

Conjugation of regular verbs

Conjugating verbs

In English, not a lot of conjugation goes on: "I speak," "you speak," "he speaks," "she speaks," "we speak," "they speak." Only the third-person singular makes a change in the present tense of most English verbs, taking on the ending "-s."

In Spanish, there are six different verb endings for each verb tense, corresponding to the six subject pronoun groups—the singular and plural of first-person, second-person, and third-person subject pronouns. Each conjugated verb form in Spanish indicates who is performing the action (expression of person and number), as well as when the action occurred (verb tense).

Subject pronouns

In English, there are seven subject pronouns: "I," "you," "he," "she," "it," "we," and "they." Spanish has the same basic set of subject pronouns, but with additional forms that express gender. In Spanish, "we," "they," and the second-person plural form of "you" have both masculine and feminine forms. In addition, there are four words that express "you" in Spanish—singular and plural forms of both a formal and an informal "you."

Subject pronouns

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
yo	<i>I</i>	nosotros	<i>we</i> (masc., masc. & fem.)
		nosotras	<i>we</i> (fem.)
tú	<i>you</i> (informal)	vosotros	<i>you</i> (informal, masc., masc. & fem.)
		vosotras	<i>you</i> (informal, fem.)
él	<i>he</i>	ellos	<i>they</i> (masc., masc. & fem.)
ella	<i>she</i>	ellas	<i>they</i> (fem.)
usted	<i>you</i> (formal)	ustedes	<i>you</i> (formal)

It is important to note that the informal plural **vosotros** form is used primarily in Peninsular Spanish (that is, in Spain), while throughout most of Latin America **ustedes** is used in both formal and informal situations. For the most part, the word "it" is an understood subject in Spanish, and thus Spanish has no specific word for "it" as a subject pronoun.

Principles of conjugation

- 1 To conjugate a verb in Spanish, begin with the infinitive.

EXAMPLE **cantar** ("to sing")

- 2 Find the verb base, which is what remains when the infinitive ending is removed from the infinitive.

EXAMPLE **cantar** minus **-ar** equals **cant-**, the verb base

- 3 Add the verb ending that corresponds to the subject of the verb directly to the verb base.

EXAMPLE For the subject "I" (**yo**): **cant-** (verb base) + **-o** (verb ending) = **canto** ("I sing")

Regular -ar verbs

VOCABULARIO

Regular -ar endings

yo	-o	nosotros	-amos
		nosotras	-amos
tú	-as	vosotros	-áis
		vosotras	-áis
él	-a	ellos	-an
ella	-a	ellas	-an
usted	-a	ustedes	-an

amar	to love	hablar	to speak, talk
andar	to walk	llegar	to arrive
bailar	to dance	llevar	to wear, carry
buscar	to look for, search for	mirar	to watch, look at
caminar	to walk	pagar	to pay (for)
cantar	to sing	practicar	to practice
comprar	to buy	preparar	to prepare
entrar (en)	to enter (into)	tocar	to touch, play (an instrument)
escuchar	to listen (to)	tomar	to take
esperar	to hope, wait (for)	trabajar	to work
estudiar	to study		

NOTE Common abbreviations are Ud. for **usted**, and Uds. for **ustedes**. Both are commonly used in writing and always capitalized.

Negative sentences

To make an affirmative sentence negative, simply add **no** directly before the verb.

Yo no hablo portugués.

Nosotros no trabajamos aquí.

I don't speak Portuguese.

We don't work here.

