

SPEAK SPANISH



DAVE HART



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1. Articles in Spanish (Artículos en Español)

What is an article?

Articles are words that **accompany** nouns. They also indicate the gender and number of the noun in a sentence. This is why they are written *before* the noun and can be *plural or singular* depending on the quantity to which they are referring.

What kind of articles are there in Spanish?

In Spanish, articles can be classified into definite and indefinite

1. a Definite articles

Like in English, we use definite articles in Spanish to talk about something specific. In Spanish, you have 4 forms to choose from:

- **el** – singular and masculine
- **la** – singular and feminine
- **los** – plural and masculine
- **las** – plural and feminine

Remember: In Spanish, the article needs to match the gender and number of the noun. For example, if you use a singular and feminine noun, your definite article must also be singular and feminine.

Examples:

El auto de Ana es verde. (Ana's car is green)

La silla es muy cómoda. (The chair is very comfortable)

Las manzanas son rojas. (Apples are red.)

Los perros de John son lindos. (John's dogs are cute)

1. b Indefinite articles

Indefinite articles refer to a person or thing that is not defined or specific. In English, you use 'a', 'an,' and 'some'. In Spanish, again, 4 options are available depending on the number and gender:

- **un** – singular and masculine
- **una** – singular and feminine
- **unos** – plural and masculine
- **unas** – plural and feminine

Examples:

Quiero un helado. (I want ice cream.)

Me compré una campera nueva. (I bought a new jacket.)

Necesito unos resaltadores nuevos. (I need some new highlighters.)

¿Me pasas unas hojas, por favor? (Can I have some sheets, please?)

2. Pronouns in Spanish (Pronombres en Español)

What are them?

Pronouns are words used to refer to people, animals or things without naming them. They can replace the noun to avoid repetition. They agree in gender and number with the noun they replace.

What types of pronouns are there?

- a. **Personal Pronouns (Pronombres personales)**: They usually refer to people without naming them by name. They are the following:

Person	Personal Pronoun
1st person singular	Yo (I)
2nd person singular	Tu, usted, ti (You)
3rd person singular	Él (he), Ella (she), Ello/eso (it)
1st person plural	Nosotros (we - masculine), nosotras (we - feminine)
2nd person plural	Vosotros (plural 'you' - masculine), Vosotras (plural 'you' - feminine)
3rd person plural	Ellos (they - masculine), Ellas (they - feminine)

Yo no tengo hambre pero ellos sí (I'm not hungry, but they are)

María te llamó a ti por teléfono (Maria called you)

Dijeron que los tendríamos que recoger hoy a vosotros (they said we must pick you up today)

Él dijo que va a ir a Francia (He said he was going to France)

- b. Possessive Pronouns (Pronombres posesivos): Possessive pronouns are used to express possession. They are placed **after** the noun, and they agree in gender and number with the possessed object.

Person	Possessive Pronoun
1st person singular	Mío (mine - masculine), Mía (mine - feminine)
2nd person singular	Tuyo (yours - masculine), Tuya (yours - feminine)
3rd person singular	Suyo (his - masculine), Suya (hers - feminine)
1st person plural	Nuestro/s (Ours - plural masculine), Nuestra/s (ours - plural feminine)
2nd person plural	Vuestro/s (yours - plural masculine), Vuestra/s (yours - plural feminine)
3rd person plural	Suyos (theirs - plural masculine), Suyas (theirs - plural feminine)

Ese no es mi coche. El mío es negro. (That's not my car. Mine is black)

Llegaron todas las maletas menos las nuestras. (All the bags arrived except ours.)

Si esas son las vuestras, ¿de quién son las otras? (If those are yours, whose are the others?)

- c. Demonstrative Pronouns (Pronombres demostrativos): Demonstrative pronouns indicate where something or someone is in relation to the speaker.

Person	Pronoun
Singular masculine (masculino singular)	Éste (this), ése (that)
Singular feminine (femenino singular)	Ésta (this), ésa (that)
Singular neuter (neutro singular)	Ésto (this), eso (that)
Plural masculine	Éstos (these), esos (those)
Plural feminine	Éstas (these), esas (those)

Ése de allí es mi hermano. (That one is my brother)

Ésa no es buena, toma mejor la otra. (That is not good, take the other one)

Éstos no me gustan, prefiero los libros de aventuras. (I don't like these, I prefer adventure books)

- d. Reflexive Pronouns (Pronombres reflexivos): They indicate that we do something to ourselves. They can go at the end of the verb or independently.

Person	Pronoun
1st person singular	Me (to myself)
2nd person singular	Te (to you)
3rd person singular	Se (to him/her/it)
1st person plural	Nos (to us)
2nd person plural	Os (to you - plural)
3rd person plural	Se (to them)

Me visto rápido y voy. (I get dressed quickly and go.)

Se sentó en el sofá a descansar. (He/she/it sat down on the sofa to rest.)

Vamos a maquillarnos nos al baño. (Let's do our makeup in the bathroom.)

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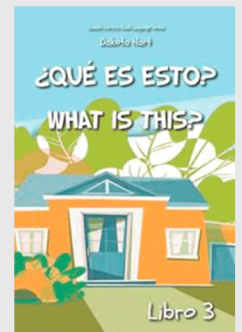
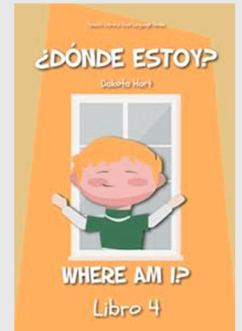
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3. Nouns (Sustantivos)

What is a noun?

Nouns are words used to designate people, animals, places, things, ideas or feelings. Nouns usually appear together with an article or a determiner and they can be replaced by a pronoun. In Spanish, nouns are **variable** and admit *gender and number changes*:

Gender: male (masculino)/ female (feminine). For example: boy-girl (hombre-mujer)

Number: singular (singular) (1) / plural (plural) (2). For example: table-tables (mesa-mesas)

What types of nouns are there?



- a. Common nouns (Sustantivos comunes): Common nouns refer to people (*hermano, abogado - brother, lawyer*), animals (*gato, tiburón - cat, shark*) and things (*cuaderno, felicidad - notebook, happiness*). These nouns are written with a lower case letter.

computer (computadora)

mask (máscara)

Common nouns can be countable or uncountable as well as individual or collective.

A common noun can also be combined with another to make a compound noun.

- b. Proper nouns (Sustantivos propios): Proper nouns refer to specific items and entities. They can be names of people (*John*), places (*Ecuador*), holidays (*Navidad - Christmas*), institutions (*las Naciones Unidas - The United Nations*) etc. Like in English, these nouns are written with a capital letter.

***María** tiene un perro (María has a dog)*

***Londres** es una de las ciudades más visitadas del mundo (London is one of the most visited cities in the world)*

- c. Concrete nouns (Sustantivos concretos): they designate elements that we can perceive by the senses. Unlike abstract nouns, their referent is a **material entity**, not an ideal one. For example: dog (perro), car (auto), spoon (cuchara) or window (ventana)

***La puerta** debe permanecer cerrada (The door must remain closed)*

***La plaza** tiene muchos árboles (The square has many trees)*

- d. Abstract nouns (Sustantivos abstractos): Abstract nouns are those that do not refer to a material reality, since they name things that cannot be perceived with the senses. For example: justice (justicia), honesty (honestidad), health (salud) and truth (verdad).

Abstract nouns are a type of common nouns, that is, those that name the things we know in a generic way, without referring to a particular member within a class.

*La **tensión** se sintió todo el tiempo. (The **tension** was felt all the time.)*

*Harán un festival por **la paz** mundial. (They will make a festival for world **peace**.)*

*El niño siente **vergüenza** porque no conoce a nadie. (The boy feels **ashamed** because he doesn't know anyone.)*

- e. Countable nouns (Sustantivos contables): they are those that designate beings or things that can be counted, so they can be used in the singular or plural.

¿Podrías darme una **manzana**? (Could you give me an apple?)

