FLASHFEED STUDY GUIDE

Spanish Verbs 1: The Present

Study guide by FlashFeed

November 2026 edition · pack version 1.0.13

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Spanish Verbs 1: The Present: study guide

Conjugate Latin American Spanish verbs in the present: regular -ar, -er and -ir verbs, ser, estar and ir, stem changes and irregular yo forms, then the verbs you need every day. The second pack of the Spanish collection.

Edition	November 2026 (2026-11-21)
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Contents	6 lessons · 238 cards in the app · 85 self-test questions · 3 pictures
In the app	flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-verbs-1

How to use this guide

Take one lesson at a time: read the study guide, then go over any key facts. Where a lesson has a self-test, try it from memory before you check the answer key at the back. Follow the Go deeper links when you want more.

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LESSON 1 OF 6

Lesson 1: How Spanish Verbs Work

Part 1: Infinitives and Endings · Part 2: Regular -ar Verbs in the Present · Part 3: Dropping the Pronoun

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recognize -ar, -er and -ir infinitives and their families, choose a verb's stem, and conjugate by replacing the infinitive ending.
- Conjugate hablar, trabajar, estudiar, llegar and necesitar in the present, and use the él/ella form for usted and the ellos/ellas form for ustedes.
- Recognize that Spanish usually drops the subject pronoun, keep it for contrast, clarity or courtesy with usted, and say "it" with no subject word.

How Spanish Verbs Work

In English, a verb barely changes: *I speak*, *you speak*, *we speak*. In Spanish, the verb itself changes, and its ending tells you who is doing the action. This lesson shows how a Spanish verb is built, teaches the present tense of the largest verb family, and explains why Spanish speakers so often leave out words like **yo** (*I*) and **tú** (*you*). Every later lesson in this pack builds on these ideas.

Infinitives and Endings

The *infinitive* is the basic form of a verb, the form a dictionary lists. English marks it with the word *to*: *to speak*, *to eat*, *to live*. Spanish marks it with an ending instead, so a Spanish infinitive is one word that ends in **-ar**, **-er** or **-ir**.

- **hablar** — *to speak*
- **comer** — *to eat*
- **vivir** — *to live*

These three endings sort Spanish verbs into three families, also called conjugations. The **-ar** family is the largest.

You can split an infinitive into a stem and an ending. The *stem* is what is left when you drop the last two letters:

- **hablar** → **habl-** + **-ar**
- **comer** → **com-** + **-er**
- **vivir** → **viv-** + **-ir**

To *conjugate* a verb is to replace the infinitive ending with a new ending that shows who is doing the action, and when. In a *regular* verb, one that follows the standard pattern of its family, the stem stays the same and only the ending changes:

- **habl-** + **-o** = **hablo** — *I speak*
- **habl-** + **-as** = **hablas** — *you speak*
- **habl-** + **-amos** = **hablamos** — *we speak*

English shows who is acting with a separate word (*I*, *you*, *we*). Spanish builds that information into the ending, so the ending is the part to watch.

The three families conjugate differently, because each family has its own set of endings. You will learn the **-ar** set first, in the next part. The **-er** and **-ir** sets come in the next lesson.

Sources

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- Diccionario del español de México: hablar — https://dem.colmex.mx/Ver/hablar

Regular -ar Verbs in the Present

Regular **-ar** verbs all follow one pattern, and **hablar** (*to speak*) is the model. Drop **-ar** to get the stem **habl-**, then add one of five endings:

- **yo** hablo — *I speak*
- **tú** hablas — *you speak (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** habla — *you speak (formal) / he, she speaks*
- **nosotros / nosotras** hablamos — *we speak*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** hablan — *you all speak / they speak*

The present-tense endings of regular **-ar** verbs are **-o**, **-as**, **-a**, **-amos** and **-an**. Every regular **-ar** verb takes them, so you only need to learn the pattern once. Here are four more verbs. Each line gives the verb, its stem and its five forms, in the same order as the list above (so **trabajo** means *I work*, **trabajas** means *you work*, and so on):

- **trabajar** (*to work*), stem **trabaj-**: **trabajo**, **trabajas**, **trabaja**, **trabajamos**, **trabajan**
- **estudiar** (*to study*), stem **estudi-**: **estudio**, **estudias**, **estudia**, **estudiamos**, **estudian**
- **llegar** (*to arrive*), stem **lleg-**: **llego**, **llegas**, **llega**, **llegamos**, **llegan**
- **necesitar** (*to need*), stem **necesit-**: **necesito**, **necesitas**, **necesita**, **necesitamos**, **necesitan**

Here they are in sentences:

- **Trabajo en la Ciudad de México.** — *I work in Mexico City.*
- **Ella estudia en Guadalajara.** — *She studies in Guadalajara.*
- **Necesito veinte pesos.** — *I need twenty pesos.*

Two groups of pronouns share a verb form. **Usted** takes the same form as **él** and **ella**, never the **tú** form. **Ustedes** takes the same form as **ellos** and **ellas**.

- **Usted habla español.** — *You speak Spanish. (formal)*
- **Ustedes trabajan en Monterrey.** — *You all work in Monterrey.*

Nosotras and **ellas** are for groups of only women, and the verb form does not change: **Nosotras llegamos a las ocho.** (*We arrive at eight.*) **Ellos** is for men or for a mixed group.

In Mexico and the rest of Latin America, **ustedes** is the only plural *you* in everyday speech, for friends and strangers alike. Much of Spain also uses **vosotros** for an informal *you all*, with its own verb form (**habláis**), but you do not need to learn it for Latin America.

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Dropping the Pronoun

Because the ending already shows who is acting, Spanish usually leaves out the subject pronoun. You say **Hablo español.** (*I speak Spanish.*) with no **yo**, because the ending **-o** already means *I*. The same goes for the other persons:

- **¿Dónde trabajas?** — *Where do you work?*
- **Estudiamos en Oaxaca.** — *We study in Oaxaca.*

Using the pronoun is not a mistake, and in some countries speakers use it often, as in **Yo estudio español.** (*I study Spanish.*) Even so, leaving it out is the usual pattern, so make that your default.

Keep the pronoun in these cases:

- For emphasis or contrast: **Yo trabajo, tú estudias.** (*I work, you study.*) Another example: **Yo hablo español, pero ella habla inglés.** (*I speak Spanish, but she speaks English.*)
- To make clear who is meant when forms are shared. **Habla** can mean **usted**, **él** or **ella**, and **hablan** can mean **ustedes**, **ellos** or **ellas**. If the context does not settle it, add the pronoun: **Ella habla español.** — *She speaks Spanish.*
- As a courtesy with **usted**. Speakers often keep **usted** in polite speech, even when the verb already makes the subject clear: **¿Habla usted español?** — *Do you speak Spanish? (formal)*

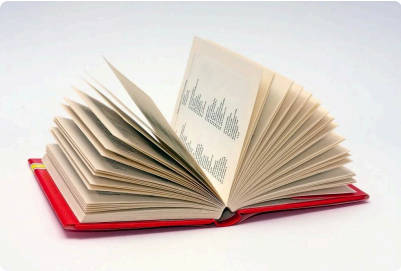
English statements need a subject, even an empty *it*. Spanish usually has no word for *it* as a subject, so the verb stands alone: **Es importante.** (*It is important.*) **Es importante estudiar.** (*It is important to study.*) As a subject, do not translate *it* with **él** or **ella**, which usually stand for people.

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Key facts



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A Spanish infinitive ends in -ar, -er or -ir

The *infinitive* is the basic form of a verb, the form a dictionary lists. English marks it with the word *to*; Spanish marks it with an ending, so a Spanish infinitive is one word that ends in **-ar**, **-er** or **-ir**: **hablar** (*to speak*), **comer** (*to eat*), **vivir** (*to live*). These three endings sort Spanish verbs into three families, also called conjugations. The **-ar** family is the largest.

The stem is the infinitive without its last two letters

You can split an infinitive into a stem and an ending. The *stem* is what is left when you drop the last two letters: **hablar** → **habl-** + **-ar**, **comer** → **com-** + **-er**, **vivir** → **viv-** + **-ir**.

Conjugating replaces the ending; each family has its own endings

To *conjugate* a verb is to replace the infinitive ending with a new ending that shows who is doing the action, and when. In a *regular* verb, one that follows the standard pattern of its family, the stem stays the same and only the ending changes: **habl-** + **-o** = **hablo** (*I speak*), **habl-** + **-as** = **hablas** (*you speak*), **habl-** + **-amos** = **hablamos** (*we speak*). English shows who acts with a separate word; Spanish builds it into the ending. Each family has its own set of endings.

Hablar is the present-tense model for regular -ar verbs

Drop **-ar** from **hablar** (*to speak*) to get the stem **habl-**, then add one of five endings: **yo hablo** (*I speak*), **tú hablas** (*you speak, informal*), **usted / él / ella habla** (*you speak, formal / he, she speaks*), **nosotros / nosotras hablamos** (*we speak*), **ustedes / ellos / ellas hablan** (*you all speak / they speak*). The present-tense endings are **-o**, **-as**, **-a**, **-amos** and **-an**.

Regular -ar verbs take the same five present endings

In the present, every regular **-ar** verb takes the same five endings, in the same order as **hablar** (so **trabajo** is *I work*, **trabajas** is *you work*).

- **trabajar** (*to work*), stem **trabaj-**: **trabajo, trabajas, trabaja, trabajamos, trabajan**
- **estudiar** (*to study*), stem **estudi-**: **estudio, estudias, estudia, estudiamos, estudian**
- **llegar** (*to arrive*), stem **lleg-**: **llego, llegas, llega, llegamos, llegan**
- **necesitar** (*to need*), stem **necesit-**: **necesito, necesitas, necesita, necesitamos, necesitan**

Usted shares the él form and ustedes shares the ellos form

Usted takes the **él** and **ella** form, never the **tú** form: **Usted habla español.** (*You speak Spanish, formal.*) **Ustedes** takes the **ellos** and **ellas** form: **Ustedes trabajan en Monterrey.** (*You all work in Monterrey.*) **Nosotras** and **ellas** are for groups of only women, and the verb form does not change: **Nosotras llegamos a las ocho.** (*We arrive at eight.*) **Ellos** is for men or for a mixed group. In Mexico and the rest of Latin America, **ustedes** is the only plural *you* in everyday speech; much of Spain also uses **vosotros** for an informal *you all*.

Spanish usually leaves out the subject pronoun

Because the ending already shows who is acting, Spanish usually leaves out the subject pronoun. You say **Hablo español.** (*I speak Spanish.*) with no **yo**, because the ending **-o** already means *I*. The same goes for the other persons: **¿Dónde trabajas?** (*Where do you work?*) and **Estudiamos en Oaxaca.** (*We study in Oaxaca.*) Using the pronoun is not a mistake, as in **Yo estudio español.** (*I study Spanish.*), but leaving it out is the usual pattern, so make that your default.

Keep the pronoun for contrast, clarity or courtesy

Keep the pronoun in three cases. For emphasis or contrast: **Yo trabajo, tú estudias.** (*I work, you study.*) To make clear who is meant when forms are shared: **habla** can mean **usted**, **él** or **ella**, and **hablan** can mean **ustedes**, **ellos** or **ellas**, so if the context does not settle it, add the pronoun: **Ella habla español.** (*She speaks Spanish.*) As a courtesy: speakers often keep **usted** in polite speech, as in **¿Habla usted español?** (*Do you speak Spanish? Formal.*)

Spanish usually has no subject word for it

English statements need a subject, even an empty *it*. Spanish usually has no word for *it* as a subject, so the verb stands alone: **Es importante.** (*It is important.*) **Es importante estudiar.** (*It is important to study.*) As a subject, do not translate *it* with **él** or **ella**, which usually stand for people.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

hablar → to speak

comer → to eat

tú + llegar → llegas

ellas + hablar → hablan

¿Dónde trabajas? → Where do you work?

Es importante. → It is important.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. You look a verb up in a Spanish dictionary. Which of these would the dictionary list as the verb's basic form?

A hablar
B hablas
C hablamos
D hablo

2. Your teacher writes hablo, hablas and hablamos on the board. Which part of each word shows who is speaking?

A The infinitive ending -ar
B The first syllable
C The new ending
D The stem habl-

3. Your teacher asks you to split the verb comer into its stem and its ending. What do you get?

A com- + -ar
B co- + -mer
C com- + -ir
D com- + -er

4. A classmate wants to conjugate vivir with the same endings she just learned for hablar. What should she expect?

A All three families share the same endings
B Each family has its own set, so they differ
C Only the stem changes, so they carry over
D They carry over, because -ar is the largest family

5. A classmate asks how to say "you speak" to a friend, using the verb hablar. Which form do you give her?

A hablo
B hablas
C hablar
D hablamos

6. You are short of cash at a taquería in Oaxaca and tell your friend: "I need twenty pesos." Which Spanish sentence says that?

A Necesitas veinte pesos.
B Necesitamos veinte pesos.
C Necesita veinte pesos.
D Necesito veinte pesos.

7. You meet your friend's grandmother in Guadalajara and speak to her formally. Which sentence says "You speak Spanish" to her?

A Usted hablan español.
B Usted hablas español.
C Usted habla español.
D Usted hablo español.

