

SPANISH 1 REVIEW NOTES

1. NOUNS AND ARTICLES

1.1 Spanish Nouns

A noun is a word used to identify people, animals, places, things, or ideas. Unlike English, all Spanish nouns, even those that refer to non-living things, have gender; that is, they are considered either masculine or feminine. As in English, nouns in Spanish also have number, meaning that they are either singular or plural.

Nouns that refer to living things	
Masculine nouns	Feminine nouns
el hombre <i>the man</i>	la mujer <i>the woman</i>
ending in -o	ending in -a
el chico <i>the boy</i>	la chica <i>the girl</i>
el pasajero <i>the (male) passenger</i>	la pasajera <i>the (female) passenger</i>
ending in -or	ending in -ora
el conductor <i>the (male) driver</i>	la conductora <i>the (female) driver</i>
el profesor <i>the (male) teacher</i>	la profesora <i>the (female) teacher</i>
ending in -ista	ending in -ista
el turista <i>the (male) tourist</i>	la turista <i>the (female) tourist</i>

Generally, nouns that refer to males, like **el hombre**, are masculine, while nouns that refer to females, like **la mujer**, are feminine.

Many nouns that refer to male beings end in **-o** or **-or**. Their corresponding feminine forms end in **-a** and **-ora**, respectively.



el conductor



la profesora

The masculine and feminine forms of nouns that end in **-ista**, like **turista**, are the same, so gender is indicated by the article **el** (masculine) or **la** (feminine). Some other nouns have identical masculine and feminine forms.

el joven
the youth; the young man

el estudiante
the (male) student

la joven
the youth; the young woman

la estudiante
the (female) student

Nouns that refer to non-living things

Masculine nouns	Feminine nouns
<p>ending in -o</p> <p>el cuaderno <i>the notebook</i> el diario <i>the diary</i> el diccionario <i>the dictionary</i> el número <i>the number</i> el video <i>the video</i></p>	<p>ending in -a</p> <p>la computadora <i>the computer</i> la cosa <i>the thing</i> la escuela <i>the school</i> la maleta <i>the suitcase</i> la palabra <i>the word</i></p>
<p>ending in -ma</p> <p>el problema <i>the problem</i> el programa <i>the program</i></p>	<p>ending in -ción</p> <p>la lección <i>the lesson</i> la conversación <i>the conversation</i></p>
<p>ending in -s</p> <p>el autobús <i>the bus</i> el país <i>the country</i></p>	<p>ending in -dad</p> <p>la nacionalidad <i>the nationality</i> la comunidad <i>the community</i></p>

As shown above, certain noun endings are strongly associated with a specific gender, so you can use them to determine if a noun is masculine or feminine.

Because the gender of nouns that refer to non-living things cannot be determined by foolproof rules, you should memorize the gender of each noun you learn. It is helpful to learn each noun with its corresponding article, **el** for masculine and **la** for feminine.

Another reason to memorize the gender of every noun is that there are common exceptions to the rules of gender. For example, **el mapa** (*map*) and **el día** (*day*) end in **-a** but are masculine. **La mano** (*hand*) ends in **-o**, but is feminine.

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Plural of nouns

To form the plural, add **-s** to nouns that end in a vowel. For nouns that end in a consonant add **-es**. For nouns that end in **z** change the **z** to **c**, then add **-es**.

el chico → los chicos	la nacionalidad → las nacionalidades
el diario → los diarios	el país → los países
el problema → los problemas	el lápiz (<i>pencil</i>) → los lápices

In general, when a singular noun has an accent mark on the last syllable, the accent is dropped from the plural form.

la lección → las lecciones	el autobús → los autobuses
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Use the masculine plural form to refer to a group that includes both males and females.





$$1 \text{ pasajero} + 2 \text{ pasajeras} = 3 \text{ pasajeros} \quad 2 \text{ chicos} + 2 \text{ chicas} = 4 \text{ chicos}$$

1.2 Spanish Articles

As you know, English often uses definite articles (**the**) and indefinite articles (**a, an**) before nouns. Spanish also has definite and indefinite articles. Unlike English, Spanish articles vary in form because they agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify.

Definitive articles (Artículos Definitivos)





Spanish has four forms that are equivalent to the English definite article **the**. Use definite articles to refer to specific nouns.