En la caja hay dos **peines**. (In the box there are two combs.)

Este mes vendimos doscientos **kilos** de harina. (This month we sold two hundred kilos of flour.)

- f. Uncountable nouns (Sustantivos no contables): they designate things that **cannot** be counted, that is, they have **no unit**. Uncountable nouns are used only in the singular or plural, although the most common is the use of the singular form.

Él utiliza demasiado **aceite** en sus preparaciones. (He uses too much oil in his preparations.)

El **agua** está fresca. (The water is cool.)

El **aire** permanecía calmo. (The air remained calm.)

Es necesario desinfectar las heridas con **alcohol**. (It is necessary to disinfect wounds with alcohol.)

g. Individual nouns (Sustantivos individuales): They designate a single being, object, element or individual.

La **abeja** me picó en el brazo (The bee stung me on the arm.)

El **álamo** de enfrente se cayó sobre la casa (The poplar tree across the street fell on the house.)

El **alumno** reprobó el examen (The student failed the exam.)

h. Collective nouns (Sustantivos colectivos): designate a set of beings, objects, elements or individuals

Las abejas forman un **enjambre** (Bees form a swarm.)

Aquel era un excelente **reparto** de actores (That was an excellent cast of actors)

En la **alameda** descansó Julio (Julio rested in the alameda)

Not every group of elements is a collective noun. For example, when we say *trees* (árboles), we are talking about more than one element, but the word is in the plural form. On the other hand, collective nouns designate a set of objects or individuals even when in the singular, as in the case of *grove* (arboleda).

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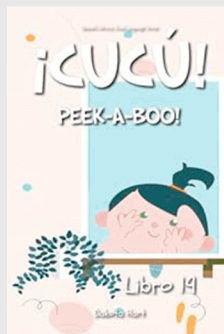
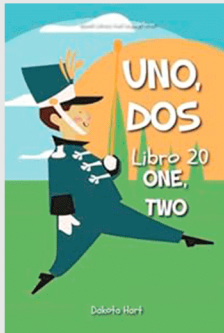
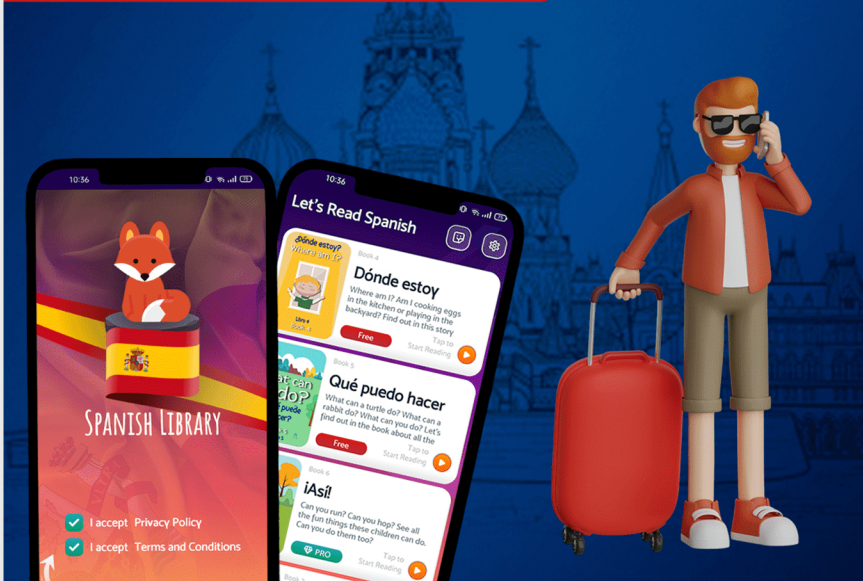
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5. Adjectives (Adjetivos)

Adjectives are words that accompany a noun, giving us information about it and completing its meaning. That is, adjectives are used to describe the characteristics of things. Ex.: The **big** house; the **black** cat; Ana is **thinner** than me. In Spanish, adjectives are located **after** the noun they accompany and only in very special cases precede it. Adjectives **always** agree in gender and number with the noun they accompany.

Types of adjectives (Tipos de adjetivos)

- a. Qualifying adjectives (Adjetivos calificativos): Qualifying adjectives designate qualities of nouns that can be both physical properties (color, size, etc.) and abstract or mental states (mood, character features, etc.).

*Ojos **verdes** y **grandes** (green and big eyes)*

*Persona **feliz** (Happy person)*

- b. Relational adjectives (Adjetivos relacionales): They express a feature of the noun they accompany, which allows to classify them in a certain category.

*Una cuchara **sopera** (A **soup** spoon) → relational adjective*

*Tipo de cuchara (type of spoon): para **comer** sopa (To eat soup)*

*Una cuchara **brillante** (A **bright** spoon) → qualifying adjectives*

***Rasgo de la cuchara** (Spoon **feature**): **brilla** (shines)*

- c. Possessive adjectives (Adjetivos posesivos): They indicate to whom something belongs. These adjectives, which can go before or after the noun, agree in number with the noun they define and in gender in the forms nuestro/a (our) y vuestro/a (your).

*Esa es **mi chaqueta** (That is **my jacket**)*

*Me presentó a **sus amigos** (He introduced me to **his friends**)*

*Esos son **nuestros zapatos** (Those are **our shoes**)*

6. Adverbs (Adverbios)

Adverbs are **invariable words** that complement the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or even another adverb.

El gato duerme (verb) **plácidamente** (adverb) en el sillón - (*verb + adverb*) || *the cat sleeps peacefully on the couch*

El gato está (verb) muy **tranquilo** (adverb) - (*adverb + adjective*) || *The cat is very calm*

Adverbs give information about the **place**, the **time**, the **intensity** or the **way in which the action takes place**

The position of Adverbs (La posición del adverbio)

Adverbs usually go **after the verb** or **before the adjective or adverb** they modify, but they can also go at the beginning of the sentence.

After the verb: El gato de Lucía duerme plácidamente en el sillón. (Lucía's cat sleeps peacefully on the couch)

At the beginning of the sentence: Normalmente, el gato duerme en el sofá junto a la ventana (Usually, the cat sleeps on the sofa by the window)

Types of Adverbs in Spanish (Tipos de adverbios en Español)

Adverbs have traditionally been divided into the following categories:

- a. Adverbs of place (Adverbios de lugar): aquí, allí, arriba, abajo, cerca, lejos, adelante, delante, detrás, encima, debajo, enfrente, atrás, alrededor. (here, there, up, down, near, far, forward, in front, behind, above, below, in front, behind, around.)

- b. Adverbs of time (Adverbios de tiempo): antes, después, luego, pronto, tarde, temprano, todavía/ aún, ya, ayer, hoy, mañana, anteaayer, siempre, nunca, jamás. (before, after, then, soon, late, early, yet, already, yesterday, today, tomorrow, the day before yesterday, always, never, ever.)

- c. Adverbs of mode (Adverbios de modo): bien, mal, peor, mejor, fielmente, estupendamente, fácilmente, negativamente, responsablemente, rápidamente —todas las que se formen con las terminaciones «mente»— (good, bad, worse, better, faithfully, splendidly, easily, negatively, responsibly, quickly - all that are formed with the endings "mente".)

Suffix “-mente” is equivalent to English suffix “-ly”

- d. Adverbs of quantity or degree (Adverbios de cantidad o grado): muy, poco, mucho, bastante, más, menos, algo, demasiado, casi, solo, solamente, tan, tanto, todo, nada, aproximadamente (very, little, a lot, quite a bit, more, less, somewhat, too much, almost, just, only, so, so much, all, nothing, approximately,)

- e. Adverbs of order (Adverbios de orden): primeramente, últimamente (first, last.)

- f. Adverbs of doubt or hesitation (Adverbios de duda o dubitativos):
quizá(s), probablemente, posiblemente, seguramente, puede, puede ser, a lo mejor. (perhaps, probably, possibly, surely, may, may be, maybe.)