8. You are talking informally with a friend and say: "You work in Monterrey." Which Spanish sentence says that?

A Trabajas en Monterrey.
B Trabajan en Monterrey.
C Trabajamos en Monterrey.
D Trabaja en Monterrey.

9. You and a friend are short of cash at a market in Oaxaca and tell a third friend: "We need twenty pesos." Which Spanish sentence says that?

A Necesito veinte pesos.
B Necesitamos veinte pesos.
C Necesitan veinte pesos.
D Necesitas veinte pesos.

10. Your boss in Monterrey tells two new coworkers: "Ustedes llegan a las ocho." You repeat it to a friend about those two men, with the same verb form. Which pronoun do you use?

A Ellos
B Usted
C Él
D Nosotros

11. A new friend says "Estudiamos en Oaxaca." She leaves out the subject pronoun. Which subject does the verb ending show?

A You (informal)
B I
C We
D They

12. A friend sends you a text that says only "Hablan inglés." Which group of pronouns could be the missing subject?

A Nosotros or nosotras
B Yo or tú
C Usted, él or ella
D Ustedes, ellos or ellas

13. You tell a friend that you speak Spanish but your sister speaks English, keeping both pronouns to contrast the two of you. Which sentence is right?

A Yo hablo español, pero ella habla inglés.
B Yo hablo español, pero tú hablas inglés.
C Ella hablo español, pero yo habla inglés.
D Nosotras hablamos español, pero ellas hablan inglés.

14. Your teacher writes four sentences on the board. Which one has a mistake?

A Ella estudia en Guadalajara.
B Trabajo en la Ciudad de México.
C Él es importante estudiar.
D Necesito veinte pesos.

15. Your two cousins study in Monterrey. You tell a friend in the usual way, with no subject pronoun. Which sentence do you say?

A Estudia en Monterrey.
B Estudiamos en Monterrey.
C Estudio en Monterrey.
D Estudian en Monterrey.

Go deeper

WATCH Three Endings, Three Families 0:32 · YouTube
Every Spanish verb in the dictionary ends one of three ways: -ar, -er, or -ir. Hablar, to speak. Comer, to eat. Vivir, to live.

WATCH Five Endings for Every -ar Verb 0:31 · YouTube
Every regular -ar verb takes the same 5 endings. Learn them once.

WATCH No Yo Needed 0:33 · YouTube
Spanish speakers often leave out yo. The verb already says it. Hablo español. Hablo already means I speak.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-verbs-1/lesson-1-how-spanish-verbs-work

STUDY Spanish Verbs 1: The Present in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-verbs-1

LESSON 2 OF 6

Lesson 2: Regular -er and -ir Verbs

Part 1: Regular -er Verbs · Part 2: Regular -ir Verbs · Part 3: What the Present Tense Covers

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Conjugate regular -er verbs such as comer, beber and leer, use usted and ustedes forms, and recognize tomar (heard for drinking in Mexico) as an -ar verb.
- Conjugate regular -ir verbs such as vivir, escribir and recibir, and use the nosotros ending (-amos, -emos, -imos) as a clue to the verb family.
- Use the Spanish present for habits, general facts, actions happening now and fixed near-future plans with a time word.

Regular -er and -ir Verbs

Lesson 1 gave you the -ar family. Here you add the other two, -er and -ir. The good news is that their present-tense endings match in all but one of the forms you are learning, so the two families take little extra effort. You will also see what one Spanish present tense can say: habits, facts, what is happening now, and plans.

Regular -er Verbs

An -er verb is built the same way as an -ar verb. Drop the ending of the infinitive to get the stem, then add an ending that shows who is acting. The stem of **comer** (*to eat*) is **com-**, and the present-tense endings for regular -er verbs are **-o, -es, -e, -emos, -en**.

- **yo** como — *I eat*
- **tú** comes — *you eat (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** come — *you eat (formal) / he, she eats*
- **nosotros / nosotras** comemos — *we eat*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** comen — *you all eat / they eat*
- **Como tacos.** — *I eat tacos.*

The verb **como** has no accent. The question word **¿cómo?** (*how?*) does.

Compare these endings with the -ar endings from Lesson 1. The **yo** ending is **-o** in both families. In every other form, the a of the -ar ending becomes e: **-as** becomes **-es**, **-a** becomes **-e**, **-amos** becomes **-emos**, and **-an** becomes **-en**.

- **Ana habla.** — *Ana speaks.*
- **Ana come.** — *Ana eats.*

As in Lesson 1, **usted** takes the same form as **él** and **ella**, and **ustedes** takes the same form as **ellos** and **ellas**.

- **Usted come tacos.** — *You eat tacos (formal).*
- **Ustedes comen tamales.** — *You all eat tamales.*

Other regular -er verbs take the same endings. The forms below run in the usual order: **yo**, **tú**, **usted / él / ella**, **nosotros**, **ustedes / ellos / ellas**.

- **beber** (*to drink*): **bebo, bebes, bebe, bebemos, beben**
- **aprender** (*to learn*): **aprendo, aprendes, aprende, aprendemos, aprenden**
- **Bebo agua.** — *I drink water.*
- **Aprendemos español.** — *We learn Spanish.*

In Mexico you will also hear **tomar** for drinking: **Tomo un café.** — *I'm having a coffee.* **Tomar** is a regular -ar verb, so it takes the Lesson 1 endings: **tomo, tomas, toma, tomamos, toman**.

Leer (*to read*) takes the same endings, with one spelling point. Its stem, **le-**, already ends in e, so four of its forms have two e's in a row. Keep both.

- **yo** leo — *I read*
- **tú** lees — *you read (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** lee — *you read (formal) / he, she reads*
- **nosotros / nosotras** leemos — *we read*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** leen — *you all read / they read*
- **Ana lee el periódico.** — *Ana reads the newspaper.*

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Regular -ir Verbs

Regular -ir verbs follow the same plan. Drop -ir from the infinitive to get the stem, then add the ending. The stem of **vivir** (*to live*) is **viv-**, and the present-tense endings for regular -ir verbs are **-o, -es, -e, -imos, -en**.

- **yo** vivo — *I live*
- **tú** vives — *you live (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** vive — *you live (formal) / he, she lives*
- **nosotros / nosotras** vivimos — *we live*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** viven — *you all live / they live*

Three more verbs take the same endings, in the same order:

- **escribir** (*to write*): **escribo, escribes, escribe, escribimos, escriben**
- **abrir** (*to open*): **abro, abres, abre, abrimos, abren**
- **recibir** (*to receive*): **recibo, recibes, recibe, recibimos, reciben**

Now put the two families side by side. The -er endings are -o, -es, -e, **-emos**, -en. The -ir endings are -o, -es, -e, **-imos**, -en. Among the forms you are learning, the only difference is the **nosotros** form: **comemos** (*we eat*) but **vivimos** (*we live*). Every other form ends the same way in both families: **como** and **vivo**, **comes** and **vives**, **come** and **vive**, **comen** and **viven**.

That makes the **nosotros** ending a clue to the family: **-amos** for -ar, **-emos** for -er and **-imos** for -ir, as in **hablamos** (*we speak*), **comemos** (*we eat*) and **vivimos** (*we live*).

Here are the verbs at work:

- **Vivo en Guadalajara.** — *I live in Guadalajara.*

- **Vivimos en Monterrey.** — *We live in Monterrey.*
- **Escribes un mensaje.** — *You write a message.*
- **Ana abre la puerta.** — *Ana opens the door.*
- **Ustedes reciben una carta.** — *You all receive a letter.*

These endings belong to regular verbs, whose stems do not change. Some verbs, including some -er and -ir verbs, do change in the present, and you will meet them in later lessons.

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What the Present Tense Covers

The Spanish present tense does four main jobs. English often switches to an -ing form for the last two.

First, the present describes habits and routines: what you do regularly.

- **Como a las dos.** — *I eat at two.*
- **Escribo todos los días.** — *I write every day.*

In Mexico, **comer** can also mean *to have the main meal of the day*, so **Como a las dos** can mean *I have my main meal at two*.

Second, the present describes things that are true now, such as where you live, and general facts.

- **Vivimos en Oaxaca.** — *We live in Oaxaca.*
- **Los niños aprenden rápido.** — *Children learn fast.*

Third, the present can describe an action happening right now. Where English says "I'm reading," Spanish can use the plain present. So **leo** can mean *I read* or *I'm reading*, and the situation tells you which.

- **¿Qué lees?** — *What are you reading?*
- **Leo un libro.** — *I'm reading a book.*

Fourth, the present can describe a fixed plan in the near future, usually with a time word that shows when. **Mañana** (*tomorrow*), **el lunes** (*on Monday*) and a clock time all work as time words.

- **Mañana trabajo.** — *I'm working tomorrow.*
- **El tren llega a las ocho.** — *The train arrives at eight.*
- **Recibimos la carta el lunes.** — *We get the letter on Monday.*

So one Spanish form often matches several English ones. **Trabajo** can mean *I work* or *I'm working*, depending on the situation and the time word.

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Key facts

Beber and aprender follow comer; tomar is also heard in Mexico

Beber (*to drink*) and **aprender** (*to learn*) take the same endings. In the usual order (**yo**, **tú**, **usted / él / ella**, **nosotros**, **ustedes / ellos / ellas**) the forms are **bebo, bebes, bebe, bebemos, beben** and **aprendo, aprendes, aprende, aprendemos, aprenden**, as in **Bebo agua.** (*I drink water.*) In Mexico you will also hear **tomar** for drinking: **Tomo un café.** (*I'm having a coffee.*) **Tomar** is a regular -ar verb, so it takes the -ar endings: **tomo, tomas, toma, tomamos, toman**.

Leer keeps both e's: lees, lee, leemos, leen

Leer (*to read*) takes the same endings, with one spelling point. Its stem, **le-**, already ends in e, so four of its forms have two e's in a row. Keep both. The forms are **leo** (*I read*), **lees** (*you read, informal*), **lee** (*he, she reads*), **leemos** (*we read*) and **leen** (*they read*).

Vivir takes the endings -o, -es, -e, -imos, -en

The stem of **vivir** (*to live*) is **viv-**, and the present-tense endings for regular -ir verbs are **-o, -es, -e, -imos, -en**. That gives **vivo** (*I live*), **vives** (*you live, informal*), **vive**, **vivimos** (*we live*) and **viven**. **Vive** also goes with **usted**, **él** and **ella**, and **viven** with **ustedes**, **ellos** and **ellas**.

The nosotros ending is a clue: -amos, -emos or -imos

Among the forms you are learning, regular -er and -ir verbs differ only in the **nosotros** form: **comemos** (*we eat*) but **vivimos** (*we live*). Every other form ends the same way in both families: **como** and **vivo**, **comes** and **vives**, **come** and **vive**, **comen** and **viven**. So the nosotros ending is a clue to the family: **-amos** for -ar, **-emos** for -er and **-imos** for -ir, as in **hablamos**, **comemos** and **vivimos**.

The present covers habits, routines and what is true now

The Spanish present describes habits and routines, what you do regularly: **Como a las dos.** (*I eat at two.*) and **Escribo todos los días.** (*I write every day.*) In Mexico, **comer** can also mean *to have the main meal of the day*, so **Como a las dos** can mean *I have my main meal at two.* It also describes things that are true now, such as where you live, and general facts: **Vivimos en Oaxaca.** (*We live in Oaxaca.*) and **Los niños aprenden rápido.** (*Children learn fast.*)

The present can describe what is happening right now

The present can also describe an action happening right now. Where English says "I'm reading," Spanish can use the plain present, so **leo** can mean *I read* or *I'm reading*, and the situation tells you which. **¿Qué lees?** (*What are you reading?*) **Leo un libro.** (*I'm reading a book.*)



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The present can describe a fixed plan with a time word

The present can describe a fixed plan in the near future, usually with a time word that shows when: **mañana** (*tomorrow*), **el lunes** (*on Monday*) or a clock time. **Mañana trabajo.** (*I'm working tomorrow.*) **El tren llega a las ocho.** (*The train arrives at eight.*) **Recibimos la carta el lunes.** (*We get the letter on Monday.*) So **trabajo** can mean *I work* or *I'm working*, depending on the situation and the time word.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

aprender → to learn

tú + leer → lees

abrir → to open

tú + escribir → escribes

¿Qué lees? → What are you reading?

Mañana trabajo. → I'm working tomorrow.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. At lunch a new coworker asks what you drink. Which Spanish sentence says, "I drink water"?

A Beben agua.
B Bebes agua.
C Bebemos agua.
D Bebo agua.

2. You are chatting with an older neighbor and using usted. Which sentence says to her, "You eat tacos"?

A Usted come tacos.
B Usted comemos tacos.
C Usted comes tacos.
D Usted comen tacos.

3. You and a friend read the newspaper together every morning. How do you tell a neighbor, "We read the newspaper"?

A Leen el periódico.
B Lees el periódico.
C Leemos el periódico.
D Lemos el periódico.

4. You are talking to your two cousins and using ustedes. Which sentence says to them, "You all drink water"?

A Ustedes bebes agua.
B Ustedes beben agua.
C Ustedes bebe agua.
D Ustedes bebemos agua.

