

Spanish Quick Reference (Referencia Rápida de Español) v2.11

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* Be careful, this Spanish or English word has multiple meanings/entries ~ Approximate translation
Some Spanish words marked with *, such as “esta” and “está”, are distinguished by the location or presence of an accent.

| Verbs <i>verbos</i> | ask preguntar | be ser/estar | Prepositions | Little words | Important Conjugations <i>conjugaciones importante</i> | Nouns <i>sustantivos</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| (I) agree (estoy) de acuerdo | ask for pedir | call llamar | ~of/from de | the (s. m/f) el*/la* | I do sb. does I did sb. did | Vehicles <i>vehiculos</i> |
| arrive/reach llegar | believe creer | carry llevar | ~of the (m) del | the (pl. m/f) los*/las* | be ser soy es fui* fue* | car/truck el coche/camión |
| begin comenzar | break romper | come venir | ~to/at a | a (s. m/f) un/una | be estar estoy está* estuve estuvo | boat/train el bote/tren |
| buy/shop comprar | choose escoger | die morir | ~to/at the (m) al | and/or y/o | can poder puedo puede pude pudo | Buildings <i>edificios</i> |
| can/be able poder | dance bailar | eat comer | above/on sobre | but pero | do hacer hago hace* hice hizo | store la tienda |
| change cambiar | desire desear | feel sentir | according to según | if/whether si* | go ir voy va fui* fue* | airport el aeropuerto |
| close (shut) cerrar | drive conducir | give dar | across a través de | while mientras | have tener tengo tiene tuve tuvo | bank/bench el banco |
| ~do/make hacer | find encontrar | go ir | ~about acerca de | still* todavía | know saber sé* sabe supe supo | Furniture <i>muebles</i> |
| exit/depart salir | forget olvidar | hate odiar | after después de | not yet aún no | say decir digo dice dije dijo | desk el escritorio |
| fix (repair) reparar | give me dame | have tener | ~at/in en | before antes de | see ver veo ve vi vio | cupboard el armario |
| get (go get) conseguir | learn aprender | hear oír | before antes de | behind detrás de | should deber debo debe debí debió | The body <i>el cuerpo</i> |
| get on/off subir/bajar de | listen escuchar | help ayudar | behind detrás de | beside al lado de | want querer quiero quiere quise quiso | arm/leg brazo/pierna |
| ~happen/pass pasar | must tener que | jump saltar | between entre | because of por | | eye/ear el ojo/oido |
| know (a fact) saber | need necesitar | look mirar | because of por | only* (adv.) sólo | | hair el pelo (cabello) |
| know (a person) conocer | permit permitir | lose perder | ~by way of por | so* (much) tan | Pronouns | hand/foot la mano/el pie |
| ~I like me gusta | push empujar | open abrir | contra against* | so that... para que... | Subject Direct Indirect Prepositional | People <i>gente</i> |
| ~let go/allow dejar | say/tell decir | pay pagar | during durante | so (therefore) así que | I/me yo me me mí* | dad/mom padre/madre |
| mean (signify) significar | seem parecer | play jugar | except salvo | ~so/well/given pues | we/us nosotros nos nos nosotros | boy/girl niño/-a |
| move mover(se) | should deber | pull tirar de | for para* | therefore por tanto | we (women) nosotras nos nos nosotras | sibling hermano/-a |
| remember recordar | sleep dormir | put poner | hace* un día one day ago | more/plus más | you (fam.) tú* te te ti | man/w. hombre/mujer |
| reply responder | speak hablar | read leer | inside dentro de | the most la más | you (sir) usted lo/la* le usted | teacher profesor |
| search for buscar | study estudiar | run correr | instead of en lugar de | less/minus menos | you (pl.) ustedes los*/las* les ustedes | servant/maid sirviente/-a |
| stop_ing parar de _ | take in tomar | see ver | like* como* | least mínimo | he/him él* lo le él* | Time/weather <i>tiempo</i> |
| take/withdraw sacar | teach enseñar | sell vender | near cerca de | a little un poco | she/her ella la* le ella | rain la lluvia |
| think (believe) creer | tell me dime | sing cantar | outside fuera de | very muy | them (m) ellos los* les ellos | second/2 nd segundo |
| think about pensar en | travel viajar | sitsentar(se) | since desde | much/a lot mucho | them (f) ellas las* les ellas | minute el minuto |
| translate traducir | try out probar | swim nadar | toward hacia | ~already ya | ~reflexive ellas las* se* se* sí* | hour/day hora/el día |
| turn on encender | turn off apagar | there is hay | until hasta | yes/no sí*/no | | week la semana |
| understand entender | use/wear usar | try intentar | under bajo* | maybe quizás | my mi* mine mío/mía our nuestro/-a | Dining <i>comedor</i> |
| wait/hope esperar | work* trabajar | want querer | with con | okay vale* | your tu* yours tuyo/tuya someone's su | cup/plate la taza/plato |
| walk/ride andar | write escribir | wash lavar | with me conmigo | without sin | | breakfast el desayuno |
| | | | | | | lunch el almuerzo |
| | | | | | | supper la cena |
| | | | | | | Animals <i>animales</i> |
| | | | | | | cat el gato |
| | | | | | | fish [meat] pez [pescado] |
| | | | | | | dog el perro |
| | | | | | | reptile el reptil |
| | | | | | | bird la ave |
| | | | | | | Nouns: no translation needed |
| | | | | | | el restaurante, hotel, |
| | | | | | | hospital, chocolate, |
| | | | | | | taco, taxi, automóvil, |
| | | | | | | sofá, jeans, coyote, |
| | | | | | | sólido, líquido, gas. |
| | | | | | | la foto, cámara, |
| | | | | | | gasolina, plaza, |
| | | | | | | teléfono, idea, |
| | | | | | | cafetería, pasta, |
| | | | | | | parte, televisión. |
| | | | | | | el/la doctor, turista, policía, criminal, |
| | | | | | | repcionista, mecánico, piloto, veterinaria |