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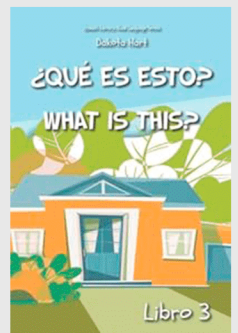
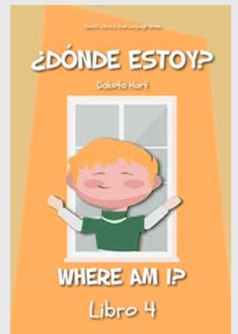


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7. Accent marks in Spanish (Tildes en Español)

In Spanish, there are rules of accentuation or stress, that is, *where accent marks are placed*. Accentuation rules are basic conventions that must **always** be used. In Spanish, accent is very important, since it will indicate the pronunciation of the words. To understand the main rule of stress in Spanish, we must know what syllables are.

Words can be made up of one or more syllables, which is the group of letters that are pronounced together, for example:

- Monosyllables, words of one syllable (Monosílabos, palabras de una sílaba):
Pan, hoy, ir, ya... (bread, today, go, now)
- Words of two syllables (Palabras de dos sílabas): ca-sa, bo-ca (house, mouth - In English, these words cannot be separated)
- Words of three syllables (Palabras de tres sílabas): ca-mi-no, es-cue-la, co-mi-da, ca-ra-col (road, school, food, snail - In English, these words cannot be separated)
- Words of more than three syllables (Palabras de más de tres sílabas):
re-co-ge-dor, he-li-cop-te-ro...(picker, helicopter)

*According to the syllable that is pronounced the strongest, the words are divided into **agudas**, **graves**, and **esdrújulas** (there is no English equivalent to these classification). Each of these types of words follow some rules to know if the word has an accent or not.*

1. Palabras (words) agudas: they are the ones where the last syllable is pronounced stronger: café (coffee), león (lion), quizás (perhaps), calor (heat).

*These type of words take accent when they finish in a vowel: (a, e, i o, u)
or – N – S*

- *With accent: camión (truck), París (Paris), habló (spoke), comí (I ate)*
- *Without accent: caracol (snail), ayer (yesterday), hablar (speak), Madrid (Madrid)*

2. Palabras (words) graves: they are the ones where the penultimate syllable is pronounced stronger: árbol (tree), fácil (easy), camisa (t-shirt), silla (chair)

*These words take accent when they **DO NOT** end in: – Vowel (a, e, i o, u), – N, – S*

- *Words with accent: lápiz (pencil), árbol (tree), móvil (mobile)*
 - *Words without accent: joven (young), examen (exam), crisis (crisis), amigo (friend), siesta (nap)*
3. Palabras esdrújulas: these may be the easiest to identify as they take accent on the antepenultimate syllable: pájaro (bird), América (America)

*Esdrújulas are **always** accentuated*

Other basic Spanish accent rules

- Y is **not** considered a vowel, so diphthongs ending in Y are not accented: Vi-rrey (viceroys)
- Adverbs ending in *-mente* are only accentuated when the adjective they come from has an accent, even if they are esdrújula words, it is an exception: co-mún-men-te (commonly), fiel -men-te (faithfully), úl-ti-ma-men-te (lately)
- Compound words are the result of the combination of two words that are written together. The accent is only placed on the second word if it is present. For example, *video* (video) has accent, but *juego* (game) doesn't.

8. Conjunctions (Conjunciones)

Conjunctions are words that **establish relationships** between words or sentences. They can be coordinating, if they join two elements of equal value, or subordinate, if they establish a relationship of dependency or hierarchy between them.

Coordinating conjunctions (Conjunciones coordinantes): Coordinating conjunctions link elements of **equal value** that can be words or complete sentences. Depending on the interpretation made of the coordinate elements, the coordinating conjunctions are further subdivided into different groups:

- Copulative conjunctions (Conjunciones copulativas): indicate addition or aggregation. Copulative conjunctions in Spanish are; y (and), asi como (as well as); igual que (like); lo mismo que (the same as); no solo (not only), sino también (but also)

*Cristina es de Valencia **y** su marido de Murcia. (Cristina is from Valencia and her husband is from Murcia)*

- Adversative conjunctions (Conjunciones adversativas): they oppose ideas or make a correction. Adversative conjunctions in Spanish are: pero (but), mas (more), sino que (but that).

*Cristina está de vacaciones, **pero/mas** su marido se ha quedado en casa. (Cristina is on vacation, but her husband has stayed home.)*

*El marido de Cristina no está de vacaciones **sino que** se ha quedado en casa. (Cristina's husband is not on vacation but has stayed at home.)*

- Disjunctive Conjunctions (Conjunciones disyuntivas): these indicate alternation or choice. The mostly used disjunctive conjunction in Spanish is: o (*or*).

Cristina pasea por la playa por las mañanas o por las noches. (Cristina walks along the beach in the mornings or at night.)

Subordinating Conjunctions (Conjunciones subordinantes)

Subordinating conjunctions introduce subordinate clauses that **depend on a main clause**. Depending on the conjunction, the subordinate clause may or must precede the main clause or appear after it.

Como *le encanta el mar, ha pasado las vacaciones en el Mar Mediterráneo. (As he loves the sea, he has spent his holidays in the Mediterranean Sea.)*

Depending on their meaning or the type of subordinate clause they introduce, the subordinating conjunctions are classified into:

- Causal conjunctions (Conjunciones causales): they introduce a subordinate clause that expresses the cause or reason for the main clause. In Spanish, they are *porque* (because), *como* (As)

Como *el marido de Cristina tiene que trabajar, se ha quedado en casa. (Since Cristina's husband has to work, he has stayed at home.)*

“Como” must **always** precede the main sentence and be separated by a comma.

El marido de Cristina se ha quedado en casa porque tiene que trabajar. (Cristina's husband has stayed at home because he has to work)

porque can **never** go at the beginning of the sentence.

- Comparative conjunctions (Conjunciones comparativas): they introduce a subordinate that is compared to the main clause. They are: *que* (that), *como si* (as if).

Cristina viaja más a la costa que cuando era pequeña. (Cristina travels to the coast more than when she was little.)

- Concessive conjunctions (Conjunciones concesivas): introduce a subordinate clause that expresses an objection to what the main clause states. They are: *aunque* (although), *si bien* (even though).

Aunque el marido de Cristina tiene que trabajar, ella está de vacaciones.
(Although Cristina's husband has to work, she is on vacation.)

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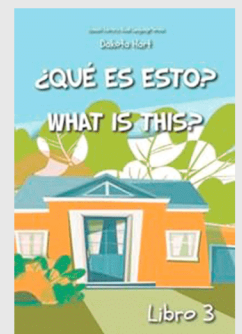
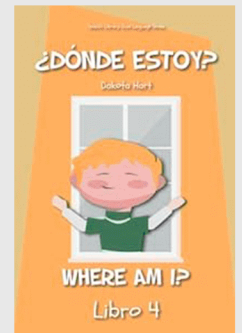
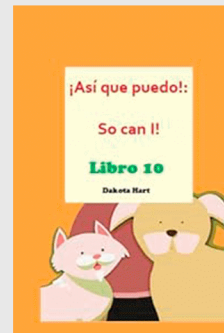
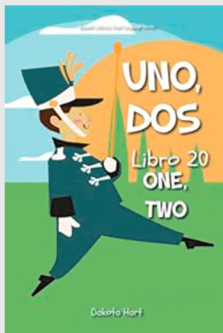
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9. Affirmation and Negation in Spanish (Afirmación y Negación en Español)

Affirmative sentences in Spanish (Oraciones afirmativas en Español)

When we communicate with others, we can do so with different goals. This makes us materialize the communication in different ways: sometimes we *ask*, other times we *externalize* a momentary *feeling* (of astonishment, surprise, anger, joy), and most of the time we just have *something to say* or assert.