5. In Mexico a friend texts you, "Tomo un café." What does she mean?

A I'm reading about coffee.
B I'm cooking with coffee.
C I'm learning to make coffee.
D I'm having a coffee.

6. A new coworker asks where you live. Which Spanish sentence says, "I live in Guadalajara"?

A Vivo en Guadalajara.
B Viven en Guadalajara.
C Vivimos en Guadalajara.
D Vives en Guadalajara.

7. The nosotros ending is a clue to the verb family. Which of these forms comes from an -er verb?

A tomamos
B comemos
C vivimos
D hablamos

8. You and a friend are writing a message together. How do you say, "We write a message"?

A Escribe un mensaje.
B Escriben un mensaje.
C Escribimos un mensaje.
D Escribemos un mensaje.

9. You are speaking formally to your boss, using usted. Which sentence says to her, "You receive a letter"?

A Usted recibimos una carta.
B Usted recibe una carta.
C Usted reciben una carta.
D Usted recibes una carta.

10. A visitor rings the bell and Ana answers it. How do you say, "Ana opens the door"?

A Ana abre la puerta.
B Ana abren la puerta.
C Ana abro la puerta.
D Ana abres la puerta.

11. A coworker tells you, "Escribo todos los días." What does she mean?

A I read every day.
B I'm writing right now.
C I write every day.
D I'm writing tomorrow.

12. You phone a friend and ask what she is doing. She answers, "Leo un libro." What does she mean?

A She reads a book every day.
B She will read a book tomorrow.
C She read a book yesterday.
D She is reading a book right now.

13. A coworker writes, "Recibimos la carta el lunes." When does her team get the letter?

A On Friday.
B Right now.
C Every day.
D On Monday.

14. In Mexico your host says she has her main meal of the day at two. Which sentence does she say?

A Bebo a las dos.
B Como a las dos.
C Escribo a las dos.
D Leo a las dos.

15. A station sign says the train is due at eight o'clock. Which sentence says, "The train arrives at eight"?

A El tren llego a las ocho.
B El tren llegan a las ocho.
C El tren llega a las ocho.
D El tren llegas a las ocho.

Go deeper

WATCH Change the A to an E 0:33 · YouTube
Spanish -er verbs come with a shortcut. Take the -ar endings, and change the A to an E.

WATCH Comemos or Vivimos 0:32 · YouTube
Spanish -er and -ir verbs share almost every ending. Of the five forms, only one is different: nosotros, we.

WATCH One Tense, Four Jobs 0:30 · YouTube
The Spanish present tense does four main jobs. English often needs an -ing form for two of them.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-verbs-1/lesson-2-regular-er-and-ir-verbs

STUDY Spanish Verbs 1: The Present in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-verbs-1

LESSON 3 OF 6

Lesson 3: Ser, Estar and Ir

Part 1: Ser · Part 2: Estar · Part 3: Ir and Plans with Ir a

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Conjugate ser in the present and use it to say where someone is from, what they do, what they are like and what time it is.
- Conjugate estar with its written accents, and choose estar rather than ser for where something is and how someone is right now.
- Conjugate ir in the present, say where you are going (using al when a meets el) and what you are going to do, and use vamos a for let's.

Ser, Estar and Ir

Ser and **estar** both mean *to be*, and **ir** means *to go*. All three are irregular, so you learn their present forms as sets. With them you can say who you are, where you are and how you are, and also where you are going and what you are going to do.

Ser

Ser means *to be*. It is irregular: its present forms do not follow the regular -er endings from Lesson 2. Compare **como, comes, come** (*I eat, you eat, he eats*) with **soy, eres, es**. Learn all five forms:

- **yo** soy — *I am*
- **tú** eres — *you are (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** es — *you are (formal) / he, she is*
- **nosotros / nosotras** somos — *we are*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** son — *you all are / they are*

Usted takes the same form as **él** and **ella** (**es**), and **ustedes** takes the same form as **ellos** and **ellas** (**son**). As in Lesson 1, you usually leave out the subject pronoun.

You met **ser** in Spanish Starter. Use it to say who or what someone is, where they are from, what they do, what they are like (lasting traits), and what time it is:

- Identity: **Soy Diego.** — *I'm Diego.*
- Origin, with **de**: **Soy de Guadalajara.** — *I'm from Guadalajara.* **Somos de Oaxaca.** — *We're from Oaxaca.* To ask, say **¿De dónde eres?** — *Where are you from? (informal)*
- Profession: **Ana es maestra.** — *Ana is a teacher.*
- Lasting traits: **Luis es amable.** — *Luis is kind.* **Ana y Luis son amables.** — *Ana and Luis are kind.*
- The time: **Son las tres.** — *It's three o'clock.*

One o'clock is the only hour that takes the singular **es**: **Es la una.** — *It's one o'clock.* The hours from two to twelve take **son**, as in **Son las doce.** — *It's twelve o'clock.*

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Estar

Estar also means *to be*. It is irregular too, but only in small ways: the **yo** form is **estoy**, and three forms carry a written accent.

- **yo** estoy — *I am*
- **tú** estás — *you are (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** está — *you are (formal) / he, she is*
- **nosotros / nosotras** estamos — *we are*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** están — *you all are / they are*

Spanish words that end in a vowel, -n or -s are normally stressed on the next-to-last syllable. In **estás**, **está** and **están** the stress falls on the last syllable instead (**es-TÁS**, **es-TÁ**, **es-TÁN**), so each one gets a written accent. **Estoy** and **estamos** have no written accent.

Without the accent, **esta** is a different word. It means *this*: **Esta casa está en Oaxaca.** — *This house is in Oaxaca.*

You met **estar** in Spanish Starter too. Use it to say where a person, place or thing is, and how someone is right now:

- Location: **Estoy en casa.** — *I'm at home.* **Estamos en Monterrey.** — *We're in Monterrey.*

- Location: **¿Dónde está el baño?** — *Where is the bathroom?*
- How someone is right now: **¿Cómo estás?** — *How are you?* The answer is often **Estoy bien, gracias.** — *I'm fine, thank you.*
- How someone is today: **Luis está triste hoy.** — *Luis is sad today.*

Estar gives a location even when it never changes: **Monterrey está en México.** — *Monterrey is in Mexico.* So origin and location use different verbs: **Soy de Guadalajara.** — *I'm from Guadalajara.* **Estoy en Oaxaca.** — *I'm in Oaxaca.* In the same way, compare **Luis es amable.** — *Luis is kind* (what he is like) with **Luis está triste hoy.** — *Luis is sad today* (how he is today).

With **usted** and **ustedes**, the verbs are **está** and **están**: **¿Cómo está usted?** — *How are you? (formal)* **¿Cómo están ustedes?** — *How are you all?*

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Ir and Plans with Ir a

Ir means *to go*. It is irregular, so learn the five forms as a set:

- **yo** voy — *I go*
- **tú** vas — *you go (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** va — *you go (formal) / he, she goes*
- **nosotros / nosotras** vamos — *we go*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** van — *you all go / they go*

Like other Spanish present forms, **voy** can also mean *I'm going*. Notice that the **yo** forms of **ser**, **estar** and **ir** all end in -oy: **soy**, **estoy**, **voy**.

Ir a + a place. To say where you are going, use **ir** + **a** + the place: **Voy a Oaxaca.** — *I'm going to Oaxaca.* When **a** comes before **el** (*the*), the two words join: **a** + **el** = **al**. **Voy al mercado.** — *I'm going to the market.* Only **el** joins with **a**. Before **la**, **los** and **las**, the **a** stays separate: **Voy a la Ciudad de México.** — *I'm going to Mexico City.* One exception to **al** is a place name that begins with **El**: in writing, it keeps both words, as in **Vamos a El Salvador.** — *We're going to El Salvador.*

Ir a + infinitive. Put **a** and an infinitive after **ir** to say what you are going to do. Use it for plans and the near future. Only **ir** changes. The second verb stays in the infinitive, and you keep the **a** between the two verbs:

- **Voy a estudiar.** — *I'm going to study.*
- **Ella va a leer un libro.** — *She's going to read a book.*
- **Van a llegar tarde.** — *They're going to arrive late.*
- **¿Qué vas a hacer?** — *What are you going to do?*

Hacer means *to do*; you will meet its present forms later in this pack. In Lesson 2 you saw that the present with a time word can point to the future: **Mañana trabajo.** — *I'm working tomorrow.* **Ir a** + infinitive is another very common way to say it: **Voy a trabajar mañana.** — *I'm going to work tomorrow.*

Vamos a + infinitive. With **nosotros**, **vamos a** + infinitive can also mean *let's*: **Vamos a comer tacos.** — *We're going to eat tacos* or *Let's eat tacos.* Context and tone tell you which meaning is meant.

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Key facts

Ser: soy, eres, es, somos, son

Ser (*to be*) is irregular: its present forms do not follow the regular -er endings. Compare **como, comes, come** (*I eat, you eat, he eats*) with **soy, eres, es**. Learn all five forms as a set: **yo soy** — *I am* **tú eres** — *you are (informal)* **usted / él / ella es** — *you are (formal) / he, she is* **nosotros / nosotras somos** — *we are* **ustedes / ellos / ellas son** — *you all are / they are*

Ser: identity, origin, profession, traits

Use **ser** to say who someone is, where they are from, what they do and what they are like (lasting traits). Identity: **Soy Diego.** — *I'm Diego.* Origin, with **de**: **Soy de Guadalajara.** — *I'm from Guadalajara.* **Somos de Oaxaca.** — *We're from Oaxaca.* To ask: **¿De dónde eres?** — *Where are you from? (informal)* Profession: **Ana es maestra.** — *Ana is a teacher.* Lasting traits: **Luis es amable.** — *Luis is kind.* **Ana y Luis son amables.** — *Ana and Luis are kind.*

Estar: estoy, estás, está, estamos, están

Estar (*to be*) is irregular only in small ways: the **yo** form is **estoy**, and three forms carry a written accent. Learn the set: **estoy, estás, está, estamos, están**. **yo estoy** — *I am* **tú estás** — *you are (informal)* **usted / él / ella está** — *you are (formal) / he, she is* **nosotros / nosotras estamos** — *we are* **ustedes / ellos / ellas están** — *you all are / they are*

Written accents: estás, está, están (esta means this)

Spanish words that end in a vowel, -n or -s are normally stressed on the next-to-last syllable. In **estás**, **está** and **están** the stress falls on the last syllable instead (**es-TÁS**, **es-TÁ**, **es-TÁN**), so each one gets a written accent. **Estoy** and **estamos** have no written accent. Without the accent, **esta** is a different word. It means *this*: **Esta casa está en Oaxaca.** — *This house is in Oaxaca.*

Estar: location and how someone is right now

Use **estar** to say where a person, place or thing is, and how someone is right now. **Estoy en casa.** — *I'm at home.* **Estamos en Monterrey.** — *We're in Monterrey.* **¿Cómo estás?** — *How are you?* **Estoy bien, gracias.** — *I'm fine, thank you.* **Luis está triste hoy.** — *Luis is sad today.* **Estar** gives a location even when it never changes: **Monterrey está en México.** — *Monterrey is in Mexico.* So origin and location use different verbs: **Soy de Guadalajara.** — *I'm from Guadalajara.* **Estoy en Oaxaca.** — *I'm in Oaxaca.*

Ir: voy, vas, va, vamos, van

Ir (*to go*) is irregular, so learn its five forms as a set: **voy, vas, va, vamos, van**. **yo voy** — *I go* **tú vas** — *you go (informal)* **usted / él / ella va** — *you go (formal) / he, she goes* **nosotros / nosotras vamos** — *we go* **ustedes / ellos / ellas van** — *you all go / they go* **Voy** can also mean *I'm going*. The **yo** forms of ser, estar and ir all end in -oy: **soy**, **estoy**, **voy**.

Ir a + place, and a + el = al

To say where you are going, use **ir** + **a** + the place: **Voy a Oaxaca.** — *I'm going to Oaxaca.* When **a** comes before **el** (*the*), the two words join: **a** + **el** = **al**. **Voy al mercado.** — *I'm going to the market.* Only **el** joins with **a**. Before **la**, **los** and **las**, the **a** stays separate: **Voy a la Ciudad de México.** — *I'm going to Mexico City.* One exception to **al** is a place name that begins with **El**: in writing, it keeps both words, as in **Vamos a El Salvador.** — *We're going to El Salvador.*

Ir a + infinitive for plans, and vamos a for let's

Put **a** and an infinitive after **ir** to say what you are going to do (plans, the near future). Only **ir** changes: the second verb stays in the infinitive, and you keep the **a**. **Ella va a leer un libro.** — *She's going to read a book.* **Van a llegar tarde.** — *They're going to arrive late.* **¿Qué vas a hacer?** — *What are you going to do?* **Voy a trabajar mañana.** — *I'm going to work tomorrow.* With **nosotros**, **vamos a** + infinitive can also mean *let's*: **Vamos a comer tacos.** — *We're going to eat tacos* or *Let's eat tacos.* Context and tone tell you which.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

tú + ser → eres

nosotros + ser → somos

tú + estar → estás

ustedes + estar → están

yo + ir → voy

tú + ir → vas

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. A new coworker asks you ¿De dónde eres? You are from Guadalajara and you answer for yourself. Which reply fits?

