

CHAPTER ONE

SURVIVAL SPANISH

If you tire of toting around this phrasebook, tear out this chapter. You should be able to navigate your destination with only the terms found in the next 35 pages.

BASIC GREETINGS

For a full list of greetings, see p111.

Hello.

Hola.

OH-lah

How are you?

¿Cómo está?

KOH-moh ehs-TAH

I'm fine, thanks.

Estoy bien, gracias.

ehs-TOY BYEHN, GRAH-syahs

And you?

¿Y usted?

ee oos-TEHD

My name is ____.

Me llamo ____.

meh YAH-mo

And yours?

¿Y usted?

ee oos-TEHD

It's a pleasure to meet you.

Es un placer conocerle.

EHS oon plah-SEHR koh-noh-

SEHR-leh

Please.

Por favor.

pohr fah-VOHR

Thank you.

Gracias.

GRAH-syahs

Yes.

Sí.

see

No.

No.

noh

Okay.

No problem.

I'm sorry, I don't understand.
Would you speak slower please?

Would you speak louder please?

Do you speak English?

Do you speak any other languages?

I speak ____ better than Spanish.

Would you spell that?

Would you please repeat that?

Would you point that out in this dictionary?

OK.

OH-keh

De acuerdo.

deh ah-KWEHR-doh

Okay.

OH-keh

No hay problema.

noh aye proh-BLEH-mah

Lo siento, no entiendo.

loh SYEHN-toh no ehn-TYEHN-doh

¿Puede hablar un poco más lento?

PWEH-deh ah-BLAHR oon POH-koh mahs LEHN-to

¿Puede hablar un poco más alto?

PWEH-deh ah-BLAHR oon POH-koh mahs AHL-toh

¿Usted habla inglés?

oos-TEHD AH-blah eeng-GLEHS

¿Usted habla otro idioma?

oos-TEHD AH-blah OH-troh ee-DYOH-ma

Yo hablo ____ mejor que español.

yoh AH-bloh ____ meh-HOHR keh ehs-pah-NYOL

¿Puede deletrear eso?

PWEH-de deh-leh-treh-AHR EH-so

¿Puede repetir, por favor?

PWEH-deh rreh-peh-TEER pohr fah-VOHR

¿Puede señalarlo en este diccionario?

PWEH-deh seh-nyah-LAHR-loh ehn EHS-deh deek-syoh-NAHR-yoh

THE KEY QUESTIONS

With the right hand gestures, you can get a lot of mileage from the following list of single-word questions and answers.

Who?

¿Quién? ¿Quiénes?
KYEHN? KYEH-nehs?

What?

¿Qué?

keh

When?

¿Cuándo?

KWAHN-doh

Where?

¿Dónde?

DOHN-deh

To where?

¿Adónde?

ah-DOHN-deh

Why?

¿Por qué?

pohr-KEH

How?

¿Cómo?

KOH-moh

Which?

¿Cuál?

KWAHL

How many? / How much?

¿Cuánto? ¿Cuántos?

KWAHN-toh, KWAHN-tohs



THE ANSWERS: WHO

For full coverage of pronouns, see p21.

I

yo

you

yoh

usted / tú

him

oos-TEHD, too

él

her

ehl

ella

us

EH-yah

nosotros

them

noh-SOH-trohs

ellos / ellas

EH-yohs, EH-yahs

THE ANSWERS: WHEN*For full coverage of time, see p12.*

now	ahora <i>ah-OH-rah</i>
later	después <i>dehs-PWEHS</i>
in a minute	en un minuto <i>ehn oon mee-NOO-toh</i>
today	hoy <i>oy</i>
tomorrow	mañana <i>mah-NYAH-nah</i>
yesterday	ayer <i>ah-YEHR</i>
in a week	en una semana <i>ehn OO-nah seh-MAH-nah</i>
next week	la próxima semana <i>lah PROHK-see-mah seh-MAH-nah</i>
last week	la semana pasada <i>lah seh-MAH-nah pah-SAH-dah</i>
next month	el próximo mes <i>ehl PROHK-see-moh MEHS</i>
At _____	A las _____ <i>ah lahs</i>
ten o'clock this morning.	diez en punto esta mañana. <i>DYEHS ehn POON-toh EHS-tah mah-NYAH-nah</i>
two o'clock this afternoon.	dos en punto esta tarde. <i>dohs ehn POON-toh EHS-tah TAHR-deh</i>
seven o'clock this evening.	siete en punto esta noche. <i>SYEH-teh ehn POON-toh EHS-ahOH-cheh</i>

For full coverage of numbers, see p7.