Note: in patterns such as este/esta/esto and algún/alguna/alguno, -a is for feminine things and -o is for events, or things of unknown gender. Add -s or -es for plural.
Extra pronouns in Spain: vosotros, vosotras, os. To understand pronouns, see the examples, and visit <http://users.ipfw.edu/jehle/courses/pronoun1.htm>

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rooms <i>habitaciones</i> | bathroom el baño | bedroom dormitorio | kitchen la cocina | living room sala de estar | hallway el pasillo |
| Directions <i>direcciones</i> | north el norte | to the left a la izquierda | south el sur | to the right a la derecha | straight ahead todo recto |
| forward adelante | backward atrás | east el este* | west el oeste | up arriba | down abajo |
| Colors <i>colores</i> | black negro | white blanco | yellow amarillo | brown marrón | gray gris |
| orange el naranja | green verde | red rojo | purple morado | blue azul | |
| Concepts <i>conceptos</i> | future el futuro | danger el peligro | past el pasado | darkness la oscuridad | luck la suerte |
| relation la relación | success el éxito | security la seguridad | truth la verdad | | |
| Other stuff <i>otras cosas</i> | ball el pelota | bag/box la bolsa/caja | bridge el puente | case (occasion) el caso | computer la computadora |
| feelings los sentimientos | floor/ceiling el piso/techo | light* (not dark) la luz | money el dinero | pain/anger dolor/enojo | pen/feather la pluma |
| pants los pantalones | pencil el lápiz | point/dot el punto | suitcase la valija | smell (odor) el olor | taste (flavor) el sabor |
| Weekdays: lunes(M), martes(Tu), miércoles(W), jueves(Th), viernes(F), sábado(Sat), domingo(Sun). | | | | | |
| Numbers <i>los números</i> | 20 veinte | 1,2,3 uno, dos, tres | 30 treinta | 4,5,6 cuatro, cinco, seis | 40 cuarenta |
| 7,8,9 siete, ocho, nueve | 50 cincuenta | 10,11,12 diez, once, doce | 60 sesenta | 13,14 trece, catorce | 70 setenta |
| 15,16 quince, dieciseis | 80 ochenta | 17... diecisiete... | 90 noventa | | 100 cien/ciento |
| | 1000 mil | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Adjectives <i>adjetivos</i> | bad/ill malo | better/worse mejor/peor | dirty sucio | best/worst el mejor/peor | done hecho |
| boring aburrido | dry seco | colored colorido | easy fácil | cold/cool frío/fresco | far lejano |
| difficult difícil | fast rápido | early temprano | far lejano | enough* suficiente | fast rápido |
| expensive caro* | good bueno | first primero | happy feliz | expensive caro* | healthy sano |
| hard (as rock) duro | hot caluroso | heavy/fat pesado/gordo | late tarde* | high/tall alto | low bajo |
| interesting interesante | long largo | large grande | ready listo | light* (not heavy) ligero | round ronda |
| nearby cercano | sad triste | new/old nuevo/viejo | same mismo | nice/pretty bonito | short corto |
| other/another otro | slow lento | rich/poor rico/pobre | straight recto | sharp afilado | sweet dulce |
| small pequeño | thick espeso | strong/weak fuerte/débil | thin delgado | soft/smooth suave* | wet húmedo |