A. Eres de Guadalajara.
B. Somos de Guadalajara.
C. Es de Guadalajara.
D. Soy de Guadalajara.

2. A friend asks what time it is. It is one o'clock. Which answer is right?

A. Es la una.
B. Es las una.
C. Son las una.
D. Son la una.

3. A neighbor asks where you and your sister are from. You are both from Oaxaca, and you answer for the two of you. What do you say?

A. Es de Oaxaca.
B. Somos de Oaxaca.
C. Soy de Oaxaca.
D. Son de Oaxaca.

4. A coworker asks you the time. Your watch says three o'clock. What do you answer?

A. Es las tres.
B. Es la tres.
C. Son las tres.
D. Son la tres.

5. You are speaking politely, with usted, to a neighbor who just helped you. You want to say 'You are kind.' Which sentence is right?

A. Usted es amable.
B. Usted eres amable.
C. Usted son amable.
D. Usted soy amable.

6. A friend in Monterrey texts to ask where you are right now. You are in Oaxaca, though you are from Guadalajara. What do you answer?

A. Soy de Guadalajara.
B. Estoy en Oaxaca.
C. Estoy de Guadalajara.
D. Soy en Oaxaca.

7. At work, a coworker greets you with ¿Cómo estás? You feel fine and answer for yourself. Which reply fits?

A. Soy bien, gracias.
B. Están bien, gracias.
C. Estoy bien, gracias.
D. Estás bien, gracias.

8. You meet an older neighbor and speak to her politely, with usted. How do you ask how she is?

A. ¿Cómo estás usted?
B. ¿Cómo estoy usted?
C. ¿Cómo están usted?
D. ¿Cómo está usted?

9. Luis is a kind person, but today he is sad. Which sentence says how he is today?

A Luis está triste hoy.

B Luis están triste hoy.

C Luis estamos triste hoy.

D Luis es triste hoy.

10. Your neighbor asks how you and your sister are. You both feel fine, and you answer for the two of you. What do you say?

A Estoy bien, gracias.

B Están bien, gracias.

C Estás bien, gracias.

D Estamos bien, gracias.

11. You and a friend are hungry. You want to suggest that the two of you eat tacos. Which sentence says 'Let's eat tacos'?

A Voy a comer tacos.

B Van a comer tacos.

C Vamos a comer tacos.

D Vas a comer tacos.

12. Your friends are stuck in traffic. You text a coworker that they are going to arrive late. Which Spanish fits?

A Vamos a llegar tarde.

B Van a llegar tarde.

C Van a llegan tarde.

D Van llegar tarde.

13. You ask a friend, informally, 'What are you going to do?' Which Spanish question is right?

A ¿Qué vas a hacer?

B ¿Qué va a hacer?

C ¿Qué voy a hacer?

D ¿Qué vamos a hacer?

14. You tell a coworker that you are going to Mexico City. Which sentence is written correctly?

A Voy ala Ciudad de México.

B Voy a el Ciudad de México.

C Voy a la Ciudad de México.

D Voy al Ciudad de México.

15. A coworker asks what you are doing tomorrow. You plan to work, and you answer for yourself. What do you say?

A Voy a trabajan mañana.

B Voy a trabajar mañana.

C Vas a trabajar mañana.

D Voy trabajar mañana.

Go deeper

WATCH Soy, Eres, Es 0:31
Ser means to be, and it breaks the rules. Compare como, comes, come with soy, eres, es.

WATCH Esta or Está 0:31
Esta means this. Add one accent, and está means is. It's a form of estar, to be.

WATCH Voy a Estudiar 0:32
To talk about plans in Spanish, start with ir, to go. Voy, vas, va, vamos, van.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-verbs-1/lesson-3-ser-estar-and-ir

STUDY Spanish Verbs 1: The Present in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-verbs-1

LESSON 4 OF 6

Lesson 4: Stem-Changing Verbs

Part 1: Stem Change e to ie · Part 2: Stem Change o to ue · Part 3: Stem Change e to i

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Conjugate querer, pensar and empezar in the present, keeping the e in nosotros, and recognize that some e verbs, such as beber, stay regular.
- Conjugate poder, dormir, volver and jugar in the present, keeping the o or u in nosotros, and recognize that comer stays regular.
- Conjugate pedir, servir and repetir (e to i, -ir verbs only), keep the e in nosotros, and choose pedir or preguntar.

Stem-Changing Verbs

The regular verbs you have met keep the same stem in every present form, but a group of very common verbs, such as **querer** (*to want*), **poder** (*can*) and **pedir** (*to ask for*), changes the vowel in the stem in most forms. This lesson shows the three patterns, the one common verb that changes **u** to **ue**, and the one form that keeps its original vowel.

Stem Change e to ie

In a stem-changing verb, the vowel in the stem changes in most present forms. The good news is that the endings are the regular ones for the verb's family, so you already know them. The first pattern turns **e** into **ie**.

Querer (*to want*) is the model. It is an -er verb:

- **yo** quiero — *I want*
- **tú** quieres — *you want (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** quiere — *you want (formal) / he, she wants*
- **nosotros / nosotras** queremos — *we want*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** quieren — *you all want / they want*

The vowel changes only when it is stressed, meaning it sits in the syllable you say with the most force. In **quiero** the stress falls on the stem (**QUIE-ro**), so the **e** becomes **ie**. In **queremos** the stress falls on the ending (**que-RE-mos**), so the stem keeps its **e**. Of these five forms, **nosotros** is the only one that does not change.

In the usual layout of a conjugation table, the singular forms run down the left and the plural forms down the right, with **nosotros** at the top right. The forms that change (**yo**, **tú**, **usted / él / ella** and **ustedes / ellos / ellas**) trace the outline of a boot, and **nosotros** falls outside it.

Two more verbs follow the same pattern, and both are -ar verbs. **Empezar** has two **e**'s in its stem, and the stressed one, the second, is the one that changes: **empiezo** (*I start*).

- **pensar** (*to think*): **yo** pienso, **tú** piensas, **usted / él / ella** piensa, **nosotros / nosotras** pensamos, **ustedes / ellos / ellas** piensan
- **empezar** (*to start, to begin*): **yo** empiezo, **tú** empiezas, **usted / él / ella** empieza, **nosotros / nosotras** empezamos, **ustedes / ellos / ellas** empiezan

Nosotros keeps the **e**: **queremos**, **pensamos**, **empezamos**. Nothing in the infinitive tells you which verbs change **e** to **ie**, so learn them one at a time. Many verbs with an **e** in the stem stay regular: **beber** (*to drink*) gives **bebo** (*I drink*), and **aprender** (*to learn*) gives **aprendo** (*I learn*).

In sentences:

- **Quiero un café.** — *I want a coffee.*
- **¿Qué quieres, tacos o tamales?** — *What do you want, tacos or tamales?*
- **Ana quiere pan dulce.** — *Ana wants pan dulce (sweet bread).*
- **Los niños quieren jugo.** — *The kids want juice.*
- **Queremos agua.** — *We want water.*
- **Pienso en mi familia.** — *I think about my family.*
- **La clase empieza a las nueve.** — *The class starts at nine.*
- **Empezamos a las ocho.** — *We start at eight.*

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Stem Change o to ue

The second pattern turns **o** into **ue**. It works like **e** to **ie**: the vowel changes only where it is stressed, the endings are the regular ones, and **nosotros** keeps the original vowel.

Poder (*can, to be able to*) is the model. It is an -er verb:

- **yo** puedo — *I can*
- **tú** puedes — *you can (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** puede — *you can (formal) / he, she can*
- **nosotros / nosotras** podemos — *we can*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** pueden — *you all can / they can*

Two more verbs follow it. **Dormir** is an -ir verb and **volver** is an -er verb, but both change in the same places as **poder**:

- **dormir** (*to sleep*): **yo** duermo, **tú** duermes, **usted / él / ella** duerme, **nosotros / nosotras** dormimos, **ustedes / ellos / ellas** duermen
- **volver** (*to return, to come back*): **yo** vuelvo, **tú** vuelves, **usted / él / ella** vuelve, **nosotros / nosotras** volvemos, **ustedes / ellos / ellas** vuelven

Nosotros keeps the **o**: **podemos**, **dormimos**, **volvemos**. Not every verb with an **o** in the stem changes: **comer** (*to eat*) stays regular, as in **como** (*I eat*).

Jugar (*to play*) is the one common verb that changes **u** to **ue**. It is an -ar verb, and **nosotros** keeps the **u**:

- **yo** juego — *I play*
- **tú** juegas — *you play (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** juega — *you play (formal) / he, she plays*
- **nosotros / nosotras** jugamos — *we play*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** juegan — *you all play / they play*

In sentences:

- **Puedo leer en español.** — *I can read in Spanish.*
- **Ana puede escribir aquí.** — *Ana can write here.*
- **Podemos comer a las dos.** — *We can eat at two.*
- **Ustedes pueden llegar a las seis.** — *You all can arrive at six.*

- **Duermo ocho horas.** — *I sleep eight hours.*
- **Mi hijo duerme mucho.** — *My son sleeps a lot.*
- **¿Cuándo vuelves?** — *When do you come back?*
- **Vuelvo a Oaxaca el viernes.** — *I come back to Oaxaca on Friday.*
- **Volvemos mañana.** — *We come back tomorrow.*
- **Los niños juegan en el parque.** — *The kids play in the park.*
- **Jugamos los domingos.** — *We play on Sundays.*

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Stem Change e to i

The third pattern turns **e** into **i**. It has the same boot shape: **yo**, **tú**, **usted / él / ella** and **ustedes / ellos / ellas** change, and **nosotros** keeps the **e**. This change happens only in -ir verbs.

Pedir (*to ask for, to order*) is the model, an -ir verb:

- **yo** pido — *I ask for*
- **tú** pides — *you ask for (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** pide — *you ask for (formal) / he, she asks for*
- **nosotros / nosotras** pedimos — *we ask for*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** piden — *you all ask for / they ask for*

Two more -ir verbs follow it. **Repetir** has two **e**'s in its stem, and the stressed one, the second, is the one that changes: **repito** (*I repeat*).

- **servir** (*to serve*): **yo** sirvo, **tú** sirves, **usted / él / ella** sirve, **nosotros / nosotras** servimos, **ustedes / ellos / ellas** sirven
- **repetir** (*to repeat*): **yo** repito, **tú** repites, **usted / él / ella** repite, **nosotros / nosotras** repetimos, **ustedes / ellos / ellas** repiten

Nosotros keeps the **e**: **pedimos**, **servimos**, **repetimos**. Do not mix this pattern up with **e** to **ie**. Both start from an **e**, but each verb has its own pattern: **querer** gives **quiero** (*I want*), while **pedir** gives **pido** (*I ask for*). Some other -ir verbs change **e** to **ie** instead, so learn each verb's pattern.

Pedir means to ask *for* something, so the word *for* is already inside the verb: **Pido agua** is *I ask for water.* In a restaurant, it also means *to order.* **Preguntar** means to ask a question, and it is a regular -ar verb with no stem change:

- **preguntar** (*to ask a question*): **yo** pregunto, **tú** preguntas, **usted / él / ella** pregunta, **nosotros / nosotras** preguntamos, **ustedes / ellos / ellas** preguntan

Use **pedir** when you want a thing, and **preguntar** when you want an answer.

In sentences:

- **Pido un café.** — *I ask for a coffee.*
- **¿Qué pides?** — *What are you ordering?*
- **Pedimos tacos.** — *We order tacos.*
- **Mis amigos piden la cuenta.** — *My friends ask for the check.*
- **Mi tía sirve el café.** — *My aunt serves the coffee.*
- **Servimos tamales.** — *We serve tamales.*
- **Repito la palabra.** — *I repeat the word.*
- **El maestro repite el número.** — *The teacher repeats the number.*
- **Pregunto dónde está el baño.** — *I ask where the bathroom is.*

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Key facts

Querer: the e becomes ie in most forms

Querer (*to want*) changes **e** to **ie** in most present forms, with regular -er endings: **quiero, quieres, quiere, queremos, quieren** (order: **yo, tú, usted / él / ella, nosotros, ustedes / ellos / ellas**). The vowel changes only where it is stressed: **QUIE-ro** is stressed on the stem, **que-RE-mos** on the ending, so the **e** stays. In the usual conjugation table (singular down the left, plural down the right, **nosotros** at the top right), the four forms that change trace the outline of a boot, and **nosotros** falls outside it. **Quiero un café.** (*I want a coffee.*)

Pensar and empezar follow the same pattern

Two more verbs follow the same pattern, and both are -ar verbs. In the order **yo, tú, usted / él / ella, nosotros, ustedes / ellos / ellas**: **pensar** (*to think*) goes **pienso, piensas, piensa, pensamos, piensan**, and **empezar** (*to start, to begin*) goes **empiezo, empiezas, empieza, empezamos, empiezan**. **Empezar** has two **e**'s in its stem, and the stressed one, the second, is the one that changes. **La clase empieza a las nueve.** (*The class starts at nine.*)

Nosotros keeps the e, and some e verbs stay regular

Nosotros keeps the **e**: **queremos**, **pensamos**, **empezamos**. Nothing in the infinitive tells you which verbs change **e** to **ie**, so learn them one at a time. Many verbs with an **e** in the stem stay regular in the present: **beber** (*to drink*) gives **bebo** (*I drink*), and **aprender** (*to learn*) gives **aprendo** (*I learn*).