THE ANSWERS: WHERE

here	aquí / acá <i>ah-KEE, ah-KAH</i>
there	allá / allí <i>ah-YAH, ah-EE</i>
near	cerca <i>SEHR-kah</i>
closer	más cerca <i>mahs SEHR-kah</i>
closest	lo más cerca <i>loh MAHS SEHR-kah</i>
far	lejos <i>LEH-hohs</i>
farther	más lejos <i>mahs LEH-hohs</i>
farthest	lo más lejos <i>loh MAHS LEH-hohs</i>
across from	atrás de <i>ah-TRAHS deh</i>
next to	al lado de <i>ahl LAH-doh deh</i>
behind	detrás de <i>deh-TRAHS deh</i>
straight ahead	adelante / siguiente <i>ah-deh-LAHN-teh, see-GYEHN-teh</i>
left	la izquierda <i>lah ees-KYEHR-dah</i>
right	la derecha <i>lah deh-REH-chah</i>
up	arriba <i>ah-RREE-bah</i>
down	abajo <i>ah-BAH-hoh</i>
lower	más abajo <i>mahs ah-BAH-hoh</i>
higher	más arriba

forward	<i>mahs ah-RREE-bah</i> hacia delante <i>AH-syah deh-LAHN-teh</i>
back	hacia atrás <i>AH-syah ah-TRAHS</i>
around	alrededor <i>ahl-reh-deh-DOHR</i>
across the street	al cruzar la calle <i>ahl kroo-SAHR lah KAH-yeh</i>
down the street	calle abajo <i>KAH-yeh ah-BAH-hoh</i>
on the corner	en la esquina <i>ehn lah ehs-KEE-nah</i>
kitty-corner	la esquina diagonal <i>lah ehs-KEE-nah dee-ah-goh-NAHL</i>
___ blocks from here	a ___ cuadras de aquí <i>ah ___ KWAH-drahs deh ah-KEE</i>

For a full list of numbers, see the next page

THE ANSWERS: WHICH

this one	éste / ésta <i>EH-steh, EH-stah</i>
that (that one, close by)	ese / esa <i>EH-seh, EH-sah</i>
(that one, in the distance)	aquel / aquella <i>ah-KEHL, ah-KEH-yah</i>
these	éstos / éstas <i>EHS-tohs, EHS-tahs</i>
those (those there, close by)	ésos / esas <i>EH-sohs, EH-sahs</i> <i>ehl heh-REHN-teh</i>

NUMBERS & COUNTING

one	uno <i>OO-noh</i>	seventeen	diecisiete <i>dyeH-see-SYEH-teh</i>
two	dos <i>dohs</i>	eighteen	dieciocho <i>dyeH-SYOH-choh</i>
three	tres <i>trehs</i>	nineteen	diecinueve <i>dyeH-see-NWEH-veh</i>
four	cuatro <i>KWAH-troh</i>	twenty	veinte <i>VEH-eeH-teh</i>
five	cinco <i>SEENG-koh</i>	twenty-one	veintiuno <i>veh-eeH-TYOO-noh</i>
six	seis <i>SEH-ees</i>	thirty	treinta <i>TREH-eeH-tah</i>
seven	siete <i>SYEH-teh</i>	forty	cuarenta <i>kwah-REN-teh</i>
eight	ocho <i>OH-cho</i>	fifty	cincuenta <i>seen-KWEHN-tah</i>
nine	nueve <i>NWEH-veh</i>	sixty	sesenta <i>seh-SEHN-tah</i>
ten	diez <i>dyehs</i>	seventy	setenta <i>seh-TEHN-tah</i>
eleven	once <i>OHN-seh</i>	eighty	ochenta <i>o-CHEHN-tah</i>
twelve	doce <i>DOH-seh</i>	ninety	noventa <i>noh-VEHN-tah</i>
thirteen	trece <i>TREH-seh</i>	one hundred	cien <i>syehH</i>
fourteen	catorce <i>kah-TOHR-seh</i>	two hundred	doscientos <i>doh-SYEHN-tohs</i>
fifteen	quince <i>KEEN-seh</i>	one thousand	mil <i>meel</i>
sixteen	dieciséis <i>dyeH-see-SEH-ees</i>		

FRACTIONS & DECIMALS

one eighth	un octavo <i>oon ohk-TAH-voh</i>
one quarter	un cuarto <i>oon KWAHR-toh</i>
one third	un tercio <i>oon TEHR-syoh</i>
one half	medio <i>MEH-dyoh</i>
two thirds	dos tercios <i>dohs TEHR-syohs</i>
three quarters	tres cuartos <i>trehs KWAHR-tohs</i>
double	doble <i>DOH-bleh</i>
triple	triple <i>TREE-pleh</i>
one tenth	un décimo <i>oon DEH-see-moh</i>
one hundredth	un centésimo <i>oon sehn-TEH-see-moh</i>
one thousandth	un milésimo <i>oon mee-LEH-see-moh</i>