Adjectives: no translation needed

(in)correcto, importante, final, falso, diferente, decente, delicioso, digital, elegante, evidente, extra, extremo, fatal, familiar, fantástico, favorito, federal, flexible, genérico, genético, glorioso, ilegal, ilegible, imaginario, histórico, honesto, horrible, humor, ignorante, impenetrable, incalculable, imprudente, incoherente, injusto, incomparable, incompatible, incompetente, incompleto, inconveniente, inteligente, invisible, irritable, lamentable, paternal, perfecto, permanente, persuasivo, popular, público, radial, receptivo, redundante, regional, repugnante, resonante, ridiculo, robusto, romántico, selecto, transparente

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Adverbs <i>adverbios</i> | also también | a little un poco | again otra vez | a lot/much mucho | almost casi |
| afterward después | before* antes | enough* bastante | barely apenas | frequently con frecuencia | later luego |
| happily felizmente | often a menudo | in addition además | soon pronto | probably probablemente | still* todavía |
| quickly rápidamente | today hoy | rarely raramente | very muy | recently hace poco | well bien |
| too (much) demasiado | tomorrow mañana* | unfortunately lamentablemente | yesterday ayer | | |

Pronunciation guide

- Spanish is phonetic, but unlike English:
- A resembles A in “father”
 - B and V are considered the same sound (interchangable)
 - E is in-between the E in “bed” and EY in “they”
 - I is the vowel in “tree”.
 - J makes a forceful H sound, like the “ch” in “loch ness”.
 - H is silent in Spanish.
 - Ñ is a sound very similar to NY (as Russian “nyet”)
 - O resembles O in “no”
 - QU is a K sound (silent U)
 - R is a *flap*: a short trilled R. *When spoken fast*, the English D in “laddie” sounds like it. At the start of a word, R means RR.
 - RR is a trilled (rolled) R, with multiple flaps of the tongue.
 - U is the vowel in “nuke”.
 - Y sounds like Y in “yet” or J in “jet”—speaker's choice.
 - Z sounds like S in Latin America, but English TH in Spain (as in “bath”).
 - C represents Z if followed by E or I, or K otherwise.
 - G represents J (hard H) if followed by E or I, and like “g” in “get” otherwise. In gue/gui, the U is silent unless it has dots on top (ü).
 - LL sounds the same as Y.

- Accents are stressed. By default,
- stress the 2nd-to-last syllable if the word ends in AEI O U N S.
 - Otherwise, stress the last syllable.