Poder: the o becomes ue in most forms

The second pattern turns **o** into **ue**. **Poder** (*can, to be able to*) is an -er verb: **puedo, puedes, puede, podemos, pueden** (the order is **yo, tú, usted / él / ella, nosotros, ustedes / ellos / ellas**). It works like **e** to **ie**: the vowel changes only where it is stressed, the endings are the regular ones, and **nosotros** keeps the original vowel. **Podemos comer a las dos.** (*We can eat at two.*)

Dormir and volver change in the same places as poder

Dormir (*to sleep*) is an -ir verb and **volver** (*to return, to come back*) is an -er verb, but both change where **poder** does. In the order **yo, tú, usted / él / ella, nosotros, ustedes / ellos / ellas**: **dormir** goes **duermo, duermes, duerme, dormimos, duermen**, and **volver** goes **vuelvo, vuelves, vuelve, volvemos, vuelven**. **Nosotros** keeps the **o**: **podemos**, **dormimos**, **volvemos**. Not every verb with an **o** in the stem changes: **comer** (*to eat*) stays regular in the present, as in **como** (*I eat*). **Mi hijo duerme mucho.** (*My son sleeps a lot.*)

Pedir: the e becomes i in most forms

The third pattern turns **e** into **i**, and it happens only in -ir verbs. **Pedir** (*to ask for, to order*) is the model: **pido, pides, pide, pedimos, piden** (the order is **yo, tú, usted / él / ella, nosotros, ustedes / ellos / ellas**). It has the same boot shape: **yo**, **tú**, **usted / él / ella** and **ustedes / ellos / ellas** change, and **nosotros** keeps the **e**. **Pido un café.** (*I ask for a coffee.*)

Servir and repetir follow pedir; do not mix up e to i and e to ie

Two more -ir verbs follow **pedir**, in the order **yo, tú, usted / él / ella, nosotros, ustedes / ellos / ellas**. **Servir** (*to serve*): **sirvo, sirves, sirve, servimos, sirven**. **Repetir** (*to repeat*): **repito, repites, repite, repetimos, repiten**; it has two **e**'s in its stem, and the stressed second one changes. **Nosotros** keeps the **e**: **pedimos**, **servimos**, **repetimos**. Each verb has its own pattern: **querer** gives **quiero**, but **pedir** gives **pido**. Some other -ir verbs change **e** to **ie** instead. **Servimos tamales.** (*We serve tamales.*)

Pedir asks for a thing, preguntar asks a question

Pedir means to ask *for* something, so *for* is already inside the verb: **Pido agua** is *I ask for water*. In a restaurant it also means *to order*. **Preguntar** (*to ask a question*) is a regular -ar verb in the present, with no stem change. In the order **yo, tú, usted / él / ella, nosotros, ustedes / ellos / ellas**: **pregunto, preguntas, pregunta, preguntamos, preguntan**. Use **pedir** when you want a thing, and **preguntar** when you want an answer. **Pregunto dónde está el baño.** (*I ask where the bathroom is.*)

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

tú + empezar → empiezas

nosotros + pensar → pensamos

yo + dormir → duermo

ustedes + jugar → juegan

pedir → to ask for, to order

preguntar → to ask a question

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. At a taquería, you ask your friend, using the informal tú, what she wants to eat: tacos or tamales. Which question do you ask?

- A ¿Qué quiero, tacos o tamales?
- B ¿Qué quieren, tacos o tamales?
- C ¿Qué queremos, tacos o tamales?
- D ¿Qué quieres, tacos o tamales?

2. A classmate asks when your Spanish class begins. You answer that it starts at nine. Which reply is right?

- A La clase empeza a las nueve.
- B La clase empieza a las nueve.
- C La clase empezamos a las nueve.
- D La clase empiezan a las nueve.

3. A server asks what the kids at your table want. You answer that they want juice. Which sentence do you say?

- A Los niños queremos jugo.
- B Los niños queren jugo.
- C Los niños quieren jugo.
- D Los niños quiere jugo.

4. In the usual conjugation table, the forms of querer that change e to ie trace the outline of a boot. Which pronoun's form falls outside the boot and keeps its e?

- A nosotros
- B ustedes
- C yo
- D tú

5. A server asks what you want to drink. You answer, about yourself, that you want a coffee. Which sentence do you say?

- A Queremos un café.
- B Quero un café.
- C Quieres un café.
- D Quiero un café.

6. A friend asks when you come back to Oaxaca. You answer, about yourself, that you return on Friday. Which reply fits?

- A Volvemos a Oaxaca el viernes.
- B Vuelvo a Oaxaca el viernes.
- C Vuelven a Oaxaca el viernes.
- D Vuelves a Oaxaca el viernes.

7. Your aunt asks when you and your sister can eat. You answer for both of you that you can eat at two. Which reply fits?

- A Podemos comer a las dos.
- B Puedo comer a las dos.
- C Puedemos comer a las dos.
- D Pueden comer a las dos.

8. You are the manager. You tell your two new coworkers, using ustedes, that they can arrive at six. Which sentence do you say?

A Ustedes podemos llegar a las seis.
B Ustedes puede llegar a las seis.
C Ustedes pueden llegar a las seis.
D Ustedes poden llegar a las seis.

9. Your friend is away on a trip. You ask her, using the informal tú, when she comes back. Which question do you ask?

A ¿Cuándo vuelves?
B ¿Cuándo vuelven?
C ¿Cuándo vuelvo?
D ¿Cuándo volvemos?

10. A friend asks what you do on weekends. You say, about yourself, that you play in the park. Which sentence is right?

A Juegas en el parque.
B Juegan en el parque.
C Juego en el parque.
D Jugamos en el parque.

11. You did not catch a number in class, so your teacher says it again. Which sentence describes what the teacher does?

A El maestro repete el número.
B El maestro repite el número.
C El maestro repiten el número.
D El maestro repetimos el número.

12. You are alone in a restaurant and ask the waiter where the bathroom is. Which sentence says what you are doing?

A Preguntamos dónde está el baño.
B Pedimos dónde está el baño.
C Pido dónde está el baño.
D Pregunto dónde está el baño.

13. You and your sister run a food stand. You tell a customer, speaking for both of you, that you serve tamales. Which sentence do you say?

A Sirvo tamales.
B Servimos tamales.
C Sirven tamales.
D Sirvimos tamales.

14. Querer and pedir both start from an e. Which pair gives the correct yo forms of these two verbs?

A quiero and pido
B quido and pido
C quido and piedo
D quiero and piedo

15. At the end of dinner, you tell the server that your friends ask for the check. Which sentence do you say?

A Mis amigos pedimos la cuenta.
B Mis amigos pide la cuenta.
C Mis amigos peden la cuenta.
D Mis amigos piden la cuenta.

Go deeper

WATCH The Boot Verbs 0:29
Some Spanish verbs change on the inside. Querer, to want, turns its e into ie. Quiero, I want.

WATCH Puedo, but Podemos 0:30
Poder means can. Its o becomes ue. Puedo, I can. Puedes, puede, pueden.

WATCH Pedir or Preguntar 0:31
Spanish has 2 verbs for ask. Pedir is to ask for a thing. Preguntar is to ask a question.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-verbs-1/lesson-4-stem-changing-verbs

STUDY Spanish Verbs 1: The Present in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-verbs-1

LESSON 5 OF 6

Lesson 5: Irregular Yo Forms

Part 1: The -go Verbs · Part 2: Other Irregular Yo Forms

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Conjugate the seven -go verbs in the present: the -go yo form, regular endings in hacer, poner, salir and traer, and the stem change in tener, venir and decir.
- Say conozco, sé, veo and doy, keep the other forms regular, choose saber or conocer by what you know, and put the personal a before a person.

Irregular Yo Forms

In Lessons 1 and 2, a regular yo form was the stem plus **-o**: **hablo** (*I speak*), **como** (*I eat*), **vivo** (*I live*). This lesson adds eleven everyday verbs whose yo form is built differently. Their other forms stay regular, apart from the stem changes you met in Lesson 4. Learn these yo forms early, because you use the yo form whenever you say what you do.

The -go Verbs

Seven verbs in this lesson have a yo form that ends in **-go**, so we call them the -go verbs. Four of them, **hacer**, **poner**, **salir** and **traer**, are irregular only in the yo form. Everywhere else they take the regular endings of their family, so there is nothing new to learn: **hacer** (an -er verb) gives **hacemos** (*we do*), and **salir** (an -ir verb) gives **salimos** (*we leave*).

hacer — *to do, to make*

- **yo** hago — *I do or make*
- **tú** haces — *you do or make (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** hace — *you do or make (formal) / he, she does or makes*
- **nosotros / nosotras** hacemos — *we do or make*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** hacen — *you all do or make / they do or make*

¿Qué haces? — *What are you doing?* **Hago la tarea.** — *I'm doing my homework.*

poner — *to put*

- **yo** pongo — *I put*
- **tú** pones — *you put (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** pone — *you put (formal) / he, she puts*
- **nosotros / nosotras** ponemos — *we put*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** ponen — *you all put / they put*

Pongo la mesa. — *I set the table.*

salir — *to leave, to go out*

- **yo** salgo — *I leave*
- **tú** sales — *you leave (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** sale — *you leave (formal) / he, she leaves*
- **nosotros / nosotras** salimos — *we leave*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** salen — *you all leave / they leave*

Salgo de la casa a las ocho. — *I leave the house at eight.* **Ana sale a las ocho.** — *Ana leaves at eight.*

traer — *to bring*

- **yo** traigo — *I bring*
- **tú** traes — *you bring (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** trae — *you bring (formal) / he, she brings*
- **nosotros / nosotras** traemos — *we bring*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** traen — *you all bring / they bring*

The yo form **traigo** has an **i** before the **g**. **Traigo pan dulce.** — *I bring pan dulce (sweet bread).* **Ellos traen tamales.** — *They bring tamales.*

Two more -go verbs, **tener** and **venir**, also have the e-to-ie stem change from Lesson 4. The e becomes ie in tú, usted / él / ella and ustedes / ellos / ellas, and nosotros keeps the e. The yo form is the exception: it takes the -go ending and has no ie.

tener — *to have*

- **yo** tengo — *I have*
- **tú** tienes — *you have (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** tiene — *you have (formal) / he, she has*
- **nosotros / nosotras** tenemos — *we have*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** tienen — *you all have / they have*

Tengo una hermana en Oaxaca. — *I have a sister in Oaxaca.* **¿Tienes tiempo?** — *Do you have time?*

venir — *to come*

- **yo** vengo — *I come*
- **tú** vienes — *you come (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** viene — *you come (formal) / he, she comes*
- **nosotros / nosotras** venimos — *we come*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** vienen — *you all come / they come*

Vengo de la panadería. — *I'm coming from the bakery.* **Mis primos vienen a mi casa.** — *My cousins are coming to my house.*

Decir is the seventh -go verb. It has the e-to-i stem change, like **pedir** (*to ask for*) in Lesson 4: the e becomes i in tú, usted / él / ella and ustedes / ellos / ellas, and nosotros keeps the e. The yo form **digo** has both the i and the -go ending.

decir — *to say, to tell*

- **yo** digo — *I say*
- **tú** dices — *you say (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** dice — *you say (formal) / he, she says*
- **nosotros / nosotras** decimos — *we say*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** dicen — *you all say / they say*

Digo la verdad. — *I tell the truth.* **Ana dice la verdad.** — *Ana tells the truth.*

The seven yo forms to remember are **hago**, **pongo**, **salgo**, **traigo**, **tengo**, **vengo** and **digo**.

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Other Irregular Yo Forms

Four more verbs are irregular only in the yo form, and none of their yo forms ends in -go: **conocer** (**conozco**), **saber** (**sé**), **ver** (**veo**) and **dar** (**doy**). Their other present forms are regular.

conocer — *to know a person or a place*

- **yo** conozco — *I know*
- **tú** conoces — *you know (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** conoce — *you know (formal) / he, she knows*
- **nosotros / nosotras** conocemos — *we know*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** conocen — *you all know / they know*

In the yo form, the c becomes zc: **conozco**.

saber — *to know a fact, to know how to do something*

- **yo** sé — *I know*
- **tú** sabes — *you know (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** sabe — *you know (formal) / he, she knows*
- **nosotros / nosotras** sabemos — *we know*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** saben — *you all know / they know*

The written accent on **sé** is part of its spelling. It keeps **sé** (*I know*) apart from **se**, a different word.

ver — *to see, to watch*

- **yo** veo — *I see*
- **tú** ves — *you see (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** ve — *you see (formal) / he, she sees*
- **nosotros / nosotras** vemos — *we see*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** ven — *you all see / they see*

Only **veo** is irregular. **¿Ves la iglesia?** — *Do you see the church?* **Veo una película.** — *I'm watching a movie.*

dar — *to give*

- **yo** doy — *I give*

- **tú** das — *you give (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** da — *you give (formal) / he, she gives*
- **nosotros / nosotras** damos — *we give*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** dan — *you all give / they give*

Dar is an -ar verb. Only **doy** is irregular, and the other forms take the regular -ar endings. **Doy veinte pesos.** — *I give twenty pesos.*

Saber or conocer? English says *know* for both, but Spanish chooses the verb by what you know.