MATH

addition	la suma <i>SOO-mah</i>
2 + 1	dos más uno <i>dohs mahs OO-noh</i>
subtraction	la resta <i>RREHS-tah</i>
2 - 1	dos menos uno <i>dohs MEH-nohs OO-noh</i>

multiplication

2×3

division

$6 \div 3$

la multiplicación*mool-tee-plee-kah-SYOHN***dos por tres***dohs pohr trehs***la división***dee-vee-SYOHN***Seis dividido entre tres***SEH-ees dee-vee-DEE-doh EHN-**treh TREHS***ORDINAL NUMBERS**

first

primero -a*pree-MEH-roh / pree-MEH-rah*

second

segundo -a*seh-GOON-doh / seh-GOON-dah*

third

tercero -a*tehr-SEH-roh / tehr-SEH-rah*

fourth

cuarto -a*KWAHR-toh / KWAHR-tah*

fifth

quinto -a*KEEN-toh / KEEN-tah*

sixth

sexto -a*SEHK-sto / SEHK-stah*

seventh

séptimo -a*SEHP-tee-moh / SEHP-tee-mah*

eighth

octavo -a*ohk-TAH-voh / ohk-TAH-vah*

ninth

noveno -a*noh-VEH-noh / noh-VEH-nah*

tenth

décimo -a*DEH-see-moh / DEH-see-mah*

last

último -a*OOL-tee-mo / OOL-tee-mah*

MEASUREMENTS

Measurements will usually be metric, though you may need a few American measurement terms.

inch	la pulgada <i>pool-GAH-dah</i>
foot	el pie <i>PYEH</i>
mile	la milla <i>MEE-yah</i>
millimeter	el milímetro <i>mee-lee-MEH-troh</i>
centimeter	el centímetro <i>sehn-tee-MEH-troh</i>
meter	el metro <i>MEH-troh</i>
kilometer	el kilómetro <i>kee-LOH-meh-troh</i>
hectare	la hectárea <i>hehk-TAH-reh-ahs</i>
squared	cuadrado -a <i>kwah-DRAH-doh / kwah-DRAH-dah</i>
short	corto -a <i>KOHR-toh / KOHR-tah</i>
long	largo -a <i>LAHR-goh / LAHR-gah</i>

VOLUME

milliliters	mililitros <i>mee-lee-LEE-trohs</i>
liter	litro <i>LEE-troh</i>
kilo	kilo <i>Kee-loh</i>
ounce	onza <i>OHN-sah</i>

cup

taza*TAH-sah*

pint

pinta*PEEN-tah*

quart

cuarto (de galón)*KWAHR-toh deh gah-LOHN*

gallon

galón*gah-LOHN***QUANTITY**

some

algún -a / algunos -as*ahl-GOON / ahl-GOO-nah /**ahl-GOO-nohs / ahl-GOO-nahs*

none

nada / ninguno -a / ningunos -as*NAH-dah / neeng-GOO-noh /**neeng-GOO-nah / neeng-GOO-**nohs / neeng-GOO-nahs*

all

todo -a / todos -as*TOH-doh / TOH-dah / TOH-dohs /**TOH-dahs*

many / much

mucho -a / muchos -as*MOO-cho / MOO-cha / MOO-chohs /**MOO-chas*a little bit (can be used for
quantity or for time)**un poco / una poca***oon POH-koh / oo-nah POH-kah*

dozen

docena*doh-SEH-na***SIZE**

small

pequeño -a*peh-KEH-nyoh / peh-KEH-nyah*the smallest (literally “the
most small”)**el / la / lo más pequeño -a***ehl / lah / loh mahs peh-KEH-**nyoh / peh-KEH-nyah*

medium	mediano -a <i>meh-DYAH-no / meh-DYAH-na</i>
big	grande <i>GRAHN-deh</i>
fat	gordo -a <i>GOHR-doh / GOHR-dah</i>
wide	ancho -a <i>AHN-cho / AHN-cha</i>
narrow	angosto -a <i>ahng-GOH-stoh / ahng-GOH-stah</i>

TIME

Time in Spanish is referred to, literally, by the hour. What time is it? translates literally as “What hour is it? / What hours are they?”

For full coverage of number terms, see p7.

HOURS OF THE DAY

What time is it?	¿Qué hora es? <i>keh OH-ra ehs</i>
At what time?	¿A qué hora? <i>ah KEH OH-rah</i>
For how long?	¿Por cuánto tiempo? <i>pohr KWAHN-toh TYEHM-poh</i>
It's one o'clock.	Es la una en punto. <i>ehs lah OO-nah ehn POON-toh</i>
It's two o'clock.	Son las dos en punto.

A little tip

By adding a diminutive suffix -ito / -ita, -ico / -ica, or a combination of the two, you can make anything smaller or shorter. These endings replace the original -o and -a.

advice, tip
a little tip

consejo (*kohn-SEH-hoh*)
consejito (*kohn-seh-HEE-toh*)

It's two thirty.

sohn lahs DOHS ehn POON-toh

Son las dos y media.

sohn lahs DOHS ee MEH-dyah

It's two fifteen.

Son las dos y cuarto.

sohn lahs DOHS ee KWAHR-toh

It's a quarter to three.

Son las tres menos cuarto

sohn las TREHS MEH-nohs

KWAHR-toh

Falta un cuarto para las tres.

FAHL-tah oon KWAHR-toh pah-rah

lahs trehs

It's noon.

Es mediodía.

ehs MEH-dyoh DEE-ah

It's midnight.

Es medianoche.

ehs meh-dyah-NOH-cheh

It's early.

Es temprano.

ehs tehm-PRAH-noh

It's late.