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Courtesy | <i>cortesía</i> | hello/goodbye hola/adiós | excuse me! ¡disculpe! o ¡perdón! |
| good morning 'good days' | buenos días | I'm sorry. lo siento. | May I pass? ¡permiso! |
| good afternoon 'good lates' | buenas tardes | What's up? 'what such?' ¿qué tal? | Pleased to meet you. Mucho gusto. |
| good evening 'good nights' | buenas noches | | |
| you're welcome 'of nothing' | de nada | | |
| please/thanks | por favor/gracias | | |
| Small phrases | <i>frases pequeños</i> | of course por supuesto | you're right tienes razón |
| I'm on vacation | Estoy de vacaciones | at the same time a la vez | the opposite of lo contrario de |
| I'm hungry 'I have hunger' | tengo hambre | ..is the one that.. es el que.. | ..that which (what).. ..lo que.. |
| How to say? 'how it says it?' ¿Cómo se dice? | It makes sense. Tiene sentido. | | |
| I don't understand. No entiendo. | | | |
| Reverse verbs | <i>verbos inversos</i> | What do you fancy? 'What appetizes you sir?' Qué le apetece? | I love him! ¡Él me encanta! |
| My nose hurts | Me duele la nariz | | literally 'he delights me' |
| I like him | 'he pleases me' Él me gusta | | |
| Verb chains | <i>cadena de verbos</i> | I have seen he visto | I start seeing empiezo a ver |
| I like to see me gusta ver | I had seen había visto | I stop seeing paro de ver | I finish seeing termino de ver |
| I seem to see me parece ver | I want to see quiero ver | I enjoy seeing disfruto ver | I remember to see recuerdo ver |
| I come to see vengo a ver | I need to see necesito ver | I let him see le dejo ver | I make him see le hago ver |
| I learn to see aprendo a ver | I must see tengo que ver | I help him see le ayudo a ver | I invite him to seee invito a ver |
| I'm going to see voy a ver | I can see puedo ver | | |
| I begin to see comienzo a ver | I should see debo ver | | |
| I desire to see deseo de ver | I ask to see pido ver | | |
| I try to see trato de ver | I hate to see odio ver | | |

Examples:

I know. I don't know. Do you know? Yo sé. No sé. ¿Sabes?
Where is the bathroom? ¿Dónde está el baño?
My name is Bob (I call me Bob). Mi nombre es Bob (Me llamo Bob).
Where are you from? (of where you are?) ¿De donde eres?
I don't remember how to say that. No recuerdo cómo se dice eso.
Remember to eat your vegetables. Recuerda comer tus verduras.
Don't forget (you) to drink your juice. No te olvide de beber tu jugo.
Do not cook your chicken too-much. No cocines tu pollo demasiado.
Never freeze (the) fruit or lettuce. Nunca congele la fruta o lechuga.
Today, my friends came (to) home. Hoy, mis amigos vinieron a casa.
Yesterday, we went together to the store. Ayer, fuimos juntos a la tienda.
Tomorrow, I am going to swim across. Mañana, voy a nadar a través.
I think (that) we are going to eat soon. Creo que vamos a comer pronto.
She is sure that already we ate. Ella está segura que ya comimos.
He thought a bear could eat us. Él creyó que un oso nos podía comer.
The crazy fat man killed him. El hombre gordo loco lo mató.
Give me something good (for) to eat. Dame algo bueno para comer.
I should buy new shoes for you. Debo comprar zapatos nuevos para ti.
I am outside waiting for a bus. Estoy afuera esperando un autobús.
But I hope that a taxi comes. Pero espero que un taxi venga.
The boy (that) I saw before is back. El niño que vi antes está de vuelta.
He was with them when he kissed her. Él estaba con ellos cuando la besó.
I'm walking down the street on foot. Estoy andando por la calle a pie.
Without doubt I like half the movie. Sin duda me gusta medio de la película.