Sentences are those groups of concepts (or even isolated words in some cases) that make up a unit of meaning and that have **autonomy** from the syntactic point of view. Affirmative sentences are those that declare or enunciate something with a **true nature**.

“Mi pantalón es azul”, “El perro de Luciana es muy grande”.
(“My pants are blue”, “Luciana’s dog is very big”)

If the speaker is not in a position to specify the affirmation and, therefore, doubts, he will pronounce himself through **doubtful sentences**: “

“El partido comenzaría a las 21:00 horas” (The match would start at 9:00 p.m)

The verb appears in potential, which leaves open the chance of that is not specified

In addition to all of the above, we could say that, on many occasions, affirmative sentences are known as declarative sentences. And it is that, fundamentally, what they do is *state something*. That is, they provide truthful and clear information about a specific fact. It is interesting to underline that, in any language, these sentences are used on a daily basis to communicate, either writing or speaking.

En el año 2050 la demanda de agua se habrá triplicado. (In the year 2050 the demand for water will have tripled.)

La ciudad de Salta es la más linda que he visto. (The city of Salta is the most beautiful I have seen.)

Negative sentences in Spanish (Oraciones negativas en Español)

Negative sentences **deny** what the verb expresses. In Spanish, the negation particle used is the adverb '**no**', which must *precede* the verb.

*A Cristina le encanta pasear, pero **no** le gusta la lluvia. Cuando **no** hace sol, **no** desiste y sale de todos modos con su perro. Como **no** quiere mojarse, **no** olvida nunca coger un paraguas. A su perro tampoco le gusta el agua, por eso le pone un sombrero.*



(Cristina loves to walk, but she **doesn't** like the rain.

When it's **not** sunny, she **doesn't** give up and she goes out with her dog anyway.

Since she doesn't want to get wet, she never forgets to take an umbrella. Her dog **doesn't** like water either, so she puts a hat on it.)

Word order in negative sentences (Orden de las palabras en las oraciones negativas)

In negative sentences, the usual order of elements is **subject + not + verb**. If the sentence includes a direct object and an indirect object, the direct object must come before the indirect object.

Sujeto (Subject)	Negación (Negation)	Verbo (Verb)	Complemento directo (Direct complement)	Complemento indirecto (Indirect complement)
Cristina	no	pone	un sombrero	a su perro.

*(Cristina does **not** put a hat on her dog)*

Negative sentences with direct and/or indirect object pronouns (Oraciones negativas con pronombres de Complemento Directo y/o Indirecto)

When the direct and indirect objects are replaced by the corresponding pronouns, these pronouns must be interposed between the adverb **no** and the verb. The order of the elements of the sentence becomes:

sujeto + no + pronombre de complemento indirecto + pronombre de complemento directo + verbo

(subject + no + indirect object pronoun + direct object pronoun + verb)

Sujeto (Subject)	Negación (Negation)	Pronombre de CI (Indirect Object pronoun)	Pronombre de CD (Direct Object pronoun)	Verbo (Verb)	Complemento directo (Direct obj.)	Complemento Indirecto (Indirect obj.)
Cristina	no	le		pone	un sombrero	
Cristina	no		lo	pone		a su perro

1. Cristina does not put a hat on him
2. Cristina does not put it on her dog

The double negation (La doble negación)

In Spanish, there are other words besides the adverb 'no' that are used to negate elements of the sentence: *nadie* (nobody), *nada* (nothing), *nunca* (never), etc. When these words appear **after** the verb, it is still necessary to use the adverb 'no'. For this reason, *it is considered that in Spanish the negation is double*:

- *no ... (a) nadie*

Cristina **no** ve a **nadie** en la calle. (Cristina doesn't see nobody on the street)

- *no ... nada*

No hay **nada** mejor que un paraguas. (There is nothing better than an umbrella.)

- *no ... nunca/jamás*

El perro de Cristina **no** lleva **nunca** un chubasquero. (Cristina's dog never wears a raincoat)

If any of these words precedes the verb, then the adverb 'no' is unnecessary, and the negation is simplified.

Example:

El perro de Cristina **no** lleva **nunca** un chubasquero.

→ El perro de Cristina *nunca* lleva un chubasquero.

Cristina **no** lleva **tampoco** un chubasquero.

→ Cristina *tampoco* lleva un chubasquero.

Negative expressions (Expresiones negativas)

Some words have a negative equivalent. When an affirmative sentence containing any of these words becomes negative, its corresponding negative equivalent *must* be used. If these negatively charged words precede the verb, it is *not necessary* to use the particle 'no'. The following table shows the relationship between these words and how they behave in affirmative and negative sentences.

Forma positiva (positive form) → Forma negativa (negative form)	Ejemplo (example)
alguien (somebody) → nadie (nobody)	<u>Alguien</u> podrá ayudarte con los deberes. → <u>Nadie</u> podrá ayudarte con los deberes.

1. Someone will be able to help you with homework.
2. No one will be able to help you with homework.

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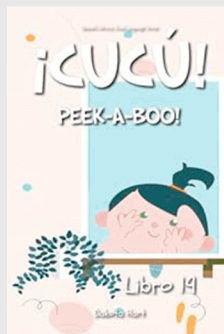
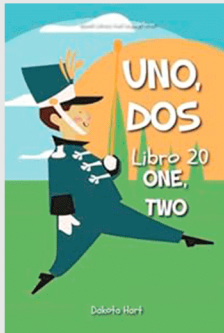
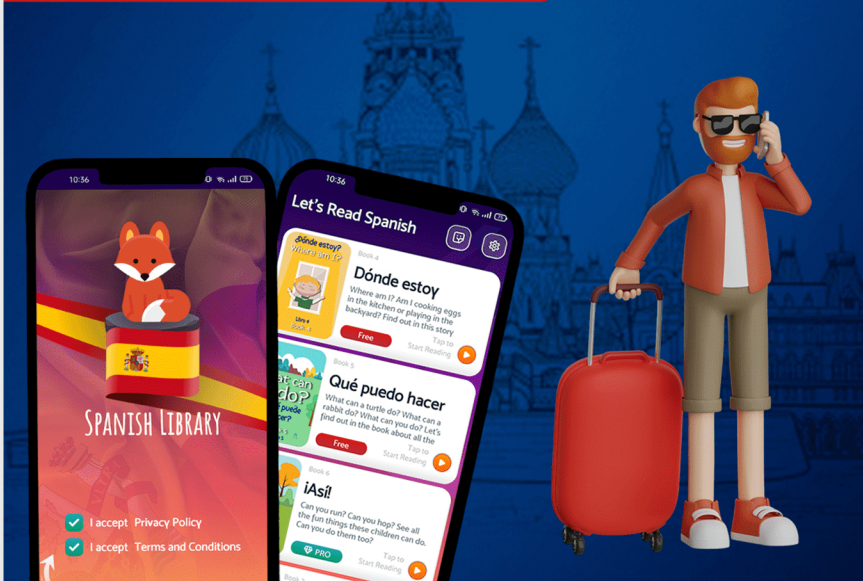
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10. Questions in Spanish (Preguntas en Español)

Being able to form basic questions in Spanish is very important to maintain a fluid conversation, especially if you are a foreigner and you are learning the language. The way we ask about something in Spanish is quite similar to the way it is done in English, with slight differences in the use of question marks.

Pregunta	<i>¿Te gusta estudiar español?</i>		
Respuesta	<i>Si/No (me gusta)</i>		
Inicio de la pregunta		Final de la pregunta	

Pregunta (Question): ¿Te gusta estudiar Español? (Do you like to study Spanish?)

Respuesta (Answer): Si/No (Yes/No) me gusta (I like it)

Inicio de la pregunta (Beginning of a question): ¿

Final de la pregunta (End of a question): ?

How to ask basic questions in Spanish and use question marks (Cómo hacer preguntas básicas en Español y usar signos de pregunta)

All questions in Spanish have **Signos de Interrogación** (question marks). As a general rule, these punctuation marks are used at the beginning and end of all questions in the language. The question mark used at the beginning is placed

backwards, just like the icon in the image above, while the other must be written just like in English and at the end of the question.