Es tarde.

ehs TAHR-deh

in the morning

de la mañana

deh lah mah-NYAH-nah

in the afternoon

de la tarde

deh lah TAHR-deh

at night

de la noche

deh lah NOH-cheh

dawn

la madrugada

lah mah-droo-GAH-dah

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Sunday	el domingo <i>ehl doh-MEENG-go</i>
Monday	el lunes <i>ehl LOO-nehs</i>
Tuesday	el martes <i>ehl MAHR-tehs</i>
Wednesday	el miércoles <i>ehl MYEHR-koh-lehs</i>
Thursday	el jueves <i>ehl HWEH-vehs</i>
Friday	el viernes <i>ehl VYEHR-nehs</i>
Saturday	el sábado <i>ehl SAH-bah-doh</i>
today	hoy <i>oy</i>
tomorrow	mañana <i>mah-NYAH-nah</i>
yesterday	ayer <i>ah-YEHR</i>
the day before yesterday	anteayer <i>ahn-teh-ah-YEHR</i>
one week	una semana <i>OO-nah seh-MAH-nah</i>
next week	la próxima semana <i>lah PROHK-see-mah seh-MAH-nah</i>
last week	la semana pasada <i>lah seh-MAH-nah pah-SAH-dah</i>

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January	enero <i>eh-NEH-roh</i>
February	febrero <i>feh-BREH-roh</i>

March	marzo <i>MAHR-soh</i>
April	abril <i>ah-BREEL</i>
May	mayo <i>MAH-yoh</i>
June	junio <i>HOO-nee-oh</i>
July	julio <i>HOO-lee-oh</i>
August	agosto <i>ah-GOHS-toh</i>
September	septiembre <i>sehp-TYEHM-breh</i>
October	octubre <i>ohk-TOO-breh</i>
November	noviembre <i>noh-VYEHM-breh</i>
December	diciembre <i>dee-SYEHM-breh</i>
next month	el mes entrante <i>ehl MEHS ehn-TRAHN-teh</i>
	el próximo mes <i>ehl PROHK-see-moh MEHS</i>
last month	el mes pasado <i>ehl MEHS pah-SAH-doh</i>

SEASONS OF THE YEAR

spring	la primavera <i>lah pree-mah-VEH-rah</i>
summer	el verano <i>ehl veh-RAH-noh</i>
autumn	el otoño <i>ehl oh-TOH-nyoh</i>
winter	el invierno <i>ehl een-VYEHR-noh</i>

Falsos Amigos

If you try winging it with Spanglish, beware of false cognates, known as falsos amigos, “false friends”—Spanish words that sound like English ones, but with different meanings. Here are some of the most commonly confused terms.

suburbio	slum
barrio	suburb
bomba	pump / tank / bomb
explosivo	bomb
arma	weapon
brazo	arm
constipado -a	congested
estreñado -a	constipated
embarazada	pregnant
avergonzado -a	embarrassed
injuria	insult
herida	injury
parientes	relatives
padres	parents
largo	long
grande	large
actual	now, current
verdadero -a	actual
asistir	to attend
ayudar	to assist
sopa	soup
jabón	soap
ropa	clothing
ropa vieja (lit. old clothes)	delicious Cuban dish of stewed, shredded beef
cuerda	rope

SPANISH GRAMMAR BASICS

Classified as a Romance language, descended from the Latin spoken when Spain was part of the Roman Empire, Spanish is a linguistic amalgamation closely related to Latin, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian. Spanish was strongly affected by the Arabic of Spain's Moorish conquerors, who occupied the country from A.D. 711 to 1492. When Spain conquered what is today Latin America, it imposed its language on millions of Native Americans, from the Caribbean to Tierra del Fuego. But the indigenous languages they spoke, in turn, affected the local spoken Spanish, accounting for some of the rich diversity of the language.

THE ALPHABET

Spanish is a straightforward language with a simple alphabet. If foreign letters (k and w) are counted, the alphabet has 27 letters (ñ, in addition to the English alphabet).

Spanish also has two double letters: ll (elle), pronounced like y in English “yes,” and rr (erre), pronounced like an English r trilled by vibrating the end of the tongue against the hard palate, just above the upper teeth. There is also ch, as in chipmunk.

Letter	Name	Pronunciation of Letter Name
a	a	ah
b	be	beh
c	ce	seh
d	de	deh
e	e	eh
f	efe	EH-feh
g	ge	heh
h	hache	AH-cheh
i	i	ee
j	jota	HOH-tah
k	ka	kah
l	ele	EH-leh
m	eme	EH-meh
n	ene	EH-neh

Letter	Name	Pronunciation of Letter Name
ñ	eñe	<i>EH-nyeh</i>
o	o	<i>oh</i>
p	pe	<i>peh</i>
q	cu	<i>koo</i>
r	ere	<i>EH-reh</i>
s	ese	<i>EH-seh</i>
t	te	<i>teh</i>
u	u	<i>oo</i>
v	ve, uve	<i>veh</i>
w	doble u, ve doble	<i>DOH-bleh oo, veh DOH-bleh</i>
x	equis	<i>EH-kees</i>
y	i griega	<i>ee GRYEH-gah</i>
z	seta	<i>SEH-tah</i>