| | -ar verbs | estar (be:currently) | llamar (call) † | encontrar(find) | dar (give) | necesitar (need) † | llegar (reach/arrive)† | tomar (take/drink)† | usar (use) † |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Tense | Gerund/participle | estando/estado | llamando/llamado | encontrando | dando/dado | necesitando/necesitado | llegando/llegado | tomando/tomado | usando/usado |
| Presente Indicativo Present Indicative | I do, we do | estoy /estamos | llamo/llamamos | encuentro * | doy /damos | necesito/necesitamos | llego/llegamos | tomo/tomamos | uso/usamos |
| | You do, y'all do | estás /estáis | llamas/llamáis | encuentras | das/dais | necesitas/necesitáis | llegas/llegáis | tomas/tomáis | usas/usáis |
| Preterito Indicativo Past perf. | One does, they do | está / están | llama/llaman | encuentra | da/dan | necesita/necesitan | llega/llegan | toma/toman | usa/usan |
| | I did, we did | estuve/estuvimos | llamé/llamamos | encontré | di / dijimos | necesité/necesitamos | llegué/llegamos | tome/tomamos | usé/usamos |
| Futuro Indicativo Future indicative | You did, y'all did | estuviste/estuvisteis | llamaste/llamasteis | encontraste | dijiste / dijisteis | necesitaste/necesitasteis | legaste/llegasteis | tomaste/tomasteis | usaste/usasteis |
| | One did, they did | estuvo/estuvieron | llamó/llamaron | encontró | dijo / dieron | necesitó/necesitaron | llegó/llegaron | tomó/tomaron | usó/usaron |
| Imperf | I will, we will | estaré/estaremos | llamaré/llamaremos | encontraré | daré/daremos | necesitaré/necesitaremos | llegaré/llegaremos | tomaré/tomaremos | usaré/usaremos |
| | You will, y'all will | estarás/estaréis | llamarás/llamaréis | encontrarás | darás/daréis | necesitarás/necesitaréis | llegarás/llegaréis | tomarás/tomaréis | usarás/usaréis |
| Cond. | One will, they will | estará/estarán | llamará/llamarán | encontrará | dará/darán | necesitará/necesitarán | llegará/llegará | tomará/tomará | usará/usará |
| | I/One, you were ___ing | estaba/estabas | llamaba/llamabas | encontraba | daba/dabas | necesitaba/necesitabas | llegaba/llegabas | tomaba/tomabas | usaba/usabas |
| Subj. | I/One, you would (if) | estaría/estarías | llamaría/llamarías | encontraría | daría/darías | necesitaría/necesitarías | llegaría/llegaría | tomaría/tomaría | usaría/usaría |
| Imp. | I do, you do | esté / estés | llame/llames | encuentre | dé */des | necesite/necesites | llegue/llegues | tome/tomes | use/uses |
| Imp. | Do, do not (informal) | está /no estés | llama/no llames | encuentra | da/no des | necesita/no necesites | llega/no llegues | toma/no tomes | usa/no uses |

| | -er verbs | ser (be:perm.) | creer (believe) † | poder (can) | hacer (do) | tener (have) | saber (know) | obtener(get) | poner (put) | deber (should/owe)† |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Tense | Gerund/participle | siendo /sido | creyendo /creído | pu diendo /podido | haciendo/ hecho * | teniendo/tenido | sabiendo/sabido | obteniendo | poniendo/ puesto | debiendo/debido |
| Presente Indicativo Present Indicative | I do, we do | soy /somos | creo/creemos | puedo /podemos | hago/hacemos | tengo/tenemos | sé */sabemos | obtengo | pongo/ponemos | debo/debemos |
| | You do, y'all do | eres /sois | crees/creéis | puedes /podéis | haces/hacéis | tienes /tenéis | sabes/sabéis | obti enes | pones/ponéis | debes/debéis |
| Preterito Indicativo Past perf. | One does, they do | es /son | cree/creen | puede / pueden | hace/hacen | tiene /tienen | sabe/saben | obti ene | pone/ponen | debe/deben |
| | I did, we did | fui */ fui mos * | creí/creímos | pu de / pu dimos | hi ce / hi cimos | tu ve / tu vimos | su pe / su pimos | ob tu ve | pu se / pu simos | debió/debimos |
| Futuro Indicativo Future indicative | You did, y'all did | fui ste */ fui steis * | creíste/creísteis | pu diste / pu disteis | hi ciste / hi cisteis | tu viste / tu visteis | su piste / su pisteis | ob tu viste | pu siste / pu sisteis | debiste/debisteis |
| | One did, they did | fue */ fue ron * | creyó/creyeron | pu do / pu dieron | hi zo / hi cieron | tu vo / tu vieron | su po / su pieron | ob tu vo | pu so / pu sieron | debió/debieron |
| Imperf | I will, we will | seré/seremos | creeré/creeremos | pu dré / pu dremos | ha ré / ha re mos | ten dré / ten dremos | sa bré / sa bre mos | ob ten dré | pon dré / pon dremos | deberé/deberemos |
| | You will, y'all will | serás/seréis | creerás/creeréis | pu drás / pu dréis | ha rás / ha réis | ten drás / ten dréis | sa brás / sa bréis | ob ten drás | pon drás / pon dréis | deberás/deberéis |
| Cond. | One will, they will | será/serán | creerá/creerán | pu drá / pu drán | ha rá / ha rán | ten drá / ten drán | sa brá / sa brán | ob ten drá | pon drá / pon drán | deberá/deberán |
| | I/One, you were ___ing | era / eras | creía/creías | podía/podías | hacía*/hacías | tenía/tenías | sabía/sabías | obtenía | ponía/ponías | debía/debías |
| Subj. | I/One, you would (if) | sería/serías | creería/creerías | podría/podrías | haría/harías | tendría/tendrían | sabría/sabrías | obtendría | pondría/pondrían | debería/deberías |
| Imp. | I/One do, you do | sea/ seas | crea/creas | pu eda / pu edas | haga/hagas | tenga/ tengas | se pa / se pas | obtenga | ponga/ pongas | deba/debas |
| Imp. | Do, do not (informal) | sé */no seas | crea/no creas | pu ede /no pu edas | haz /no hagas | ten /no tengas | sabe/no se pas | obté n | pon /no pongas | debe/no debas |