When writing questions in Spanish, it is wrong to omit either of the two question marks. The questions in Spanish are actually sentences that have these marks and that in real conversations could have a different intonation depending on the meaning that we want to give them.

¿Estás estudiando español? - Correct
Estás estudiando español? - Incorrect

The basic questions in Spanish, at least the simplest ones, are those whose answer is “Si” (Yes) or “No”. In English, we ask questions using auxiliaries like DO or DID, but in Spanish you just need to say the same sentence without using any auxiliaries or changing the basic structure of the sentence. When writing the question, we will add both question marks to it.

Oración (sentence): Tienes que hacer algo hoy (Do you have something to do today?)

Pregunta (question): ¿Tienes algo que hacer algo hoy?

Examples (Ejemplos):

- ¿(Tú) eres casada o soltera? (Are you married or single?)
“Tú” is *optional*. “Eres” (are) is one of the conjugations of the verb Ser (to-be).

- ¿(Usted) está enojada conmigo? (Are you angry at me?)
This is a formal question with the verb Estar (to-be)

- ¿Tu hermana está ocupada ahora? (Is your sister busy right now?)
In this question we use the possessive adjective TÚ (your)

- ¿(Tú) tienes su nuevo album? (Do you have her new album?)
A very simple question using the irregular verb TENER (Have)

11. Verb To Be in Spanish (Verbos Ser y Estar en Español)

Verbs **Ser** and **Estar** are very important in Spanish. Therefore, their correct use is essential to be able to communicate in this language. In English, we use the verb To Be for this purpose. But in Spanish, they have different meanings and purposes:

- The verb SER is used to describe the Essential characteristics of a person or thing. Essential characteristics are normally permanent.
- The verb ESTAR, on the contrary, does **not** speak of the characteristic, but of the state of a person or a thing. We also use it to talk about localization in space.

Therefore, SER defines what something/somebody **is like**, and ESTAR speaks of the **state** or its **location** (How and/or where is it).

Verb Ser (Verbo Ser)

	Presente	Imperfecto	Indefinido	Futuro
yo	soy	era	fui	seré
tú	eres	eras	fuiste	serás
él	es	era	fue	será
nos.	somos	éramos	fuimos	seremos
vos.	sois	erais	fuisteis	seréis
ellos	son	eran	fueron	serán

**Conjugation of the verb Ser (Conjugación del verbo Ser)*

Presente (present), Imperfecto (imperfect), Indefinido (indefinite), Futuro (future)

To see how this verb is used and its meaning, let's see some examples. A person's characteristics can be physical or referential to the character. So, if we want to describe what José looks like, we will say:

- José **es un chico alto, es delgado y es rubio. Es un chico muy guapo. Es muy simpático, es trabajador, es sincero y es muy romántico.**

(José is a tall boy, he is thin and blond. He is a very handsome boy. He is very nice, he is hard-working, he is sincere and he is very romantic.)

Now, let's describe Pepe:

- Pepe **es un chico bajo, es gordo, es moreno, y es feo. Es un chico antipático, es un poco vago, y es bastante mentiroso. Además, es muy aburrido.**

(Pepe is a short boy, he is fat, he is dark, and he is ugly. He is an unpleasant boy, he is a bit lazy, and he is quite a liar. Also, he is very boring.)

As you can see, I have described two people saying what their physical and personal characteristics are. All these things define these people, that's why I used the verb

Ser.

Verb Estar (Verbo Estar)

Presente	Imperfecto	Indefinido	Futuro
estoy	estaba	estuve	estaré
estás	estabas	estuviste	estarás
está	estaba	estuvo	estará
estamos	estábamos	estuvimos	estaremos
estáis	estabais	estuvisteis	estaréis
están	estaban	estuvieron	estarán

**Conjugation of the verb Estar (Conjugación del verbo Estar)*

Now, let's talk about the verb Estar. Estar (to-be) talks about the state of the person, or thing, or its location in the place. For example:

- “Yo, antes, **estaba** en mi casa. **Estaba** aburrida, **estaba** triste, **estaba** preocupada, **estaba** cansada. Pero ahora **estoy** aquí, con ustedes, y **estoy** contenta, **estoy** tranquila.”

(“Before, I **was** at home. I **was** bored, I **was** sad, I **was** worried, I **was** tired. But now I **am** here, with you, and I **am** happy, I **am** calm.”)

The state changes because it's *not permanent*. The location in the place *can also change*.

Examples:

- Student (Alumno): Si yo ahora soy rubia, y mañana voy a la peluquería y soy morena, entonces, ¡no **es** permanente! (If I'm blonde now, and tomorrow I go to the hairdresser's and I'm brunette, then **it's** not permanent!)
- Teacher (Profesor): Claro, **es** que la característica normalmente **es** algo permanente, pero no siempre. Lo importante **es** que **es** una característica que te define. (Sure, a feature **is** usually something permanent, but not always. The important thing **is** that it **is** a characteristic that defines you.)

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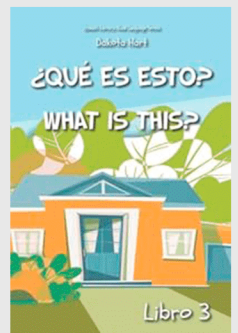
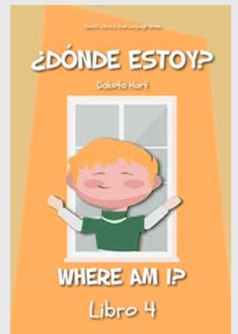


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12. Regular and Irregular Verbs in Spanish (Verbos regulares e irregulares en Español)

Verbs are the most important part of a sentence. Its function is to describe the actions carried out by the subject, whether they are movement or thought.

Verbs are further classified in two categories: **Regular and irregular verbs**.

Regular verbs are those that can be conjugated *without modifying the root*; when conjugating them in present or future, they do not suffer alterations. On the other hand, irregular verbs have *particular conjugations* depending on the time or mode in which they are conjugated.

The Spanish conjugation model is established *by the ending of the infinitive*. According to this, verbs belong to one of these three conjugations:

- First conjugation: verbs ending in -ar.
- Second conjugation: verbs ending in -er.
- Third conjugation: verbs ending in -ir.

Regular verbs of the first conjugation (Verbos regulares de la primera conjugación)

For example, the verb *cantar* (to sing), which root is **cant-**, is added to the respective endings:

1ra persona singular (first person singular)	Yo canto	I sing
2da persona singular (second person singular)	Tú cantas o cantás	You sing
3ra persona singular (third person singular)	Él / ella canta	He/she sings
1ra persona plural (first person plural)	Nosotros cantamos	We sing

2da persona plural (second person plural)	Vosotros / Vosotras cantáis	You sing
3ra persona plural (third person plural)	Ellos / ellas cantan	They sing

*The participle of cantar is **cantado**.

Regular verbs of the second conjugation (Verbos regulares de la segunda conjugación)

These verbs, ending in -er, follow the model of *beber* (to drink) and form the participle by adding the root to the ending -ido. *Its respective endings are added to the root **beb-**

1ra persona singular (first person singular)	Yo bebo	I drink
2da persona singular (second person singular)	Tú bebes o bebés	You drink
3ra persona singular (third person singular)	Él / ella bebe	He/she drinks
1ra persona plural (first person plural)	Nosotros / Nosotras bebemos	We drink
2da persona plural (second person plural)	Vosotros / Vosotras bebéis	You drink

3ra persona plural (third person plural)	Ellos / ellas beben	They drink
--	----------------------------	------------

*The participle of *beber* is *bebido*.

Regular verbs of the third conjugation (Verbos regulares de la tercera conjugación)

Ending in -ir, verbs of the third conjugation follow the model of the verb *vivir* (to live) and form the participle adding the ending **-ido** to the root.