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Vowels

a	ah as the a in father: abajo (<i>ah BAH hoh</i>)
au	ow as in cow: automático (<i>ow-to-MAH-tee-koh</i>)
ay	aye as in "All in favor, say aye": hay (<i>aye</i>)
e	eh to rhyme with the e in nestle: espera (<i>ehs PEH rah</i>)
i	ee as in feed: pasillo (<i>pah SEE yoh</i>)
o	oh as in boat: modismo (<i>moh DEES moh</i>)
oy	oy as in boy: hoy (<i>oy</i>)
u	oo as in the word coo: buscar (<i>boos KAHR</i>)

Consonants

b	as in bean, but softer with less explosion than in English: buscar (<i>boos-KAHR</i>)
c	before e and i as English initial s; ce is pronounced as seh: necesito (<i>neh seh SEE toh</i>); ci is pronounced as see: cinco (<i>SEENG-koh</i>); before a, o, u as English k, but softer with less explosion: caballero (<i>kah bah YEH roh</i>); consejo (<i>kohn SEH hoh</i>); Cuba (<i>KOO bah</i>)

- cu** in combination with a, e, i, o pronounced like the qu in quick: *cuándo* (KWAHN *doh*); *cuestión* (kwehs TYOHN)
- d** as the d in day, but softer with less explosion than in English. Some final ds can be pronounced as the th in the: *usted* (oo STEETH). If you pronounce Spanish d like the English d, you will be understood: *ciudad* (see-oo-DAHD); *de* (deh)
- f** as in fox: *favor* (fah-VOHR)
- g** before e and i as English h; ge is pronounced like he in hen: *emergencia* (eh-mehr-HEHN-syah); gi is pronounced like English he: *puerta giratoria* (PWEHR-tah hee-rah-TOHR-yah)
before a, o, u as initial hard g in English as in gate: *llegar* (yeh GAHR); *tengo* (TEHN-goh); *seguridad* (seh-goo-ree-DAHD)
- h** silent; *hizo* (EE-soh), *hasta* (AHS-tah); *hi* before a vowel is pronounced like English y: *hielo* (YEH-loh)
- j** as English h in hot: *equipaje* (eh-kee-PAH-heh)
- k** as in English: *kilómetro* (kee-LOH-meh-troh)
- l** as in English: *ala* (AH-lah)
- ll** as the initial y in yeah: *llegada* (yeh-GAH-dah)
- m** as in English: *aeromozo* (eh-roh-MOH-soh)
- n** as in English: *negocios* (neh-GOH-syohs)
- ñ** as ny in canyon: *cañón* (kahn-YOHN)
- p** as in English but softer: *pasaporte* (pah-sah-POHR-teh)
- q** qu is pronounced as k: *máquina* (MAH-kee-nah)
- r** as in English but more clipped: *puerta* (PWEHR-tah)
- rr** as a trilled r sound, vibrating the end of the tongue against the area just above the top teeth: *perro* (PEH-rroh). A single r that starts a word is pronounced like the double r: *rayos X* (RRAH-yohs EH-kees)
- s** as in English: *salida* (sah-LEE-dah)

t	as in English but softer: <i>tranvía</i> (<i>trahn-VEE-ah</i>)
v	as in English: <i>vuelo</i> (<i>VWEH-loh</i>)
w	as in English: <i>waflera</i> (<i>wah-FLEH-rah</i>)
x	like English x : <i>próximo</i> (<i>PROHK-see-moh</i>); in some old names and some names of Native American origin, like h : <i>Don Quixote</i> (<i>dohn kee HOH teh</i>), <i>México</i> (<i>MEH-hee-koh</i>) spelled with j in Spain; before a consonant, like s : <i>Taxco</i> (<i>TAHS-koh</i>)
y	as in English: <i>yo</i> (<i>yoh</i>); by itself, as the ee sound in <i>bead</i> : y (<i>ee</i>)
z	like English s : <i>aterrizaje</i> (<i>ah-teh-rree-SAH-heh</i>)

WORD PRONUNCIATION

Syllables in words are also accented in a standard pattern. Generally, the last syllable is stressed except when a word ends in a vowel, **n**, or **s**; then the stress falls on the second to last syllable. If a word varies from this pattern, an accent mark is shown.

Examples:

Ending in **r**

comer *koh-MEHR*

Ending in **a**

comida *koh-MEE-dah*

Ending in **s**

comemos *koh-MEH-mohs*

Ending in **n** but with an accent mark

comilón *koh-mee-LOHN*

GENDER, ADJECTIVES, MODIFIERS

Each noun takes a masculine or feminine gender, most often accompanied by a masculine or feminine definite article (*el* or *la*). Definite articles (“the”), indefinite articles (“a,” “an”), and related adjectives must also be masculine or feminine, singular or plural, depending on the noun they’re modifying.