Use **saber** for facts and information, and for knowing how to do something. Before an infinitive, **saber** means *to know how to*. **Sé la respuesta.** — *I know the answer.* **Sé nadar.** — *I know how to swim.*

Use **conocer** for a person or a place you are familiar with, usually because you have met the person or been to the place. **Conozco Guadalajara.** — *I know Guadalajara (I'm familiar with it).*

When the one you know is a specific person, Spanish puts **a** before the person. This is called the personal **a**. **Conozco a Ana.** — *I know Ana.* Remember that **a** plus **el** becomes **al**: **Conozco al maestro.** — *I know the teacher.* With a place, **conocer** takes no **a**.

Compare the two verbs: **Sé el nombre de Ana.** — *I know Ana's name.* **Conozco a Ana.** — *I know Ana.*

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Key facts



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Hacer, poner, salir, traer: only the yo form is irregular

Seven verbs in this lesson have a **yo** form ending in **-go**. Four of them are irregular only in the **yo** form; their other present forms are regular.

- **hacer** (*to do, to make*): **hago, haces, hace, hacemos, hacen**
- **poner** (*to put*): **pongo, pones, pone, ponemos, ponen**
- **salir** (*to leave, to go out*): **salgo, sales, sale, salimos, salen**
- **traer** (*to bring*): **traigo, traes, trae, traemos, traen** The forms run **yo**, **tú**, **usted / él / ella**, **nosotros**, **ustedes / ellos / ellas**. **Hago la tarea.** — *I'm doing my homework.*

Tener and venir: -go in yo, plus the e-to-ie change

Tener and **venir** take the **-go** ending in the **yo** form, with no **ie**. In **tú**, **usted / él / ella** and **ustedes / ellos / ellas** the **e** becomes **ie**, and **nosotros** keeps the **e**.

- **tener** (*to have*): **tengo, tienes, tiene, tenemos, tienen**
- **venir** (*to come*): **vengo, vienes, viene, venimos, vienen** The forms run **yo**, **tú**, **usted / él / ella**, **nosotros**, **ustedes / ellos / ellas**. **Tengo una hermana en Oaxaca.** — *I have a sister in Oaxaca.*

Decir: -go in yo, plus the e-to-i change

Decir is the seventh **-go** verb. Like **pedir** (*to ask for*), it changes **e** to **i** in **tú**, **usted / él / ella** and **ustedes / ellos / ellas**, and **nosotros** keeps the **e**. The **yo** form **digo** has both the **i** and the **-go** ending.

- **decir** (*to say, to tell*): **digo, dices, dice, decimos, dicen Digo la verdad.** — *I tell the truth.* **Ana dice la verdad.** — *Ana tells the truth.*

The seven -go yo forms to remember

The seven **yo** forms to remember: **hago**, **pongo**, **salgo**, **traigo**, **tengo**, **vengo**, **digo**. In that order they mean *I do or make*, *I put*, *I leave*, *I bring*, *I have*, *I come* and *I say*. All seven end in **-go**. **Traigo** has an **i** before the **g**, and **digo** has both the **i** and the **-go** ending.

Conocer and saber: only conozco and sé are irregular

Conocer and **saber** are irregular only in the **yo** form: **conozco**, **sé**. Their other present forms are regular. In **conozco**, the **c** becomes **zc**. The written accent on **sé** is part of its spelling: it keeps **sé** (*I know*) apart from **se**, a different word.

- **conocer** (*to know a person or a place*): **conozco, conoces, conoce, conocemos, conocen**
- **saber** (*to know a fact, to know how to do something*): **sé, sabes, sabe, sabemos, saben** The forms run **yo**, **tú**, **usted / él / ella**, **nosotros**, **ustedes / ellos / ellas**.

Ver and dar: only veo and doy are irregular

Ver and **dar** are irregular only in the **yo** form; their other present forms are regular. **Dar** is an -ar verb, so its other forms take the regular -ar endings.

- **ver** (*to see, to watch*): **veo, ves, ve, vemos, ven**
- **dar** (*to give*): **doy, das, da, damos, dan** The forms run **yo**, **tú**, **usted / él / ella**, **nosotros**, **ustedes / ellos / ellas**. **¿Ves la iglesia?** — *Do you see the church?* **Veo una película.** — *I'm watching a movie.* **Doy veinte pesos.** — *I give twenty pesos.*

Saber or conocer: it depends on what you know

English says *know* for both, but Spanish chooses the verb by what you know.

- **Saber**: facts and information, and knowing how to do something. Before an infinitive it means *to know how to*. **Sé la respuesta.** — *I know the answer.* **Sé nadar.** — *I know how to swim.*
- **Conocer**: a person or a place you are familiar with, usually because you have met the person or been to the place. **Conozco Guadalajara.** — *I know Guadalajara (I'm familiar with it).*

The personal a: Conozco a Ana

When the one you know is a specific person, Spanish puts **a** before the person. This is the personal **a**: **Conozco a Ana.** — *I know Ana.* **A** plus **el** becomes **al**: **Conozco al maestro.** — *I know the teacher.* With a place, **conocer** takes no **a**: **Conozco Guadalajara.** Compare **Sé el nombre de Ana.** — *I know Ana's name.* with **Conozco a Ana.** — *I know Ana.*

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

yo + poner → pongo

tú + decir → dices

tú + venir → vienes

yo + conocer → conozco

yo + dar → doy

nosotros + ver → vemos

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. A friend texts you: ¿Qué haces? You answer, about yourself, that you are doing your homework. Which reply fits?

A. Hago la tarea.
B. Haces la tarea.
C. Hace la tarea.
D. Haco la tarea.

2. A coworker asks when you head out. You answer in Spanish: "I leave the house at eight." Which sentence fits?

A. Salo de la casa a las ocho.
B. Sales de la casa a las ocho.
C. Sale de la casa a las ocho.
D. Salgo de la casa a las ocho.

3. At a party you point to your friends and say they bring tamales. Which sentence fits?

A. Ellos traigo tamales.
B. Ellos traemos tamales.
C. Ellos traen tamales.
D. Ellos trae tamales.

4. You ask a close friend, in the informal way: "Do you have time?" Which question fits?

A. ¿Tiene tiempo?
B. ¿Tienes tiempo?
C. ¿Tengo tiempo?
D. ¿Tenemos tiempo?

5. You and your friends always tell the truth. How do you say "We tell the truth"?

A. Dicen la verdad.
B. Decimos la verdad.
C. Dicimos la verdad.
D. Digo la verdad.

6. A friend asks if you know Guadalajara. You have been there many times. Which sentence says "I know Guadalajara"?

A. Conozco Guadalajara.
B. Conoco Guadalajara.
C. Sé Guadalajara.
D. Conoces Guadalajara.

7. A classmate is stuck on a question, so you say that Ana knows the answer. Which sentence fits?

A. Ana sé la respuesta.
B. Ana sabes la respuesta.
C. Ana sabe la respuesta.
D. Ana sabemos la respuesta.

8. At a market stall you hand the seller twenty pesos. Which sentence says "I give twenty pesos"?

A. Do veinte pesos.
B. Das veinte pesos.
C. Da veinte pesos.
D. Doy veinte pesos.

9. A friend points and asks: ¿Ves la iglesia? You can see it. How do you answer, about yourself?

(A) Vemos la iglesia.
(B) Veo la iglesia.
(C) Ves la iglesia.
(D) Ve la iglesia.

10. A classmate asks if you know Ana's name, and you do. Which sentence says "I know Ana's name"?

(A) Sabo el nombre de Ana.
(B) Sabes el nombre de Ana.
(C) Conozco a Ana.
(D) Sé el nombre de Ana.

Go deeper

WATCH The Seven -go Verbs 0:31
7 everyday Spanish verbs have a yo form that ends in -go.

WATCH Two Ways to Know 0:31
English has one verb for know. Spanish has 2.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-verbs-1/lesson-5-irregular-yo-forms

STUDY Spanish Verbs 1: The Present in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-verbs-1

LESSON 6 OF 6

Lesson 6: Verbs in Use

Part 1: Tener que, Hay que and Poder · Part 2: Gustar and Encantar · Part 3: Asking and Saying No

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Say what someone has to do with tener que, what one has to do with hay que and what you can do with poder, and ask permission or make a request.
- Say what people like with gusta or gustan and me, te, le, nos or les, add an optional a phrase, keep the article, and say what you love with encantar.
- Use no before the verb or before me, te or le, ask yes/no questions and questions with dónde, cuándo or qué, and answer with No, no …

Verbs in Use

You can already conjugate many verbs in the present. This lesson puts them to work in three everyday patterns: saying what you have to do or may do, saying what you like, and asking questions or saying no. With them you can pay in a store, talk about food, and answer a stranger's question.

Tener que, Hay que and Poder

To say what a particular person has to do, use **tener que** plus an infinitive. Only **tener** changes with the person; **que** and the infinitive stay the same.

- **yo** tengo que trabajar — *I have to work*
- **tú** tienes que trabajar — *you have to work (informal)*
- **usted / él / ella** tiene que trabajar — *you have to work (formal) / he, she has to work*
- **nosotros / nosotras** tenemos que trabajar — *we have to work*
- **ustedes / ellos / ellas** tienen que trabajar — *you all have to work / they have to work*

For example: **Ana tiene que llegar a las ocho.** — *Ana has to arrive at eight.*

To say what has to be done in general, with no person named, use **hay que** plus an infinitive. **Hay** is a form of **haber**, the verb behind *there is* and *there are*; in this pattern it does not change for person.

- **Hay que pagar en la caja.** — *You have to pay at the register.*

Here English *you* means anyone. Compare **Tengo que pagar** (*I have to pay*) with **Hay que pagar** (*one has to pay*).

Use **poder** plus an infinitive to say what you can do: **Puedo salir a las ocho.** — *I can leave at eight.* **Poder** is the o-to-ue verb from Lesson 4, so its stem changes in every form except **nosotros**: **puedo** (yo), **puedes** (tú), **puede** (usted, él, ella), **podemos** (nosotros, nosotras) and **pueden** (ustedes, ellos, ellas).

You also use **poder** to ask permission: **¿Puedo…?** means *May I…?*

- **¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta?** — *May I pay by card?*
- **¿Podemos comer aquí?** — *May we eat here?*

To ask someone to do something, use that person's form of **poder**: **¿Puede abrir la puerta, por favor?** — *Can you (formal) open the door, please?*

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Gustar and Encantar

Gustar works backwards from English *like*. The thing you like is the subject, and a pronoun tells who likes it. Word for word, **Me gusta el café** means *Coffee is pleasing to me*.

The verb matches the thing liked. Use **gusta** with a singular noun or an infinitive, and **gustan** with a plural noun:

- **Me gusta el café.** — *I like coffee.*
- **Me gusta bailar.** — *I like to dance.*
- **Me gustan los tacos.** — *I like tacos.*

An infinitive is one thing, so it takes **gusta** even when plural nouns follow it: **Me gusta comer tacos.** — *I like eating tacos.* Notice **el café** and **los tacos** in the examples above: for things you like in general, Spanish uses the article (*the*) even though English leaves it out.

These pronouns say who likes it:

- (**a mí**) **me** gusta el café — *I like coffee*
- (**a ti**) **te** gusta el café — *you like coffee (informal)*
- (**a usted / a él / a ella**) **le** gusta el café — *you like coffee (formal) / he, she likes coffee*
- (**a nosotros / a nosotras**) **nos** gusta el café — *we like coffee*
- (**a ustedes / a ellos / a ellas**) **les** gusta el café — *you all like coffee / they like coffee*

The phrases with **a** are optional. Add one for emphasis or contrast, or to show who **le** or **les** means (**le** can mean *you*, *he* or *she*; **les** can mean *you all* or *they*). Keep the pronoun even when you add the phrase.

- **A mí me gusta el café. A ella le gusta el chocolate.** — *I like coffee. She likes chocolate.*
- **A Ana y a Pablo les gusta el pan dulce.** — *Ana and Pablo like sweet bread.*

Encantar works the same way but is stronger: it means to love a thing, an activity or a place.

- **Me encanta la música.** — *I love music.*
- **Me encantan los tamales.** — *I love tamales.*
- **A Ana le encanta bailar.** — *Ana loves to dance.*

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Asking and Saying No

To make a sentence negative, put **no** directly before the verb. Spanish has no word like English *do* or *don't* here; you only add **no**.

- **Hablo inglés.** — *I speak English.*
- **No hablo inglés.** — *I don't speak English.*
- **Ana no vive en Oaxaca.** — *Ana doesn't live in Oaxaca.*

If a pronoun such as **me**, **te** or **le** stands in front of the verb, **no** goes before that pronoun: **No me gusta el café.** — *I don't like coffee.*

A yes/no question can keep the word order of a statement. Only the intonation changes: your voice usually rises at the end. In writing, the question opens with **¿** and closes with **?**. Spanish needs no word for *do* in questions either.