1ra persona singular (first person singular)	Yo vivo	I live
2da persona singular (second person singular)	Tú vives o vivís	You live
3ra persona singular (third person singular)	Él / ella vive	He/she lives
1ra persona plural (first person plural)	Nosotros / Nosotras vivimos	We live
2da persona plural (second person plural)	Vosotros / Vosotras vivís	You live
3ra persona plural (third person plural)	Ellos / ellas viven	They live

Irregular Verbs (Verbos irregulares)

There are different types of verbs according to the irregularity or change they present. They are the following:

a. Vowel irregularity verbs (Verbos de irregularidad vocálica)

Vowel irregular verbs change vowels in the root in some of the conjugations. Vowel irregularities are the *substitution of one vowel* for another and the formation of a diphthong (ie, ue) in verbs whose root had a single vowel.

For example:

- **Servir** (to serve): **serv**-o, **serv**-imos, **serv**-ía, **serv**-iera.
- **Dormir** (to sleep): **duerm**-o, **dorm**-imos, **dorm**-ía, **duerm**-iera.
- **Cerrar** (to close): **cierr**-o, **cerr**-amos, **cerr**-aba, **cierr**-en.

b. Consonant irregular verbs (Verbos de irregularidad consonántica)

Consonant irregular verbs alternate certain consonants in one of the conjugations.

For example:

- **Conocer** (to know): **conozco**, **conocemos**, **conozca**.
- **Salir** (to get out): **Salgo**, **salimos**, **salgamos**.
- **Caer** (to fall): **Caigo**, **caemos**, **caigamos**.

c. Impersonal verb “haber” (Verbo impersonal “haber”)

When it expresses the existence of something or someone, the verb *haber* (to have) **does not agree** with any subject. For this reason, it is impersonal and only admits the conjugation in the third person of the singular. Used as impersonal, the verb to have maintains its singular form regardless of whether what has been is singular or plural.

For example:

- **Había** una casa (there was a house), **había** varias casas (there were many houses)
- **Hubo** un accidente (there was an accident), **hubo** varios accidentes (there were many accidents)

d. Impersonal verb “Hacer” (Verbo impersonal “Hacer”)

The verb *hacer* works as an impersonal verb and it's only conjugated in the 3rd person singular when referring to a moment in the past, or to climate phenomena.

For example:

- **Hace** muchos años (Many years ago)
- **Hace** frío (It's cold)
- **Hace** 22 grados. (It's 22 degrees)

e. Verbs with irregular participles (Verbos con participios irregulares)

Irregular participles do not follow the *-ado/-ada* ending pattern, but end in **-to**, **-so** and **-cho**.

For example:

- Escribir (to write): **escrito** (written)
- Decir (to say): **dicho** (said)
- Confundir (to confuse): **confuso** (confused)

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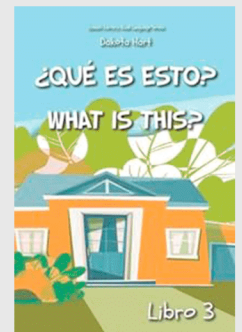
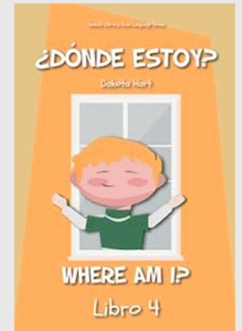
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13. Past Tense in Spanish (Tiempo pasado en Español)

The verbal conjugation model in Spanish is established by the ending of the infinitive. According to this, verbs belong to one of these three conjugations:

- First conjugation: verbs ending in -ar.
- Second conjugation: verbs ending in -er.
- Third conjugation: verbs ending in -ir.

Some of the most common regular verbs in Spanish are:

First Conjugation (Primera conjugación)	Second Conjugation (Segunda conjugación)	Third Conjugation (Tercera conjugación)
<i>Amar (To love)</i>	<i>Temer (To fear)</i>	<i>Partir (To split something)</i>
Anunciar (To announce)	Absorber (To absorb)	Abatir (To bring down)
Atacar (To attack)	Acceder (To access)	Aburrir (To bore)
Bailar (To dance)	Aparecer (To appear)	Añadir (To add)

Past tense in Spanish (Tiempo pasado en Español)

In English, we can choose between the Past Simple or the Past Perfect to express an action is taking place in the past. In Spanish, there are 4 different types of past tense that we can combine to talk about actions that occurred in the past, so deciding when to use each one is not an easy task! In this case, we will learn how to use the Spanish equivalent to the Past Simple, which is called Pretérito Indefinido.

When is it used?

The past tense in Spanish is used to talk about completed actions in the past. It is used with time expressions such as: ayer (yesterday), la semana pasada (last week), el mes pasado (last month), hace un tiempo (long ago), años atrás (years ago), anoche (last night). Example:

Me levanté a las once de la mañana ayer. (I woke up at eleven a.m. yesterday)

Tuve poco trabajo la semana pasada. (I had little work last week)

Formation of the simple past in Spanish (Formación del pasado simple en Español)

For regular verbs of the 1st conjugation (-ar):

Pronoun	Verb	Ending
Yo (I)		Yo caminé (I walked)
Tú/Vos (You - singular)		Tú/Vos caminaste (You walked)
El/Ella (He/She)	Caminar (to walk) Root: -camin	El/Ella caminó (He/She walked)
Nosotros (We)		Nosotros caminamos (We walked)

Ustedes (You - plural)		Ustedes caminaron (You walked)
------------------------	--	--------------------------------

For regular verbs of the 2nd and 3rd conjugation (-er, -ir):

Pronoun	Verb	Ending
Yo (I)		Yo corrí (I ran)
Tú/Vos (You - singular)		Vos corriste (You ran)
El/Ella (He/She)	Correr (To run) Root: Corr-	El/Ella corrió (He/She ran)
Nosotros (We)		Nosotros corrimos (We ran)
Ustedes (You - plural)		Ustedes corrieron (You ran)

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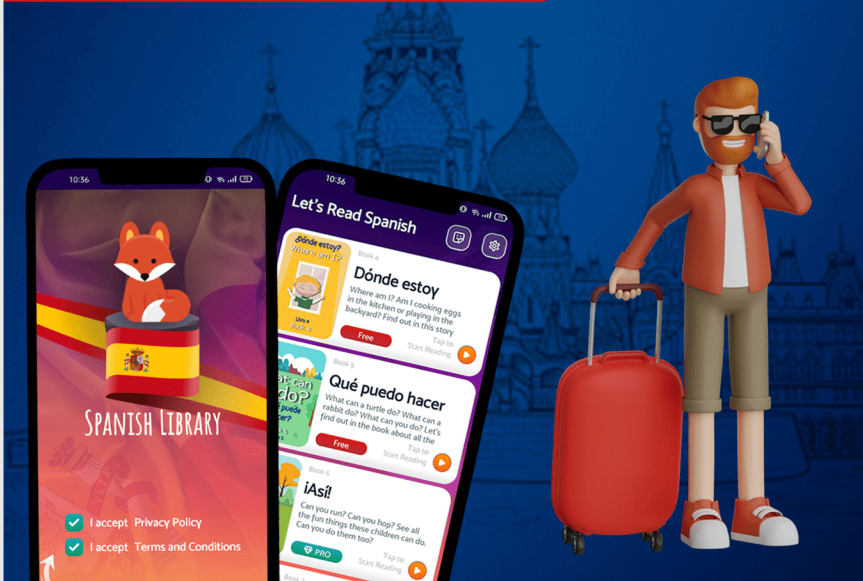
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14. Present Tense in Spanish (Tiempo presente en Español)

When is present tense used? (¿Cuándo usamos el tiempo presente?)