Below is the fully conjugated verb **hablar**

hablar to speak, talk

yo hablo	nosotros hablamos
tú hablas	nosotras hablamos
	vosotros habláis
	vosotras habláis
él habla	ellos hablan
ella habla	ellas hablan
Ud. habla	Uds. hablan

EJERCICIO

1-2

Traducción

VOCABULARIO	el arpa	<i>harp</i>	la mañana	<i>morning</i>
	bien	<i>well</i>	el nombre	<i>name</i>
	especial	<i>special</i>	rápidamente	<i>fast</i>
	la guitarra	<i>guitar</i>	el restaurante	<i>restaurant</i>
	la lección	<i>lesson</i>		

Hello. My name is Paco. I study Spanish in the morning and I work in a restaurant in the afternoon. My friends speak Spanish. I practice my lessons with my friends. They speak fast. I do not speak fast. My teacher speaks Spanish and English. She also plays the guitar, and sometimes we sing and sometimes we dance the flamenco. I practice the flamenco in my house in the evening with a friend or with my cousins. They dance very well. I wear special shoes when I dance. Sometimes my daughter Daisy plays the harp. She plays very well. I play the piano. I don't play the harp.

Regular -er verbs

Regular -er endings

yo	-o	nosotros	-emos
tú	-es	nosotras	-emos
él	-e	vosotros	-éis
ella	-e	vosotras	-éis
usted	-e	ellos	-en
		ellas	-en
		ustedes	-en

aprender	to learn	deber	to owe
beber	to drink	leer	to read
comer	to eat	meter (en)	to put (into)
cometer (un error)	to make (a mistake)	poseer	to possess, own
comprender	to understand	romper	to break
correr	to run	temer	to fear, dread
creer	to believe	vender	to sell

Below is the fully conjugated verb **comer** ("to eat").

comer to eat

yo como	nosotros comemos
tú comes	nosotras comemos
él come	vosotros coméis
ella come	vosotras coméis
usted come	ellos comen
	ellas comen
	ustedes comen

EJERCICIO

1.4

Traducción

VOCABULARIO	el autor, la autora	author	también	also
	el lápiz	pencil	usualmente	usually
	el regalo	gift	el vaso	(drinking) glass
	la revista	magazine	a veces	sometimes

I read a lot of books. When I read a book, I usually eat pizza or drink a glass of milk or water.
 I learn a lot from my books. I also owe a lot of money to the bookstore. My parents read books
 and magazines, but I read more. The bookstore in my city sells books, magazines, pens, pencils,
 gifts, and much more. We don't eat in the bookstore, but sometimes we drink coffee there.
 My family and I own many books. Sometimes an author makes a mistake, but usually not.

Regular -ir verbs

To conjugate regular -ir verbs, begin with the verb base and add the -ir endings. Note that the endings, listed below, are identical to the endings for -er verbs except for the **nosotros** and **vosotros** forms.

Regular -ir endings

yo	-o	nosotros	-imos
		nosotras	-imos
tú	-es	vosotros	-ís
		vosotras	-ís
él	-e	ellos	-en
ella	-e	ellas	-en
usted	-e	ustedes	-en

Below is the fully conjugated verb **vivir** ("to live").

vivir to live

yo vivo	nosotros vivimos
	nosotras vivimos
tú vives	vosotros vivís
	vosotras vivís
él vive	ellos viven
ella vive	ellas viven
usted vive	ustedes viven

VOCABULARIO

abrir	to open	escribir	to write
admitir	to admit	existir	to exist
asistir (a)	to attend	permitir	to permit
cubrir	to cover	recibir	to receive, welcome
decidir	to decide	subir	to climb, go up
describir	to describe	sufrir	to suffer
descubrir	to discover	unir	to unite
discutir	to discuss	vivir	to live

EJERCICIO

1.6

Traducción

VOCABULARIO	el aire	air	durante	during	por	along
	el banco	bank	fresco	fresh	la semana	week
	cada	each	el mar	sea	si	if
	el calor	heat	la novela	novel	todo el mundo	everyone
	como	like	las personas	people		

Hi. My family and I live in Havana, Cuba. My father writes novels and my mother works in a bank. She decides if a person receives money from the bank. Everyone believes that Christopher Columbus discovers Cuba in 1492. Some people believe that Christopher Columbus discovers North America, too. I attend school five days each week. My little sister attends school only three days each week. We suffer a lot from the heat here during the day, but in the evening we welcome the fresh air like a friend. Every evening, my friends and I walk along the Malecón and we look at the sea.