The Definite Article (“The”)

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	<i>el</i> perro (the dog)	<i>la</i> mesa (the table)
Plural	<i>los</i> perros (the dogs)	<i>las</i> mesas (the tables)

The Indefinite Article (“A” or “An”)

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	<i>un</i> perro (a dog)	<i>una</i> mesa (a table)
Plural	<i>unos</i> perros (some dogs)	<i>unas</i> mesas (some tables)

PERSONAL PRONOUNS**AMAR: “To Love”**

I love.	<i>Yo</i> amo.	AH-moh
You (singular familiar) love.	<i>Tú</i> amas.	AH-mahs
He / She loves. You (singular, formal) love.	<i>Él / Ella / Ud.</i> ama.	AH-mah
We love.	<i>Nosotros -as</i> amamos.	ah-MAH-mohs
You (plural, familiar) love.	<i>Vosotros -as</i> amáis.	ah-MAH-ees
They / You (plural, formal) love.	<i>Ellos / Ellas / Uds.</i> aman.	AH-mahn

Hey, You!

Spanish has two words for “you”—*tú*, spoken among friends and familiars, and *Usted* (abbreviated *Ud.* or *Vd.*), used among strangers or as a sign of respect toward elders and authority figures. When speaking with a stranger, expect to use *Usted*, unless you are invited to do otherwise. The second-person familiar plural form (*vosotros*) is rarely used, and then only in Spain, Argentina, and Chile. *Ustedes* (abbreviated *Uds.* or *Vds.*) is used instead, even among friends, especially in Latin America.

REGULAR VERB CONJUGATIONS

Spanish verb infinitives end in *AR* (*hablar*, to speak), *ER* (*comer*, to eat), or *IR* (*asistir*, to attend). Most verbs (known as “regular verbs”) are conjugated according to those endings. To conjugate the present tense of regular verbs, simply drop the *AR*, *ER*, or *IR* and add the following endings:

Present Tense

AR Verbs

HABLAR “To Speak”

I speak.	Yo hablo.	AH-bloh
You (singular familiar) speak.	Tú hablas.	AH-blahs
He / She speaks. You (singular formal) speak.	Él / Ella / Ud. habla.	AH-blah
We speak.	Nosotros -as hablamos.	ah-BLAH-mohs
You (plural familiar) speak.	Vosotros -as habláis.	ah-BLAH-ees
They / You (plural formal) speak.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. hablan.	AH-blahn

ER Verbs	COMER "To Eat"	
I eat.	Yo como.	KOH-moh
You (singular familiar) eat.	Tú comes.	KOH-mehs
He / She eats. You (singular formal) eat.	Él / Ella / Ud. come.	KOH-meh
We eat.	Nosotros -as comemos.	koh-MEH-mohs
You (plural familiar) eat.	Vosotros -as coméis.	koh-MEH-ees
They / You (plural formal) eat.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. comen.	KOH-mehn

IR Verbs	ASISTIR "To Attend"	
I attend.	Yo asisto.	ah-SEES-toh
You (singular familiar) attend.	Tú asistes.	ah-SEES-tehs
He / She attends. You (singular formal) attend.	Él / Ella / Ud. asiste.	ah-SEES-teh
We attend.	Nosotros -as asistimos.	ah-sees-TEE-mohs
You (plural familiar) attend.	Vosotros -as asistís.	ah-sees-TEES
They / You (plural formal) attend.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. asisten.	ah-SEES-tehn

Simple Past Tense

These are the simple past tense conjugations for regular verbs.

AR Verbs

HABLAR "To Speak"

I spoke.	Yo hablé.	ah-BLEH
You (singular familiar) spoke.	Tú hablaste.	ah-BLAHS-teh
He / She / You (singular formal) spoke.	Él / Ella / Ud. habló.	ah-BLOH
We spoke.	Nosotros -as hablamos.	ah-BLAH-mohs
You (plural familiar) spoke.	Vosotros -as hablasteis.	ah-BLAHS-teh-ees
They / You (plural formal) spoke.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. hablaron.	ah-BLAH-rohn

ER Verbs

COMER "To Eat"

I ate.	Yo comí.	koh-MEE
You (singular familiar) ate.	Tú comiste.	koh-MEES-teh
He / She / You (singular formal) ate.	Él / Ella / Ud. comió.	koh-mee-OH
We ate.	Nosotros -as comimos.	koh-MEE-mohs
You (plural familiar) ate.	Vosotros -as comisteis.	koh-MEES-teh-ees
They / You (plural formal) ate.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. comieron.	koh-MYEH-rohn

IR Verbs	ASISTIR "To Attend"	
I attended.	Yo asistí.	ah-sees-TEE
You (singular familiar) attended.	Tú asististe.	ah-sees-TEES-teh
He / She / You (singular formal) attended.	Él / Ella / Ud. asistió.	ah-sees-TYOH
We attended.	Nosotros -as asistimos.	ah-sees-TEE-mohs
You plural familiar) attended.	Vosotros -as asististeis.	ah-sees-TEES-teh-ees
They / You (plural formal) attended.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. asistieron.	ah-sees-TYEH-rohn

The Future

For novice Spanish speakers, the easiest way to express the future is to conjugate the irregular verb IR (to go) + a + any infinitive ("I am going to speak," "you are going to speak," etc.).