Masculine		Feminine	
SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL
			
el diccionario <i>the dictionary</i>	los diccionarios <i>the dictionaries</i>	la computadora <i>the computer</i>	las computadoras <i>the computers</i>

masculino	femenino	
el	la	singular
los	las	plural

Indefinite Articles (Artículos Indefinidos)

Spanish has four forms that are equivalent to the English indefinite article, which according to context may mean **a, an**, or **some**. Use indefinite articles to refer to unspecified persons or things.

Masculine		Feminine	
SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL
			
un pasajero <i>a (one) passenger</i>	unos pasajeros <i>some passengers</i>	una fotografía <i>a (one) photograph</i>	unas fotografías <i>some photographs</i>

masculino	femenino	
un, uno	una	singular
unos	unas	plural

¡INTÉNTALO!

Provide a definite article for each noun in the first column and an indefinite article for each noun in the second column.

¿el, la, los o las?

- la chica
- _____ chico
- _____ maleta
- _____ cuadernos
- _____ lápiz
- _____ mujeres

¿un, una, unos o unas?

- un autobús
- _____ escuelas
- _____ computadora
- _____ hombres
- _____ señora
- _____ lápices

2. PRESENT TENSE OF REGULAR VERBS

2.1 Subject Pronouns

In order to use verbs, you will need to learn about subject pronouns. A subject pronoun replaces the name or title of a person or thing and acts as the subject of a verb. In both Spanish and English, subject pronouns are divided into three groups: first person, second person, and third person.

Subject pronouns				
	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
FIRST PERSON	yo	I	nosotros	we (masculine)
			nosotras	we (feminine)
SECOND PERSON	tú	you (familiar)	vosotros	you (masc., fam.)
	usted (Ud.)	you (formal)	vosotras	you (fem., fam.)
			ustedes (Uds.)	you (form.)
THIRD PERSON	él	he	ellos	they (masc.)
	ella	she	ellas	they (fem.)

Spanish has two subject pronouns that mean *you* (singular). Use **tú** when addressing a friend, a family member, or a child. Use **usted** to address a person with whom you have a formal or more distant relationship, such as a superior at work, a professor, or a person older than you.

Tú eres de Canadá, ¿verdad, David?
You are from Canada, right, David?

¿**Usted** es la profesora de español?
Are you the Spanish professor?

The masculine plural forms **nosotros**, **vosotros**, and **ellos** refer to a group of males or to a group of males and females. The feminine plural forms **nosotras**, **vosotras**, and **ellas** can refer only to groups made up exclusively of females.



nosotros, vosotros, ellos



nosotros, vosotros, ellos



nosotras, vosotras, ellas

There is no Spanish equivalent of the English subject pronoun *it*. Generally, *it* is not expressed in Spanish.

Es un problema.
It's a problem.

Es una computadora.
It's a computer.

2.2 Present tense of regular **-ar** verbs

In order to talk about activities, you need to use verbs. Verbs express actions or states of being. In English and Spanish, the infinitive is the base form of the verb. In English, the infinitive is preceded by the word *to*: *to study*, *to be*. The infinitive in Spanish is a one-word form and can be recognized by its endings: **-ar**, **-er**, or **-ir**.

-ar verb
estudiar | to study

-er verb
comer | to eat

-ir verb
escribir | to write

- ▶ In this lesson, you will learn the forms of regular -ar verbs.

The verb estudiar (to study)

SINGULAR FORMS

yo	estudio	I study
tú	estudias	you (fam.) study
Ud./él/ella	estudia	you (form.) study; he/she studies

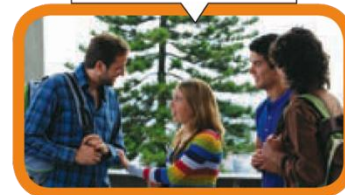
PLURAL FORMS

nosotros/as	estudiamos	we study
vosotros/as	estudiáis	you (fam.) study
Uds./ellos/ellas	estudian	you (form.) study; they study

Juan Carlos estudia ciencias ambientales.



Y tú, ¿qué estudias, Miguel?

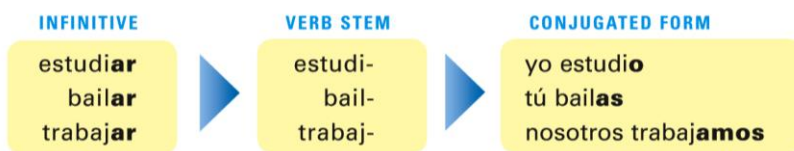


- ▶ To create the forms of most regular verbs in Spanish, drop the infinitive endings (-ar, -er, -ir). You then add to the stem the endings that correspond to the different subject pronouns. All verbs have a stem and an ending (-ar, -er, -ir). For example, the verbs estudiar (to learn), bailar (to dance) and trabajar (to work).