- **Hablas español.** — *You speak Spanish.*
- **¿Hablas español?** — *Do you speak Spanish?*

The verb may also come before a stated subject:

- **¿Habla usted español?** — *Do you speak Spanish? (formal)*

With a question word such as **dónde** (*where*), **cuándo** (*when*) or **qué** (*what*), the verb usually comes right after that word. A subject you state usually goes after the verb.

- **¿Dónde vive Ana?** — *Where does Ana live?*
- **¿Qué quiere usted?** — *What do you want? (formal)*
- **¿Cuándo llega el tren?** — *When does the train arrive?*

Subject pronouns are optional in Spanish, so questions often leave them out. The verb ending shows who: **¿Dónde vives?** — *Where do you live? (informal)*

To answer a yes/no question with a full negative sentence, say **no** twice. The first **no** answers the question; the second goes before the verb, as always.

- **¿Hablas inglés?** — *Do you speak English?*
- **No, no hablo inglés.** — *No, I don't speak English.*
- **¿Te gusta el café?** — *Do you like coffee?*
- **No, no me gusta.** — *No, I don't like it.*

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Key facts

Tener que + infinitive: only tener changes with the person

To say what a particular person has to do, use **tener que** plus an infinitive. Only **tener** changes with the person; **que** and the infinitive stay the same. **yo tengo que trabajar** — *I have to work* **tú tienes que trabajar** — *you have to work (informal)* **usted / él / ella tiene que trabajar** — *you have to work (formal) / he, she has to work* **nosotros / nosotras tenemos que trabajar** — *we have to work* **ustedes / ellos / ellas tienen que trabajar** — *you all have to work / they have to work* **Ana tiene que llegar a las ocho.** — *Ana has to arrive at eight.*

Hay que + infinitive: what has to be done, with no person named

To say what has to be done in general, with no person named, use **hay que** plus an infinitive. **Hay** is a form of **haber**, the verb behind *there is* and *there are*; in this pattern it does not change for person. **Hay que pagar en la caja.** — *You have to pay at the register.* Here English *you* means anyone. Compare **Tengo que pagar** (*I have to pay*) with **Hay que pagar** (*one has to pay*).

Poder + infinitive: what you can do, and how to ask permission

Use **poder** plus an infinitive to say what you can do: **Puedo salir a las ocho.** — *I can leave at eight.* The stem changes from o to ue in every form except **nosotros**: **yo puedo**, **tú puedes**, **usted / él / ella puede**, **nosotros podemos**, **ustedes / ellos / ellas pueden**. **¿Puedo...?** asks permission (*May I...?*): **¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta?** — *May I pay by card?* **¿Podemos comer aquí?** — *May we eat here?* To ask someone to do something, use that person's form of **poder**: **¿Puede abrir la puerta, por favor?** — *Can you (formal) open the door, please?*

Gustar works backwards: gusta for one thing, gustan for several

Gustar works backwards from English *like*: the thing you like is the subject, and a pronoun tells who likes it. Word for word, **Me gusta el café** means *Coffee is pleasing to me*. Use **gusta** with a singular noun or an infinitive, and **gustan** with a plural noun: **Me gusta bailar.** — *I like to dance.* **Me gustan los tacos.** — *I like tacos.* An infinitive is one thing, so it takes **gusta** even when plural nouns follow it: **Me gusta comer tacos.** — *I like eating tacos.* For things you like in general, Spanish uses the article (*the*), as in **el café** and **los tacos**.

Me, te, le, nos and les say who likes it; the a phrases are optional

(a mí) me gusta el café — *I like coffee* **(a ti) te gusta el café** — *you like coffee (informal)* **(a usted / a él / a ella) le gusta el café** — *you like coffee (formal) / he, she likes coffee* **(a nosotros / a nosotras) nos gusta el café** — *we like coffee* **(a ustedes / a ellos / a ellas) les gusta el café** — *you all like coffee / they like coffee* The **a** phrases are optional (for emphasis or contrast, or to show who **le** or **les** means). Keep the pronoun: **A mí me gusta el café. A ella le gusta el chocolate. A Ana y a Pablo les gusta el pan dulce** (*sweet bread*).

No goes directly before the verb, and before me, te or le

To make a sentence negative, put **no** directly before the verb. Spanish has no word like English *do* or *don't* here; you only add **no**. **Hablo inglés.** — *I speak English.* **No hablo inglés.** — *I don't speak English.* **Ana no vive en Oaxaca.** — *Ana doesn't live in Oaxaca.* If a pronoun such as **me**, **te** or **le** stands in front of the verb, **no** goes before that pronoun: **No me gusta el café.** — *I don't like coffee.*

Questions: yes/no order, and the verb after a question word

A yes/no question can keep the word order of a statement; only the intonation changes (your voice usually rises). It is written between **¿** and **?**, and Spanish needs no word for *do*: **¿Hablas español?** — *Do you speak Spanish?* After **dónde**, **cuándo** or **qué**, the verb usually comes right after that word, and a stated subject usually goes after the verb: **¿Dónde vive Ana?** — *Where does Ana live?* **¿Qué quiere usted?** — *What do you want?* **¿Cuándo llega el tren?** — *When does the train arrive?* Subject pronouns are often left out: **¿Dónde vives?** — *Where do you live?*

To answer a yes/no question with a full negative, say no twice

To answer a yes/no question with a full negative sentence, say **no** twice. The first **no** answers the question; the second goes before the verb, as always. **¿Hablas inglés?** — *Do you speak English?* **No, no hablo inglés.** — *No, I don't speak English.* **¿Te gusta el café?** — *Do you like coffee?* **No, no me gusta.** — *No, I don't like it.*

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

nosotros + tener que trabajar → tenemos que trabajar

¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta? → May I pay by card?

a ti → te gusta el café

a nosotros → nos gusta el café

No hablo inglés. → I don't speak English.

¿Dónde vive Ana? → Where does Ana live?

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. A visitor in a small shop in Oaxaca asks how things work. You give her the general rule, with no person named: one has to pay at the register. Which sentence do you say?

A. Hay pagar en la caja.
B. Tengo que pagar en la caja.
C. Hay que pagar en la caja.
D. Tenemos que pagar en la caja.

2. At a hotel in Oaxaca you want to ask the receptionist, using usted, to open the door. Which question do you ask?

A ¿Puede abrir la puerta, por favor?
B ¿Puedo abrir la puerta, por favor?
C ¿Pueden abrir la puerta, por favor?
D ¿Podemos abrir la puerta, por favor?

3. Your coworkers Ana and Pablo cannot join you for lunch because they have to work. You tell a friend. Which sentence do you say?

A Tenemos que trabajar.
B Tienen que trabajar.
C Tienen que trabajan.
D Tiene que trabajar.

4. You and two friends walk into a taquería and want to ask the server whether you may eat there. What do you ask?

A ¿Pueden comer aquí?
B ¿Puedo comer aquí?
C ¿Puedes comer aquí?
D ¿Podemos comer aquí?

5. Your boss asks whether you can leave at eight. You can. How do you answer, speaking for yourself?

A Puedo salir a las ocho.
B Puedes salir a las ocho.
C Puedo salgo a las ocho.
D Podemos salir a las ocho.

6. At a taquería the cook asks what you like. You tell him that you like tacos. Which sentence do you say?

A Te gustan los tacos.
B Me gusta los tacos.
C Me gustan los tacos.
D Nos gustan los tacos.

7. At a family dinner you want to say that you love tamales, more strongly than just liking them. Which sentence do you say?

A Me encanta los tamales.
B Me encantan los tamales.
C Nos encantan los tamales.
D Me gustan los tamales.

8. At a bakery you tell the owner that your friends Ana and Pablo like pan dulce. Which sentence do you say?

A Les gustan el pan dulce.
B Le gusta el pan dulce.
C Nos gusta el pan dulce.
D Les gusta el pan dulce.

9. You want to stress that you like coffee, even if others do not. Which sentence adds the phrase with a for emphasis?

A A mí te gusta el café.
B A mí me gusta el café.
C A mí le gusta el café.
D A mí gusta el café.

10. You tell a friend that your sister Ana loves to dance. Which sentence do you say?

A A Ana le encantan bailar.
B A Ana les encanta bailar.
C A Ana le encanta bailar.
D A Ana me encanta bailar.

11. A tourist asks you ¿Hablas inglés? but you do not speak English. How do you answer with a full negative sentence?

A No, hablo no inglés.
B No, no hablamos inglés.
C No, no hablas inglés.
D No, no hablo inglés.

12. You work at a taquería and want to ask a customer, politely with usted, what she wants. Which question follows the usual Spanish word order?

A ¿Qué quiere usted?
B ¿Usted quiere qué?
C ¿Quiere qué usted?
D ¿Qué usted quiere?

13. You ask a friend, in the informal way, where she lives. As questions often do, you leave out the pronoun. Which question fits?

A ¿Dónde vivimos?
B ¿Dónde vives?
C ¿Dónde vivo?
D ¿Dónde viven?

14. A friend says Hablas español to you twice. The first time her voice stays level. The second time it rises at the end. What does the second one mean?

A She asks if you speak Spanish.
B She asks if we speak Spanish.
C She says we speak Spanish.
D She says you speak Spanish.

15. At dinner your friend Pablo says No me gusta el café. What does Pablo mean?

A Pablo likes coffee.
B You do not like coffee.
C Ana does not like coffee.
D Pablo does not like coffee.

Go deeper

WATCH "Me Gusta" Works Backwards 0:32 · YouTube
Gustar works backwards from English like. Me gusta el café means coffee is pleasing to me.

WATCH Tengo Que or Hay Que 0:30
To say what you have to do, use tener que, plus an infinitive. Tengo que trabajar. I have to work.

WATCH No, No Hablo Inglés 0:30
In Spanish, no does the job of don't. Put it right before the verb. No hablo inglés. I don't speak English.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/spanish-verbs-1/lesson-6-verbs-in-use

STUDY Spanish Verbs 1: The Present in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/spanish-verbs-1

Answer key

Lesson 1: Lesson 1: How Spanish Verbs Work

1. A hablar

A dictionary lists the infinitive, which ends in -ar, -er or -ir, so you find hablar. Hablo, hablas and hablamos are conjugated forms that show who is speaking.

2. C The new ending

Spanish builds who is acting into the ending (-o, -as, -amos). In a regular verb the stem habl- stays the same, so it cannot show the person, and the infinitive ending -ar has been replaced.

3. D com- + -er

The stem is what is left when you drop the last two letters, so comer is com- + -er. Com- + -ar and com- + -ir use the endings of the other two families, and co- + -mer drops three letters.

4. B Each family has its own set, so they differ

The three families conjugate differently, because each family has its own set of endings. Vivir is an -ir verb, so the -ar endings of hablar do not carry over, even though -ar is the largest family.

5. B hablas

Habl- + -as gives hablas, which means you speak. Hablo means I speak, hablamos means we speak, and hablar is the infinitive, which is not conjugated.

6. D Necesito veinte pesos.

The ending -o shows I: necesito. Necesitas is the tú form, necesita is the usted, él and ella form, and necesitamos is the nosotros form.

7. C Usted habla español.

Usted takes the same form as él and ella: habla. Hablas is the tú form, hablan goes with ustedes, ellos and ellas, and hablo is the yo form.

8. A Trabajas en Monterrey.

The informal you (tú) takes the ending -as: trabajas. Trabaja goes with usted, él and ella, trabajan goes with ustedes, ellos and ellas, and trabajamos goes with nosotros and nosotras.

9. B Necesitamos veinte pesos.

The ending -amos shows we: necesitamos. Necesitan goes with ustedes, ellos and ellas, necesito goes with yo, and necesitas goes with tú.

10. A Ellos

Ustedes takes the same form as ellos and ellas, so llegan stays the same: Ellos llegan a las ocho. Él and usted take llega, and nosotros takes llegamos.

11. C We

The ending -amos shows we, so Estudiamos en Oaxaca means We study in Oaxaca. Spanish usually leaves out nosotros because the ending already shows the person.

12. D Ustedes, ellos or ellas

Hablan is the form for ustedes, ellos and ellas. Habla would go with usted, él and ella, hablamos with nosotros and nosotras, and hablo or hablas with yo or tú. If the context does not settle it, add the pronoun.

13. A Yo hablo español, pero ella habla inglés.

Yo hablo español, pero ella habla inglés keeps yo and ella to contrast two people, and each verb agrees with its pronoun. Tú would mean you, not your sister.

14. C Él es importante estudiar.

Él es importante estudiar uses él for it, but él usually stands for a person, and Spanish has no subject word for it: Es importante estudiar. The other three are right. Keeping a pronoun for a person, as in Ella estudia en Guadalajara, is not a mistake.

15. D Estudian en Monterrey.

The ending -an shows they, so the pronoun can be left out: Estudian en Monterrey. Estudia is for one person, estudio means I, and estudiamos means we.

Lesson 2: Lesson 2: Regular -er and -ir Verbs

1. D Bebo agua.

You are the one speaking, so beber takes the yo form: bebo. Bebes is for tú, bebemos for nosotros, and beben for ustedes, ellos or ellas.

2. A Usted come tacos.

Usted takes the same form as él and ella: come. Comes is the tú form and does not go with usted; comen is for ustedes, and comemos is for nosotros.