I am going to speak.	Yo voy a hablar.	voy ah ah-BLAHR
You (singular familiar) are going to speak.	Tú vas a hablar.	vahs ah ah-BLAHR
He / She is going to speak. You (singular formal) are going to speak.	Él / Ella / Ud. va a hablar.	vah ah ah-BLAHR
We are going to speak.	Nosotros -as vamos a hablar.	VAH-mohs ah ah-BLAHR

You (plural familiar) are going to speak.	Vosotros -as vais a hablar.	VAH-ees ah ah-BLAHR
They / You (plural formal) are going to speak.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. van a hablar.	vahn ah ah-BLAHR

TO BE OR NOT TO BE (ESTAR & SER)

There are two forms of “being” in Spanish. One is for physical location or temporary conditions (estar), and the other is for fixed qualities or conditions (ser).

I am here.

(temporary, estar)

Yo estoy aquí.

I am from the United States.

(fixed, ser)

Yo soy de los Estados Unidos.

Norman is bored.

(temporary, estar)

Norman está aburrido.

Norman is boring.

(quality, ser)

Norman es aburrido.

The TV is old.

(quality, ser)

La televisión es vieja.

The TV is broken.

(condition, estar)

La televisión está rota.

Present Tense

Estar "To Be" (conditional)

I am.	Yo estoy.	ehs-TOY
You (singular, familiar) are.	Tú estás.	ehs-TAHS
He / She is. You (singular formal) are.	Él / Ella / Ud. está.	ehs-TAH
We are.	Nosotros -as estamos.	ehs-TAH-mohs
You (plural familiar) are.	Vosotros -as estáis.	ehs-TAH-ees
They / You (plural formal) are.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. están.	ehs-TAHN

Simple Past Tense

Estar "To Be" (conditional)

I was.	Yo estuve.	ehs-TOO-veh
You were.	Tú estuviste.	ehs-too-VEES-teh
He / She was. You (formal) were.	Él / Ella / Ud. estuvo.	ehs-TOO-voh
We were.	Nosotros -as estuvimos.	ehs-too-VEE-mohs
You were.	Vosotros -as estuvisteis.	ehs-too-VEES-teh-ees
They / You (plural formal) were.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. estuvieron.	ehs-too-VYEH-rohn

Present Tense

Ser "To be" (permanent)

I am.	Yo soy.	soy
You (singular familiar) are.	Tú eres.	EH-rehs
He/ She is. You (singular formal) are.	Él / Ella / Ud. es.	ehs
We are.	Nosotros -as somos.	SOH-mohs
You (plural familiar) are.	Vosotros -as soís.	SOH-ees
They / You (plural formal) are.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. son.	sohn

Simple Past Tense

Ser "To be" (permanent)

I was.	Yo fui.	FOO-ee
You (singular familiar) were.	Tú fuiste.	foo-EES-teh
He/ She was. You (singular formal) were.	Él / Ella / Ud. fue.	FOO-eh
We were.	Nosotros -as fuimos.	foo-EE-mohs
You (plural familiar) were.	Vosotros -as fuisteis.	foo-EES-teh-ees
They / You (plural formal) were.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. fueron	foo-EH-rohn

IRREGULAR VERBS

Spanish has numerous irregular verbs that stray from the standard AR, ER, and IR conjugations. Rather than bog you down with too much grammar, we're providing the present tense conjugations for the most commonly used irregular verbs.

TENER "To Have" (possess)

I have.	Yo <i>tengo</i> .	TEHNG-goh
You (singular familiar) have.	Tú <i>tienes</i> .	TYEH-nehs
He / She has. You (singular formal) have.	Él / Ella / Ud. <i>tiene</i> .	TYEH-neh
We have.	Nosotros -as <i>tenemos</i> .	TYEH-neh
You (plural familiar) have.	Vosotros -as <i>tenéis</i> .	teh-NEH-mohs
They / You (plural formal) have.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. <i>tienen</i> .	TYEH-nehn

Tener

Tener means "to have," but it's also used to describe conditions such as hunger, body pain, and age. For example:

Tengo hambre. I'm hungry.

(Literally: I have hunger.)

Tengo dolor de cabeza. I have a headache.

Tengo diez años. I am ten years old.

(Literally: I have ten years.)

HACER "To Do, To Make"

I make.	Yo hago.	AH-goh
You (singular familiar) make.	Tú haces.	AH-sehs
He / She makes. You (singular formal) make.	Él / Ella / Ud. hace.	AH-seh
We make.	Nosotros -as hacemos.	ah-SEH-mohs
You (plural familiar) make.	Vosotros -as hacéis.	ah-SEH-ees
They / You (plural formal) make.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. hacen.	AH-sehn

Hacer

The verb *hacer* means "to make" or "to do," but it's also used to describe the weather and the passage of time. For example:

Hace calor. It's hot.

(Literally: It makes hot.)