In Spanish, present tense is used to:

1. Describe something/someone:

Micaela es alta (Micaela is tall)
Juan es muy inteligente (Juan is very intelligent)
Yo soy joven (I'm young)

2. To describe routines:

Me levanto a las 8 de la mañana (I wake up at 8 in the morning)
Tomo el desayuno a las 8:30 (I have breakfast at 8:30)
Ella trabaja de lunes a viernes (She works from Monday to Friday)

3. Habits:

Mi esposa hace ejercicio los lunes (My wife exercises on Mondays)
Mis hijos juegan al fútbol (My children play football)
En mi tiempo libre leo el periódico (On my free time I read the newspaper)

Conjugation of the verb Ser (Conjugación del verbo Ser)

The Spanish equivalent to the English 'to-be' verb is the verb **Ser**. The declarative form is very simple:

Yo soy maquilladora (I'm a makeup artist)
Él es mi esposo (He is my husband)
Nosotros somos estudiantes (We are students)

If we want to use the negative form of the verb Ser, we just have to add the word 'No' (Not) **before** the verb:

Yo no soy maquilladora (I'm not a makeup artist)
Él no es mi esposo (He is not my husband)
Nosotros no somos estudiantes (We are not students)

Other examples of present tense:

1. **Yo puedo hablar 3 idiomas.** (I can speak 3 languages)
2. **¿Quieres una taza de té?** (Would you like a cup of tea?)
3. **Nosotras somos griegas.** (We are greek)
4. **Ellos no entienden francés.** (They don't understand French)
5. **Mi madre trabaja en el banco.** (My mother works in the bank)
6. **¿Eres secretaria?** (Are you a secretary?)
7. **Ella vive con su esposo y sus hijos.** (She lives with her husband and children)
8. **Los viernes como con mis padres en un restaurante.** (On Fridays I have dinner with my parents at a restaurant)

15. Future Tense in Spanish (Verbos en Futuro)

The future tense is used to:

- Talk about future actions:

Mañana iré a dar un paseo por la plaza (Tomorrow I will go for a walk in the square).

- Make predictions:

Dentro de 50 años, tú vivirás en medio de las montañas, rodeado de animales salvajes (In 50 years, you will be living in the middle of the mountains, surrounded by wild animals.)

- Make weather predictions:

Mañana lloverá (It will rain tomorrow)

In Spanish, the future tense can be formed by taking an infinitive verb and adding an ending to each root of the future. This process applies for the three conjugations: -AR, -ER, -IR. For example:

CANTAR (to sing)
Yo CANTAR- É (I will sing)
Tú CANTAR- ÁS (You will sing)
Él/Ella CANTAR- Á (He/She will sing)
Nosotros/as CANTAR- EMOS (We will sing)
Vosotros/as CANTAR- ÉIS (You will sing - plural)
Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes CANTAR- ÁN (They will sing)

COMER (to eat)
Yo COMER-É
Tú COMER-ÁS
Él/Ella/Usted COMER-Á
Nosotros/as COMER-EMOS
Vosotros/as COMER-ÉIS
Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes COMER-ÁN

VIVIR (To live)
Yo VIVIR-É
Tú VIVIR-ÁS
Él/Ella/Usted VIVIR-Á
Nosotros/as VIVIR-EMOS
Vosotros/as VIVIR-ÉIS
Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes VIVIR-ÁN

The future tense on Irregular Verbs

- With the verbs **PONER (to put)**, **SALIR (to go out)**, **VENIR (to come)**, and **TENER (to have)** the vowel of the ending of the verb in the infinitive becomes a D:

PONER	PONERÉ	PONDRÉ
SALIR	SALIRÉ	SALDRÉ
TENER	TENERÉ	TENDRÉ
VENIR	VENIRÉ	VENDRÉ

- And finally, there are the verbs SAY and DO **DECIR (To say)** and **HACER (To do)**, which are totally irregular:

DECIR	DECIRÉ	DIRÉ
HACER	HACERÉ	HARÉ

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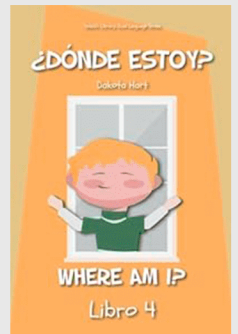
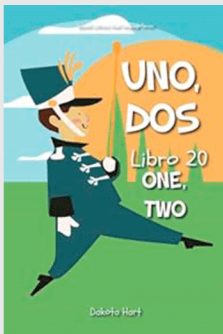


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16. Modal Verbs (Verbos modales en Español)

What are modal verbs?

Unlike auxiliary verbs, modal verbs **add meaning**. Modal verbs express the attitude that the speaker has before an action. They express obligation, will, knowledge, permission, and possibility of the action expressed by the main verb. In Spanish, there are five essential modal verbs: **deber** (must), **querer** (want), **saber** (know), **poder** (can) and **soler** (to usually do). These modal verbs are usually followed by an infinitive verb:

- *Un ciclista ha tenido un accidente en el centro de la ciudad. La ambulancia quiere llegar al lugar del accidente lo antes posible. (A cyclist has had an accident in the city center. The ambulance wants to reach the accident site as soon as possible)*
- *Deben examinarlo y llevarlo al hospital. Allí, los médicos podrán hacer pruebas para comprobar si está en buen estado.. (They must examine him and take him to the hospital. There, the doctors will be able to do tests to check if you are in good condition.)*

The meaning of modal verbs can acquire a different meaning depending on whether they are used in the affirmative or negative way:

Positive form (forma positiva)	Meaning (Significado)	Example (Ejemplo)	Negative form (Forma negativa)	Meaning (Significado)	Example (Ejemplo)
Deber (must)	Moral or legal obligation	Debes tomar el antibiótico cada ocho horas. (You should take the antibiotic every eight hours.)	should/ must not	conveniencia o recomendación (convenience or recommendation)	No debo tomar más de dos cafés al día. (I should not drink more than two coffees a day.)
Poder (can)	Ability, possibility, permissibility	¿Puedo entrar? (Can I come in?)	Cannot	Prohibition, lack of ability or permission	No puedo aguantar un minuto sin respirar bajo el agua. (I can't last a minute without breathing underwater.)
Querer (want)	Will	Quiero dar la vuelta al mundo. (I want to go around the world.)	To not want	falta de voluntad	No quiero llegar tarde.
Saber (know)	Knowledge or skill	Sé hablar japonés. (I know how to speak Japanese.)	To not know	Lack of skill or knowledge	No sé montar en bici. (I don't know how to ride a bike)
Soler (usually do)	Reiteration, habit	Suelo despertarme a las 7. (I usually wake up at 7.)	Not usually do	Lack of habit	No suelo desayunar. (I don't usually have breakfast)

17. Reflexive Verbs in Spanish (Verbos Reflexivos en Español)

What is a reflexive verb? (¿Qué es un verbo reflexivo?)

A reflexive verb indicates that the result of the action carried out by the subject of the sentence falls on the subject itself; In other words, a reflexive verb is a verb whose action is performed and received by the subject.

Example:

La abuela de Lucía se tiñe el pelo en casa una vez al mes. Cada semana se corta las puntas y a diario se peina como una verdadera profesional. (Lucía's grandmother dyes her hair at home once a month. She cuts her ends every week and every day she does her hair like a true professional.)

Form (Forma)

Reflexive verbs are conjugated with a reflexive pronoun that always agrees with the subject. It is the one that indicates that the subject performs and receives the action.

Pronouns	Verb "peinarse" (to comb oneself)	Examples
yo (I)	me peino (I comb myself)	Yo me peino el pelo. (I comb my hair)
tú (you)	te peinas (you comb yourself)	Tú te peinas el pelo. (You comb your hair)
él/ella (he/she)	se peina (she/he combs herself/himself)	Antonio se peina el pelo. (Antonio combs his hair)

nosotros/-as	nos peinamos (we comb ourselves)	Maribel y yo nos peinamos el pelo. (Maribel and I comb our hair)
ellos/-as, ustedes	se peinan (they comb themselves)	Marta y Juán se peinan el pelo. (Marta and Juán comb their hair)

Use (Uso)

Reflexive verbs indicate that the subject carries out an action that falls on itself. For this reason, the reflexive pronoun must always agree with the subject in person and number. Example:

- *La abuela de Lucía se tiñe el pelo en casa una vez al mes.* (Lucia's grandmother dyes her hair at home once a month)
- *Cada semana se corta las puntas del pelo.* (Every week she cuts the ends of her hair)
- *A diario se peina como una verdadera profesional.* (Every day she does her hair like a true professional.)