3. C Leemos el periódico.

Leer keeps both e's, and the nosotros ending is -emos: leemos. Lemos drops an e, so it is not a form of leer. Leen is for ustedes, ellos and ellas, and lees is for tú.

4. B Ustedes beben agua.

Ustedes takes the same form as ellos and ellas: beben. Bebe is the singular form for usted, él or ella, bebes is for tú, and bebemos is for nosotros.

5. D I'm having a coffee.

In Mexico you will also hear tomar for drinking, so Tomo un café means I'm having a coffee. Reading, learning and cooking are not what tomar means here.

6. A Vivo en Guadalajara.

You are the one speaking, so vivir takes the yo form: vivo. Vives is for tú, vivimos for nosotros, and viven for ustedes, ellos or ellas.

7. B comemos

The ending -emos marks an -er verb: comemos comes from comer. Hablamos and tomamos end in -amos (-ar verbs), and vivimos ends in -imos (an -ir verb).

8. C Escribimos un mensaje.

With nosotros, a regular -ir verb takes -imos: escribimos. Escribemos borrows the -er ending and is not a form of escribir. Escriben is for ustedes, ellos and ellas, and escribe for usted, él and ella.

9. B Usted recibe una carta.

Usted takes the same form as él and ella: recibe. Recibes is the tú form and does not go with usted; reciben is for ustedes, and recibimos is for nosotros.

10. A Ana abre la puerta.

Ana is one person, so abrir takes the same form as usted, él and ella: abre. Abro is the yo form, abres the tú form, and abren is for ustedes, ellos and ellas.

11. C I write every day.

Todos los días (every day) shows a habit, so the plain present means I write every day. It is not an action happening right now or a plan for tomorrow, and escribir means to write, not to read.

12. D She is reading a book right now.

The situation tells you which: you asked what she is doing, so Leo un libro means I'm reading a book, an action happening right now. Nothing in the sentence points to a habit, tomorrow or yesterday.

13. D On Monday.

El lunes is the time word (on Monday), so the present describes a fixed plan in the near future: We get the letter on Monday. Nothing in the sentence says right now, every day or on Friday.

14. B Como a las dos.

In Mexico, comer can also mean to have the main meal of the day, so Como a las dos can mean I have my main meal at two. The other options mean I read, I drink and I write at two.

15. C El tren llega a las ocho.

El tren is one train, so llegar takes the form shared by usted, él and ella: llega. A clock time works as a time word, so the present can state a fixed plan. Llegas is the tú form, llego the yo form, and llegan goes with ustedes, ellos and ellas.

Lesson 3: Lesson 3: Ser, Estar and Ir

1. D Soy de Guadalajara.

You are one person speaking about yourself, so use soy: Soy de Guadalajara. Eres is the tú form, for the person you are talking to, and somos is the form for we.

2. A Es la una.

One o'clock is the only hour that takes the singular es: Es la una. The hours from two to twelve take son, so a plural verb with one o'clock is wrong.

3. B Somos de Oaxaca.

You speak for yourself and your sister, so use the nosotros form, somos: Somos de Oaxaca. Soy is for one person, and son is for ustedes, ellos and ellas.

4. C Son las tres.

The hours from two to twelve take son, so three o'clock is Son las tres. Only one o'clock takes the singular es, as in Es la una.

5. A Usted es amable.

Usted takes the same form as él and ella: es. Eres goes with tú, soy with yo and son with ustedes.

6. B Estoy en Oaxaca.

Where you are right now is a location, so use estar: Estoy en Oaxaca. Soy de Guadalajara says where you are from, not where you are now.

7. C Estoy bien, gracias.

How someone is right now takes estar, and you answer about yourself with the yo form: Estoy bien, gracias. Estás is the form for the person you are talking to. Soy would use ser, which says what someone is like.

8. D ¿Cómo está usted?

With usted the verb is está, the same form as for él and ella: ¿Cómo está usted? Estás is the informal tú form.

9. A Luis está triste hoy.

How Luis is today takes estar: Luis está triste hoy. Ser says what someone is like, as in Luis es amable. Estamos goes with nosotros and están with ustedes, ellos or ellas.

10. D Estamos bien, gracias.

You speak for two people, so use the nosotros form, estamos: Estamos bien, gracias. Estoy is for one person, and están is for ustedes, ellos and ellas.

11. C Vamos a comer tacos.

With nosotros, vamos a + infinitive can also mean let's: Vamos a comer tacos. Voy, van and vas talk about one person or about other people, not about the two of you.

12. B Van a llegar tarde.

In ir a + infinitive only ir changes, so they go with van, and the second verb stays in the infinitive, llegar. You keep the a between the two verbs. Vamos would mean we.

13. A ¿Qué vas a hacer?

You ask one friend, informally, so ir takes the tú form, vas: ¿Qué vas a hacer? Hacer stays in the infinitive after a. Va is for usted, él and ella.

14. C Voy a la Ciudad de México.

Ciudad goes with la, and before la the a stays separate: Voy a la Ciudad de México. Only el joins with a, as al.

15. B Voy a trabajar mañana.

For a plan, use ir a + infinitive. You speak about yourself, so voy, then a, then the infinitive trabajar, which does not change: Voy a trabajar mañana.

Lesson 4: Lesson 4: Stem-Changing Verbs

1. D ¿Qué quieres, tacos o tamales?

Tú is the informal you, and querer gives quieres: the stress falls on the stem, so e becomes ie. Quiero goes with yo, queremos with nosotros, and quieren with ustedes, ellos or ellas.

2. B La clase empieza a las nueve.

La clase is singular, so empezar takes the usted / él / ella form: empieza, with e changed to ie. Empeza keeps the e and is not a real form; empiezan is plural and empezamos is nosotros.

3. C Los niños quieren jugo.

Los niños takes the ustedes / ellos / ellas form: quieren, with e changed to ie. Quiere is singular, queren keeps the e and is not a real form, and queremos is the nosotros form.

4. A nosotros

Nosotros queremos: the e stays because the stress falls on the ending (que-RE-mos). The yo, tú and ustedes forms sit inside the boot and change e to ie.

5. D Quiero un café.

With yo, the stress falls on the stem, so the e becomes ie: quiero. Quero keeps the e and is not a real form. Quieres goes with tú and queremos with nosotros.

6. B Vuelvo a Oaxaca el viernes.
With yo, the stress falls on the stem, so the o becomes ue: vuelvo. Vuelves goes with tú, volvemos with nosotros, and vuelven with ustedes, ellos or ellas.

7. A Podemos comer a las dos.
Nosotros keeps the o: podemos, because the stress falls on the ending. Puedemos changes the stem and is not a real form. Puedo goes with yo, and pueden goes with ustedes, ellos or ellas.

8. C Ustedes pueden llegar a las seis.
Ustedes takes the same form as ellos and ellas: pueden, with o changed to ue. Puede is singular, podemos is the nosotros form, and poden keeps the o and is not a real form.

9. A ¿Cuándo vuelves?
Tú takes vuelves, with o changed to ue because the stress falls on the stem. Volvemos goes with nosotros, vuelven with ustedes, ellos or ellas, and vuelvo with yo.

10. C Juego en el parque.
With yo, the u becomes ue: juego. Juegas goes with tú, jugamos with nosotros (it keeps the u), and juegan with ustedes, ellos or ellas.

11. B El maestro repite el número.
El maestro is singular, so repetir takes the usted / él / ella form: repite, with the second e changed to i. Repete keeps the e and is not a real form; repiten is plural and repetimos is nosotros.

12. D Pregunto dónde está el baño.
You want an answer, so use preguntar: pregunto. Pedir is for asking for a thing, as in pido agua. Preguntamos and pedimos are nosotros forms, but you are asking alone.

13. B Servimos tamales.
Nosotros keeps the e: servimos, because the stress falls on the ending. Sirvimos changes the stem and is not a real form. Sirvo goes with yo, and sirven goes with ustedes, ellos or ellas.

14. A quiero and pido
Querer changes e to ie (quiero), but pedir changes e to i (pido). Each verb has its own pattern, so the two cannot be swapped.

15. D Mis amigos piden la cuenta.
Mis amigos is plural, so pedir takes the ustedes / ellos / ellas form: piden. Pide is singular, pedimos is the nosotros form, and peden keeps the e and is not a real form.

Lesson 5: Lesson 5: Irregular Yo Forms

1. A Hago la tarea.
You answer for yourself, so use the yo form of hacer: hago. Haces repeats your friend's tú form, hace is for usted / él / ella, and haco is not a real form.

2. D Salgo de la casa a las ocho.
You are talking about yourself, so use the yo form of salir: salgo. Salo is not a real form, sales is for tú, and sale is for usted / él / ella.

3. C Ellos traen tamales.
Ellos takes the regular ustedes / ellos / ellas form of traer: traen. In the present only the yo form is irregular. Traigo is for yo, traemos for nosotros, and trae for one person.

4. B ¿Tienes tiempo?

A friend gets the informal tú form, and tener changes e to ie there: tienes. Tengo is yo, tiene is usted / él / ella, and tenemos is nosotros, which keeps the e.

5. B Decimos la verdad.

In decir, nosotros keeps the e: decimos. Dicimos wrongly changes the e, digo is only for yo, and dicen is for ustedes / ellos / ellas.

6. A Conozco Guadalajara.

Guadalajara is a place you are familiar with, so use conocer: conozco, where the c becomes zc. Sé is for facts and know-how, conoces is for tú, and conoco is not a real form.

7. C Ana sabe la respuesta.

Ana is one person, so saber takes the regular form sabe; in the present only the yo form is irregular. Sé is for yo, sabes is for tú, and sabemos is for nosotros.

8. D Doy veinte pesos.

The yo form of dar is doy, its only irregular present form. Do is not a form of dar, das is for tú, and da is for usted / él / ella.

9. B Veo la iglesia.

You answer for yourself, so use the yo form of ver: veo. Ves only repeats your friend's tú form, ve is for usted / él / ella, and vemos is for nosotros.

10. D Sé el nombre de Ana.

A name is a fact, so use saber: Sé el nombre de Ana. Conozco a Ana means you know Ana herself, the person. Sabes is for tú, and sabo is not a real form.

Lesson 6: Lesson 6: Verbs in Use

1. C Hay que pagar en la caja.

Hay que + infinitive says what has to be done in general, with no person named. Tengo and tenemos que each name a person or a group, and Hay pagar leaves out que.

2. A ¿Puede abrir la puerta, por favor?

To ask someone to do something, use that person's form of poder. With usted that is puede. Puedo asks for your own permission, podemos is for we, and pueden is for several people.

3. B Tienen que trabajar.

Ana and Pablo are two people, so tener takes the ustedes / ellos / ellas form, tienen; que and the infinitive stay the same. Tiene is for one person, tenemos is for we, and the infinitive stays unchanged.

4. D ¿Podemos comer aquí?

Poder asks permission, and for you and your friends it takes the nosotros form, which keeps the o: ¿Podemos comer aquí? Puedo is only for one person, pueden is for ustedes / ellos / ellas, and puedes is the tú form.

5. A Puedo salir a las ocho.

Poder plus an infinitive says what you can do, and for yourself you use puedo: Puedo salir a las ocho. Puedes is the tú form, podemos is for we, and the second verb stays in the infinitive.

6. C Me gustan los tacos.

The pronoun for yourself is me, and tacos is plural, so the verb is gustan: Me gustan los tacos. Me gusta is for a singular noun or an infinitive, te is for tú and nos is for nosotros.

7. B Me encantan los tamales.

Encantar is stronger than gustar and works the same way: tamales is plural, so Me encantan los tamales. Me gustan only says you like them, me encanta has the wrong verb form, and nos is for we.

8. D Les gusta el pan dulce.

Two people like it, so the pronoun is les, and pan dulce is singular, so the verb is gusta. Le is for one person, nos is for we, and gustan would need a plural noun.

9. B A mí me gusta el café.

A mí goes with me, and you keep the pronoun when you add the phrase: A mí me gusta el café. Leaving out me is wrong, and te and le belong to a ti and a ella, not a mí.

10. C A Ana le encanta bailar.

Ana is one person, so the pronoun is le, and an infinitive is one thing, so the verb is encanta: A Ana le encanta bailar. Les is for several people, me is for yo, and encantan needs a plural noun.

11. D No, no hablo inglés.

Say no twice: the first answers the question, and the second goes directly before the verb, as always. Hablo no puts no after the verb, hablamos is for we, and hablas is for tú.

12. A ¿Qué quiere usted?

After a question word the verb usually comes right after it, and a stated subject usually goes after the verb: ¿Qué quiere usted? In the other options the verb does not come right after qué.

13. B ¿Dónde vives?

The ending shows who, so the pronoun can go. Your friend is tú, and vivir gives vives: ¿Dónde vives? Vivo is for yo, vivimos for nosotros and viven for ustedes / ellos / ellas.

14. A She asks if you speak Spanish.

A yes/no question can keep the word order of a statement; only the intonation changes, and the voice usually rises at the end. Hablas shows you, not we, so the rising voice asks whether you speak Spanish.

15. D Pablo does not like coffee.

No goes before the pronoun me, so the sentence is negative, and me points to the speaker: No me gusta el café means I don't like coffee. Without no it would be positive, and you or Ana would need te or le.

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