Hace frío. It's cold.

(Literally: It makes cold.)

OR

Hace tres años que visité España. Three years ago, I visited Spain.

(Literally: It makes three years since I visited Spain.)

QUERER "To Want"

I want.	Yo quiero.	KYEH-roh
You (singular familiar) want.	Tú quieres.	KYEH-rehs
He / She wants. You (singular formal) want.	Él / Ella / Ud. quiere.	KYEH-reh
We want.	Nosotros -as queremos	keh-REH-mohs
You (plural familiar) want.	Vosotros -as queréis.	keh-REH-ees
They / You (plural formal) want.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. quieren.	KYEH-rehn

PODER "To Be Able"

I can. (I)	Yo puedo.	PWEH-doh
You (singular familiar) can.	Tú puedes.	PWEH-dehs
He / She can. You (singular formal) can.	Él / Ella / Ud. puede.	PWEH-deh
We can.	Nosotros -as podemos.	poh-DEH-mohs
You (plural familiar) can.	Vosotros -as podéis.	poh-DEH-ees
They / You (plural formal) can.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. pueden.	PWEH-dehn

HABER "To Have" (with past participle)

I have.	Yo he.	eh
You (singular familiar) have.	Tú has.	ahs
He / She has. You (singular formal) have.	Él / Ella / Ud. ha.	ah
We have.	Nosotros -as hemos.	EH-mohs
You (plural familiar) have.	Vosotros -as habéis.	ah-BEH-ees
They / You (plural formal) have.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. han.	ahn

PEDIR "To Ask"

I ask.	Yo pido.	PEE-doh
You (singular familiar) ask.	Tú pides.	PEE-dehs
He / She asks. You (singular formal) ask.	Él / Ella / Ud. pide.	PEE-deh
We ask.	Nosotros -as pedimos.	peh-DEE-mohs
You (plural familiar) ask.	Vosotros -as pedís.	PEH-dees
They / You (plural formal) ask.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. piden.	PEE-dehn

Note: Verbs that end in **-cer** such as **conocer** change the **c** to **zc** before an ending that begins with **o** or **a**.

CONOCER "To Know" (someone)

I know.	Yo conozco.	koh-NOHS-koh
You (singular familiar) know.	Tú conoces.	koh-NOH-sehs
He / She knows. You (singular formal) know.	Él / Ella / Ud. conoce.	koh-NOH-seh
We know.	Nosotros -as conocemos.	koh-noh-SEH-mohs
You (plural familiar) know.	Vosotros -as conocéis.	koh-noh-SEH-ees
They / You (plural formal) know.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. conocen.	koh-NOH-sehn

SABER "to Know" (something)

I know.	Yo sé.	koh-NOHS-koh
You (singular familiar) know.	Tú sabes.	koh-NOH-sehs
He/ She knows. You (singular formal) know.	Él / Ella / Ud. sabe.	koh-NOH-seh
We know.	Nosotros -as sabemos.	koh-noh-SEH-mohs
You (plural familiar) know.	Vosotros -as sabéis.	koh-noh-SEH-ees
They / You (plural formal) know.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. saben.	koh-NOH-sehn

Gustar

Spanish doesn't have a verb that literally means "to like." Instead, they use *gustar*, which means to please. So rather than say I like chocolate, you say:

Me gusta el chocolate. I like chocolate.
(Literally: Chocolate is pleasing to me.)

When what is liked is plural, the verb is plural:

Me gustan las tortillas. I like tortillas.
(Literally: Tortillas are pleasing to me.)

The person doing the liking is represented by an indirect object pronoun placed in front of the verb, as illustrated below.

GUSTAR "To Like"

I like the tortilla.	<i>Me gusta la tortilla.</i>
You (informal singular) like the tortilla.	<i>Te gusta la tortilla.</i>
He / She likes the tortilla. You (formal singular) like the tortilla.	<i>Le gusta la tortilla.</i>
We like the tortilla.	<i>Nos gusta la tortilla.</i>
You (informal plural) like the tortilla.	<i>Os gusta la tortilla.</i>
They / You (formal plural) like the tortilla.	<i>Les gusta la tortilla.</i>

REFLEXIVE VERBS

Spanish has many reflexive verbs (when its subject and object both refer to the same person or thing). The following common verbs are used reflexively: *vestirse* (to get dressed, literally to dress oneself), *quedarse* (to stay, literally to stay oneself), *bañarse* (to bathe oneself), and *levantarse* (to wake up, literally to raise oneself).

VESTIRSE "To Dress"

I get dressed.	Yo me visto.	meh VEES-toh
You (singular familiar) get dressed.	Tú te vistes.	teh VEES-tehs
He / She gets dressed. You (singular formal) get dressed.	Él / Ella / Ud. se viste.	seh VEES-teh
We get dressed.	Nosotros -as nos vestimos.	nohs vehs- TEE-mohs
You (plural familiar) get dressed	Vosotros -as os vestís	ohs vehs-TEES
They / You (plural formal) get dressed.	Ellos / Ellas / Uds. se visten.	seh VEES-tehn