The stem for these verbs are: **estudi** and the ending is: **ar**
bail **ar**
trabaj **ar**

This diagram will help you visualize the process by which verb forms are created.

Conjugation of -ar verbs



In order to conjugate the verb, we need to know who we are talking about, this is where the subject pronouns will come into place. Each subject pronoun has a different ending when conjugating our verbs.

Subject pronouns Singular	-AR Ending
yo	-o
tú	-as
él	-a
ella	-a
usted	-a

Subject pronouns Plural	-AR Ending
nosotros	-amos
nosotras	-amos
vosotros	-áis
vosotras	-áis
ellos	-an
ellas	-an
ustedes	-an

-ar ending verbs			
Yo	-o	Nosotros (as)	-amos
Tú	-as	Vosotros (as)	-áis
Él/ella/ud.	-a	Ellos/ellas/uds.	-an

Common -ar verbs

Common -ar verbs

bailar	to dance	estudiar	to study
buscar	to look for	explicar	to explain
caminar	to walk	hablar	to talk; to speak
cantar	to sing	llegar	to arrive
cenar	to have dinner	llevar	to carry
comprar	to buy	mirar	to look (at); to watch
contestar	to answer	necesitar (+ inf.)	to need
conversar	to converse, to chat	practicar	to practice
desayunar	to have breakfast	preguntar	to ask (a question)
descansar	to rest	preparar	to prepare
desear (+ inf.)	to desire; to wish	regresar	to return
dibujar	to draw	terminar	to end; to finish
enseñar	to teach	tomar	to take; to drink
escuchar	to listen (to)	trabajar	to work
esperar (+ inf.)	to wait (for); to hope	viajar	to travel

- **¡Atención!** Unless referring to a person, the Spanish verbs **buscar**, **escuchar**, **esperar**, and **mirar** do not need to be followed by prepositions as do their English equivalents.

Busco la tarea.
I'm looking for the homework.

Escucho la música.
I'm listening to the music.

Espero el autobús.
I'm waiting for the bus.

Miro la pizarra.
I'm looking at the blackboard.

COMPARE & CONTRAST

English uses three sets of forms to talk about the present: (1) the simple present (*Paco works*), (2) the present progressive (*Paco is working*), and (3) the emphatic present (*Paco does work*). In Spanish, the simple present can be used in all three cases.

Paco **trabaja** en la cafetería.

- 1. Paco **works** in the cafeteria.
- 2. Paco **is working** in the cafeteria.
- 3. Paco **does work** in the cafeteria.

In Spanish and English, the present tense is also sometimes used to express future action.

Marina **viaja** a Madrid mañana.

- 1. Marina **travels** to Madrid tomorrow.
- 2. Marina **will travel** to Madrid tomorrow.
- 3. Marina **is traveling** to Madrid tomorrow.

- When two verbs are used together with no change of subject, the second verb is generally in the infinitive. To make a sentence negative in Spanish, the word **no** is placed before the conjugated verb. In this case, **no** means *not*.

Deseo hablar con el señor Díaz.
I want to speak with Mr. Díaz.

Alicia **no** desea bailar ahora.
Alicia doesn't want to dance now.

- Spanish speakers often omit subject pronouns because the verb endings indicate who the subject is. In Spanish, subject pronouns are used for emphasis, clarification, or contrast.

—¿Qué enseñan?
What do they teach?

—**Ella** enseña arte y **él** enseña física.
She teaches art, and he teaches physics.

—¿Quién desea trabajar hoy?
Who wants to work today?

—**Yo** no deseo trabajar hoy.
I don't want to work today.

2.3 Present tense of regular -er & -ir verbs

You also learned about the importance of verb forms, which change to show who is performing the action. The chart below shows the forms from two other important verb groups, -er verbs and -ir verbs.

Present tense of -er and -ir verbs			
		comer (to eat)	escribir (to write)
SINGULAR FORMS	yo	como	escribo
	tú	comes	escribes
	Ud./él/ella	come	escribe
PLURAL FORMS	nosotros/as	comemos	escribimos
	vosotros/as	coméis	escribís
	Uds./ellos/ellas	comen	escriben

- -Er and -ir verbs have very similar endings. Study the preceding chart to detect the patterns that make it easier for you to use them to communicate in Spanish.



