\_ caliente. (temporary state)
3. Nosotros \_\_\_\_\_ en la escuela. (location)
4. Los libros \_\_\_\_\_ interesantes. (characteristic)
5. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ cansado. (temporary state)

**Exercise 3: Translate to Spanish**

Translate these sentences:

1. I want to learn Spanish.
2. We can help you.
3. She is thinking about the problem.
4. They are going to the movies.
5. You (informal) have a beautiful house.

## 11 Learning Strategies

**To master Spanish verbs:**

1. **Create verb charts** for each tense and practice daily
2. **Use flashcards** with infinitive on one side, conjugations on the other
3. **Practice with sentences** rather than isolated verb forms
4. **Watch Spanish videos** and identify different verb tenses
5. **Keep a verb journal** noting new verbs you encounter
6. **Speak with native speakers** to practice natural verb usage
7. **Use verb conjugation apps** for additional practice

**8. Read Spanish texts and highlight unfamiliar verb forms**

**Remember:** Consistency is key! Practice a little bit every day rather than cramming. Focus on the most common verbs first, then gradually expand your vocabulary. Don't be afraid to make mistakes – they're part of the learning process!

**¡Buena suerte con tu aprendizaje de los verbos españoles!**  
**Good luck with learning Spanish verbs!**