

Beginner I Spanish

Singular

yo	<i>I</i>
tú	<i>you</i>
él	<i>he</i>
ella	<i>she</i>
usted	<i>you</i>

Plural

nosotros, nosotras	<i>we</i>
vosotros, vosotras	<i>you (all) [España]</i>
ellos	<i>they</i>
ellas	<i>they</i>
ustedes	<i>you (all) [Latinoamérica]</i>

Spanish has two verbs that are equivalent to English *to be*. The first verb is **estar**.

yo	estoy	nosotros	estámos
tú	estás	vosotros	estáis
él	está	ellos	están
ella	está	ellas	están
usted	está	ustedes	están

Often the pronouns **yo**, **tú**, and **nosotros** are omitted because **estoy** can only mean *I am*, **estás** only means *you are* and **estamos** always means *we are*.

Estar is used mainly to express: **location, health, changing mood or condition, and personal opinion in terms of taste or appearance.**

The Spanish verb **ser** is also equivalent to English *to be*.

yo	soy	nosotros	somos
tú	eres	vosotros	sois
él	es	ellos	son
ella	es	ellas	son
usted	es	ustedes	son

Ser is used to express seven basic concepts: **description, profession, point of origin, identification, material, possession or ownership, and the location of an event.**



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The Present Tense

The present tense is used to express the English simple present (*I sing*) and the English present continuous tense. (*I am singing*).

Ella canta una canción triste.	<i>She sings a sad song.</i>
	<i>She is singing a sad song.</i>

Regular Verbs

All Spanish verbs belong to one of three conjugations depending on the ending of the infinitive.

First conjugation: -ar

To conjugate regular **-ar** verbs in the present tense, drop the infinitive ending and add the following verb endings to the stem:

-o	-amos
-as	-áis
-a	-an
yo canto	nosotros cantamos
tú cantas	vosotros cantáis
él canta	ellos cantan
ella canta	ellas cantan
usted canta	ustedes cantan

Second conjugation: -er

To conjugate regular **-er** verbs in the present tense, drop the infinitive ending and add the following verb endings to the stem:

-o	-emos
-es	-éis
-e	-en
yo como	nosotros comemos
tú comes	vosotros coméis
él come	ellos comen
ella come	ellas comen
usted come	ustedes comen



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Third conjugation: -ir

To conjugate regular **-ir** verbs in the present tense, drop the infinitive ending and add the following verb endings to the stem:

-o	-imos
-es	-ís
-e	-en
yo vivo	nosotros vivimos
tú vives	vosotros vivís
él vive	ellos viven
ella vive	ellas viven
usted vive	ustedes viven

Homonyms

Homonyms (**homónimos**) are words that are spelled the same but have a different meaning.

deber

should, ought to, must (plus infinitive), to owe (someone something)

Ella debe comer mejor.

She ought to eat better.

Él debe mucho dinero.

He owes a lot of money.

ganar

to win, to earn (make money)

Cecilia siempre gana el mejor premio.

Cecilia always wins the best prize.

Raúl gana \$500 cada semana.

Raúl makes \$500 each week.

llevar

to carry, to take, to wear

El guía nos lleva por toda la ciudad.

The guide takes us around the whole city.

Ella no lleva una chamarra hoy.

She isn't wearing a jacket today.

pasar

to pass (by), to happen, to spend (time)

El tiempo pasa.

Time passes.

¿Qué pasa?

What's happening?

Ella pasa mucho tiempo con su familia.

She spends a lot of time with her family.



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tocar

to touch, to play an instrument

El chef toca la estufa caliente.

The chef touches the hot stove.

María toca la guitarra para sus amigas.

María plays the guitar for her friends.

tomar

to take, to drink

Tomamos el tren al trabajo.

We take the train to work.

Tomo café negro cada mañana.

I drink black coffee every morning.

Hay and interrogative words

The equivalent of *there is, there are, is there?* and *are there?* in English

- Hay un tapete en la casa.

There is a rug in the house.

- Hay tres libros en el piso.

There are three books on the floor.

Questions with **hay** are formed the same as statements with **hay**, meaning they have the same word order. In writing, include a question mark at the beginning and the end. In spoken speech, the intonation rises to indicate a question.

- ¿Hay un hotel en la ciudad?
- ¿Hay una mesa marrón en el cuarto?

With plural nouns and **hay**, the indefinite article (*un, una*) is not included.

- Hay tigres en el zoológico. *There are tigers in the zoo.*
- Hay estrellas en el cielo. *There are stars in the sky.*

All interrogative words carry written accents (una tilde).

¿Cómo?

How?

¿Dónde?

Where?

¿Quién? ¿Quiénes?

Who?

¿Qué?

*What? (used before **ser** asks for a definition)*

¿Cuál? ¿Cuáles?

Which, which one? Which ones?

*(used immediately before **ser** asks for a selection or choice from among various possibilities)*

¿Por qué?

Why?

¿Cuánto?

How much?

¿Cuántos? ¿Cuántas?

How many?

(these are adjectives and must agree in gender with the plural nouns they describe)

¿Cuándo?

When?

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The house

- **el departamento** *apartment*
- **el piso** *floor*
- **el edificio (de viviendas)** *apartment building*
- **el attillo** *attic*
- **la sala** *living room*
- **el balcón** *balcony*
- **el baño** *bathroom*
- **la puerta** *door*
- **el techo** *ceiling*
- **el elevador, el ascensor** *elevator*
- **los muebles** *furniture*
- **el jardín** *garden*
- **la casa** *house*
- **la pared** *wall*
- **la ventana** *window*
- **la recámara, la habitación** *bedroom*
- **el cuarto** *room*
- **el clóset** *closet*
- **el buró** *nightstand*
- **la almohada** *pillow*
- **la cama** *bed*
- **la silla** *chair*
- **la mesa** *table*
- **el lavaplatos** *dishwasher*
- **el refrigerador** *fridge*
- **el microondas**
- **la estufa** *stove*
- **el fregadero** *sink*
- **el sofá** *sofa*
- **la televisión**
- **el sillón** *armchair*
- **la alfombra** *carpet*
- **el sótano** *basement/cellar*