- Like -ar verbs, the **yo** forms of -er and -ir verbs end in -o.

Yo como. Yo escribo.

- Except for the **yo** form, all of the verb endings for -er verbs begin with -e.

-es **-emos** **-en**
-e **-éis**

- -Er and -ir verbs have the exact same endings, except in the **nosotros/as** and **vosotros/as** forms.

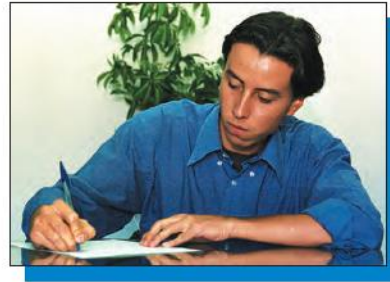
nosotros ◀ **comemos** vosotros ◀ **coméis**
escribimos **escribís**

Common -er and -ir verbs

-er verbs		-ir verbs	
aprender (a + inf.)	<i>to learn</i>	abrir	<i>to open</i>
beber	<i>to drink</i>	asistir (a)	<i>to attend</i>
comer	<i>to eat</i>	compartir	<i>to share</i>
comprender	<i>to understand</i>	decidir (+ inf.)	<i>to decide</i>
correr	<i>to run</i>	describir	<i>to describe</i>
creer (en)	<i>to believe (in)</i>	escribir	<i>to write</i>
deber (+ inf.)	<i>should; must; ought to</i>	recibir	<i>to receive</i>
leer	<i>to read</i>	vivir	<i>to live</i>



Ellos **corren** en el parque.



Él **escribe** una carta.

¡INTÉNTALO!

Provide the appropriate present tense forms of these verbs. The first item in each column has been done for you.

correr

1. Graciela corre.
2. Tú _____.
3. Yo _____.
4. Sara y Ana _____.
5. Usted _____.
6. Ustedes _____.
7. La gente _____.
8. Marcos y yo _____.

abrir

1. Ellos abren la puerta.
2. Carolina _____ la maleta.
3. Yo _____ las ventanas.
4. Nosotras _____ los libros.
5. Usted _____ el cuaderno.
6. Tú _____ la ventana.
7. Ustedes _____ las maletas.
8. Los muchachos _____ los cuadernos.

aprender

1. Él aprende español.
2. Maribel y yo _____ inglés.
3. Tú _____ japonés.
4. Tú y tu hermanastra _____ francés.
5. Mi hijo _____ chino.
6. Yo _____ alemán.
7. Usted _____ inglés.
8. Nosotros _____ italiano.

3. PRESENT TENSE OF IRREGULAR VERBS

3.1 Stem-changing verbs (e:ie), (o:ue) and (e:i)

Stem-changing verbs deviate from the normal pattern of regular verbs. Note the spelling changes to the stem in the conjugations below.



In many verbs, such as **empezar** (*to begin*), the stem vowel changes from **e** to **ie**. Note that the **nosotros/as** and **vosotros/as** forms don't have a stem change.

The verb *empezar* (e:ie) (to begin)

Singular forms

yo	empiezo
tú	empiezas
Ud./él/ella	empieza

Plural forms

nosotros/as	empezamos
vosotros/as	empezáis
Uds./ellos/ellas	empiezan

Los chicos empiezan a hablar de su visita al cenote.



Ellos vuelven a comer en el restaurante.

- ▶ In many other verbs, such as **volver** (*to return*), the stem vowel changes from **o** to **ue**. The **nosotros/as** and **vosotros/as** forms have no stem change.

The verb volver (o:ue) (to return)

Singular forms

yo	vuelvo
tú	vuelves
Ud./él/ella	vuelve

Plural forms

nosotros/as	volvemos
vosotros/as	volvéis
Uds./ellos/ellas	vuelven

- ▶ To help you identify stem-changing verbs, they will appear as follows throughout the text:

empezar (e:ie), volver (o:ue)

Common stem-changing verbs

e:ie

cerrar	<i>to close</i>
comenzar (a + inf.)	<i>to begin</i>
empezar (a + inf.)	<i>to begin</i>
entender	<i>to understand</i>
pensar	<i>to think</i>
perder	<i>to lose; to miss</i>
preferir (+ inf.)	<i>to prefer</i>
querer (+ inf.)	<i>to want; to love</i>

o:ue

almorzar	<i>to have lunch</i>
contar	<i>to count; to tell</i>
dormir	<i>to sleep</i>
encontrar	<i>to find</i>
mostrar	<i>to show</i>
poder (+ inf.)	<i>to be able to; can</i>
recordar	<i>to remember</i>
volver	<i>to return</i>

- ▶ **Jugar** (*to play* a sport or game), is the only Spanish verb that has a **u:ue** stem change. **Jugar** is followed by **a** + [definite article] when the name of a sport or game is mentioned.