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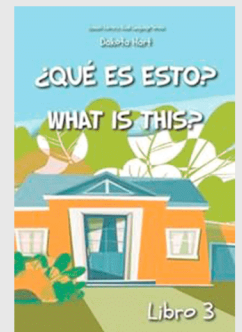
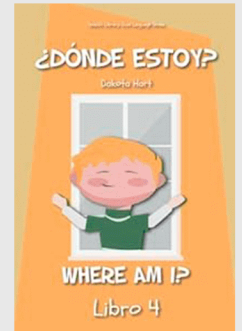
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18. Word Order (Orden de palabras)

Word order is one of the most debated topics in linguistic studies. Traditionally it has been accepted that the placement of the elements in Spanish responds to the sequence **subject + verb + object + complements**, an order that differs from classical Latin.

This combination is accompanied by adverbial phrases in the final position, that is, they appear **after** the object. However, for focus reasons, that is, because certain information is to be focused discursively, the natural order of Spanish is altered, since in Spanish, the relevant information is presented at the beginning of the discourse. Then, it is possible to move groups of words that, as a whole, form adverbial constructions, and present them, instead of in final position, in initial position. In this way, one type of natural order is distinguished from an inverted one.

Natural order (Orden natural):

Subject - Verb - Object - Adverbial Complements

Example:

Los poetas buscan a las musas en el cielo. (The poets look for the muses in the sky.)

Inverted order (Orden invertido):

Adverbial complements - Subject - Verb - Object

Example:

En el cielo, los poetas buscan a las musas. (In the sky, the poets look for the muses.)

19. Direct and Indirect Style (Estilo directo e indirecto en Español)

The direct and indirect style are two forms of communication that serve to reproduce a message. In indirect speech, the narrator uses his own voice, while in indirect speech, the message is quoted literally.

Use of Direct Style (Uso del estilo directo)

The direct style is a repetition made by a narrator of a message with the exact words of the sender. For example:

- “Me voy a mi casa.” - Lucas. (“I’m going home” - Lucas)

To use direct styling with this message, we must render the message literally:

- Lucas dice: “Me voy a mi casa”. (Lucas says “I’m going home”)

To put a sentence in direct speech correctly, the sentence must remain the same regardless of the time and space in which the initial message was produced. For example:

- “Estamos en medio de un período difícil ahora mismo”. - El presidente (“We are in the middle of a difficult period right now” - The President)

Although the war has already ended, the sentence must be kept in the present:

- El presidente dijo: “Estamos en medio de un período difícil ahora mismo.” (The president said: “We are in the middle of a difficult period right now.”)

Use of Indirect Style (Uso del estilo indirecto)

By using the indirect style, there are a number of elements of the sentence that change automatically. These are all the grammatical changes necessary to move from direct to indirect style:

- Grammatical person: By issuing or reproducing a message on behalf of another person, the 1st person disappears completely.

Example: "Ahora (yo) tengo muchas cosas que hacer en mi trabajo." Luis
("Now (I) I have many things to do in my work." Luis)

- Adapt temporal and spatial units: These are some of the most common temporal and spatial units in direct style and their adaptation to the indirect:

Estilo directo (Direct style)	Estilo indirecto (Indirect Style)	Ejemplos (Examples)
Hoy (Today)	Aquel / ese día (that day)	"Hoy no tengo ganas de jugar." - Pepe ("I don't feel like playing today" - Pepe) Pepe dijo que ese día no tenía ganas de jugar (Pepe said he didn't feel like playing that day)
Ayer, la semana pasada, etc. (Yesterday, last week, etc.)	El día, semana (The day, the week)	"Ayer empezó la liga." - Yo ("The league began yesterday" - me) Yo dije que el día anterior había empezado la liga. (I said the league began yesterday)

Ahora (Now)	En ese momento (At that moment)	<p>“Ahora no estoy en casa.” - Dolores (“I’m not at home now” - Dolores)</p> <p>Dolores dijo que en ese momento no estaba en casa (Dolores said she wasn’t at home at that moment)</p>
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When is the Direct and Indirect Style used? (¿Cuándo se usan los estilos directo e indirecto?)

The direct style is especially useful to verify exactly a person's words and avoid confusion. When a narrator uses the indirect style, he can include his own interpretation of the message. For example:

- “Vamos a construir una piscina municipal y a poner un monumento.” - Teodoro (“We are going to build a municipal pool and put up a monument.” - Teodoro)

In indirect style, the essence of the message could be transmitted, but it can also lead to confusion:

- Teodoro dijo que iban a construir una piscina municipal y a poner un monumento. (Teodoro said they were going to build a municipal pool and put up a monument).

In this case, we have the verb "Iban" /they were) that can refer to Teodoro and others or a group of people outside Teodoro. This leaves interpretation for the question: who is going to build a pool?

Upon receiving this message in indirect style, the receiver can also doubt the veracity of the message, especially if its content is unlikely. This ceases to be a problem if we use the direct style:

- Teodoro dijo: "Vamos a construir una piscina municipal y a poner un monumento." (Teodoro said: "We are going to build a municipal pool and put a monument.")

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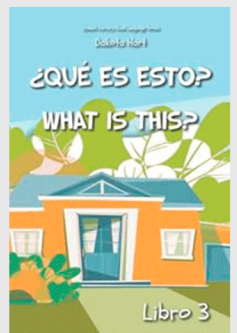


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2o. Direct and Indirect Object (Objeto directo e indirecto en Español)

First, we will review what pronouns are:

Pronouns are words that serve to replace the noun. We have several types of pronouns in Spanish, but we will focus on the direct object and indirect object pronouns in this lesson.

If you want to replace a noun with an object pronoun, you first have to find out if it is a direct or indirect object.

The Direct Object (El Objeto Directo)

To find the direct object, we must ask the verb: **WHAT?**

Mi amiga compra un ordenador (My friend buys a computer)

We can ask the verb: *What does it buy?* In this case, it is "a computer" and that is **the direct object**. Sometimes, there is no response and that means there is **no direct object**:

Vivimos en Valencia (We live in Valencia)

What do we live? There's no answer. Usually, the direct object is a thing, but persons are also possible.

The Indirect Object (El Objeto Indirecto)

To find the indirect object we must ask the verb **Who receives? Who is the benefactor of the action?**

Mi madre da las llaves a Ana (My mom gives Ana the keys)

We can ask the verb, **what does it give?** In this case it is "the keys" and this is the direct object. We can also continue asking the verb **who receives the keys?** In this case, it is "Ana" and that is the indirect object.

Direct object pronouns (Pronombres de objeto directo)

We use these pronouns to **substitute** the direct object. These type of pronouns are placed before the verb.

Veo **la televisión** -> **La** veo
(I watch **the TV**) -> (I watch **it**)

Compraste **los libros** -> **Los** compraste
(You bought **the books**) -> (You bought **them**)

Veo **a María** -> **La** veo
(I see **María**) -> (I see **her**)

Indirect Object Pronouns (Pronombres del Objeto Indirecto)

We use these pronouns **to replace** the indirect object and place it before the verb. If there is already a direct object pronoun, the indirect object pronoun will come *before* it:

Doy un beso a mi perro (I kiss my dog)

Le doy **un beso** -> **Se lo** doy
(I kiss him) -> (I give it to him)

Marta le da una camisa a Pedro (Marta gives a shirt to Pedro)

Marta **le** da **una camisa** -> Marta **se la** da
(Marta gives him a shirt) -> (Marta gives it to him)

Careful! The pronoun LE, when it goes before the pronouns *lo/la/los/las* becomes SE. To avoid ambiguities, it is possible to repeat the indirect object even if the pronoun is used:

Le doy **un beso a mi perro** (I kiss my dog)