- ▶ **Comenzar** and **empezar** require the preposition **a** when they are followed by an infinitive.

Comienzan a jugar a las siete.
They begin playing at seven.

Ana **empieza a** escribir una postal.
Ana starts to write a postcard.

- ▶ **Pensar** + [infinitive] means *to plan* or *to intend to do something*. **Pensar en** means *to think about someone or something*.

¿**Piensan** ir al gimnasio?
Are you planning to go to the gym?

¿**En** qué **piensas**?
What are you thinking about?

¡INTÉNTALO!

Provide the present tense forms of these verbs. The first item in each column has been done for you.

cerrar (e:ie)

- Ustedes cierran.
- Tú _____.
- Nosotras _____.
- Mi hermano _____.
- Yo _____.
- Usted _____.
- Los chicos _____.
- Ella _____.

dormir (o:ue)

- Mi abuela no duerme.
- Yo no _____.
- Tú no _____.
- Mis hijos no _____.
- Usted no _____.
- Nosotros no _____.
- Él no _____.
- Ustedes no _____.

There is a third kind of stem-vowel change in some verbs, such as **pedir** (*to ask for; to request*). In these verbs, the stressed vowel in the stem changes from **e** to **i**, as shown in the diagram.



- As with other stem-changing verbs you have learned, there is no stem change in the **nosotros/as** or **vosotros/as** forms in the present tense.

The verb **pedir** (e:i) (*to ask for; to request*)

Singular forms

yo	pido
tú	pides
Ud./él/ella	pide

Plural forms

nosotros/as	pedimos
vosotros/as	pedís
Uds./ellos/ellas	piden

- These are the most common **e:i** stem-changing verbs:

competir	<i>to compete</i>
despedir	<i>to fire; to say goodbye</i>
impedir	<i>to impede</i>
medir	<i>to measure</i>
pedir	<i>to ask for</i>
repetir	<i>to repeat</i>
servir	<i>to serve</i>
vestir	<i>to dress; to get dressed</i>

3.2 Irregular **yo** forms

- In Spanish, several verbs have irregular **yo** forms in the present tense. have the ones ending in **-go**, **-igo** & **-zco**.

Ending in **-go**

- The **yo** forms of **seguir** and **conseguir** have a spelling change in addition to the stem change **e:i**.
- The verb **hacer** is often used to ask questions about what someone does. Note that when answering, **hacer** is frequently replaced with another, more specific action verb.

Verbs with irregular yo forms

	hacer (to do; to make)	poner (to put; to place)	salir (to leave)	suponer (to suppose)	traer (to bring)
SINGULAR FORMS	hago	pongo	salgo	supongo	traigo
	haces	pones	sales	supones	traes
	hace	pone	sale	supone	trae
PLURAL FORMS	hacemos	ponemos	salimos	suponemos	traemos
	hacéis	ponéis	salís	suponéis	traéis
	hacen	ponen	salen	suponen	traen

Salgo mucho los fines de semana.



Yo no salgo, yo hago la tarea y veo películas en la televisión.



- **Poner** can also mean to *turn on* a household appliance.

Carlos **pone** la radio.
Carlos turns on the radio.

María **pone** la televisión.
María turns on the television.

- **Salir de** is used to indicate that someone is leaving a particular place.

Hoy **salgo del** hospital.
Today I leave the hospital.

Sale de la clase a las cuatro.
He leaves class at four.

- **Salir para** is used to indicate someone's destination.

Mañana **salgo para** México.
Tomorrow I leave for Mexico.

Hoy **salen para** España.
Today they leave for Spain.

- **Salir con** means *to leave with someone or something, or to date someone.*

Alberto **sale con** su mochila.
Alberto is leaving with his backpack.

Margarita **sale con** Guillermo.
Margarita is going out with Guillermo.

componer	to compose
hacer	to do; to make
poner	to put
obtener (e:ei)	to obtain
salir	to exit; to go out
suponer	to suppose
valer	to value

Ending in -igo

traer	to bring
caer	to fall down

Ending in -zco

conocer	to meet / know
conducir	to drive
ofrecer	to offer
parecer	to look like
producir	to produce
traducir	to translate