| | -er & -ir verbs | ver (see) | parecer(seem) | querer (want) | permitir (permit) † | venir (come) | ir (go) | salir (leave/exit) | decir (say) | Some patterns: |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Tense | Gerund/participle | viendo/ visto | pareciendo | quiendo/querido | permitiendo/permitido | viniendo/venido | yendo /ido | saliendo/salido | diciendo/dicho | • -o, -oy = "I do" |
| Presente Indicativo Present Indicative | I do, we do | veo /vemos | parezco | quiero/queremos | permito/permitimos | vengo/venimos | voy / vamos | salgo/salimos | digo /decimos | • -é, -í = "I did" |
| | You do, y'all do | ves/ veis | pareces | quieres/queréis | permites/permitís | vienes/venís | vas / vais | sales/salís | dices /decís | • -s = "you" |
| Preterito Indicativo Past perf. | One does, they do | ve */ ven * | parece | quiere/quieren | permite/permiten | vienes/venien | va / van | sale/salen | dice / dicen | • -n = "they" |
| | I did, we did | vi / vimos | pareció | quise / quisimos | permití/permitimos | vine / vinimos | fui */ fui mos * | salí/salimos | dije / dijimos | • -ron = "they did" |
| Futuro Indicativo Future indicative | You did, y'all did | viste/visteis | pareciste | quisiste / quisisteis | permitiste/permitisteis | viniste / vinisteis | fui ste */ fui steis * | saliste/salisteis | dijiste / dijisteis | • -mos = "we" |
| | One did, they did | vio/vieron | pareció | quiso / quisieron | permitió/permitieron | vi no */ vinieron | fue */ fue ron * | salíó/salieron | dijo / dijeron | • -ando, -iendo = "-ing" in English |
| Imperf | I will, we will | veré/veremos | pareceré | querré / querramos | permitiré/permitiremos | vendré / vendremos | iré / iremos | saldré / saldremos | diré / diremos | • -ado/-ido = "-en": comido = eaten |
| | You will, y'all will | verás/veréis | parecerás | querrás / querréis | permitirás/permitiréis | vendrás / vendréis | irás / iréis | saldrás / saldréis | dirás / diréis | • -aba, -abas, -aban mean "was ___ing" |
| Cond. | One will, they will | verá/verán | parecerá | querrá / querrán | permitirá/permitirán | vendrá / vendrán | irá / irán | saldrá / saldrán | dirá / dirán | • -ía, -ías, -ían mean was ___ing or would |
| | I/One, you were ___ing | veía / veías | parecía | quería/querías | permitía/permitías | venía/venías | iba / ibas | salía/salías | decía/decías | • Future tenses add endings to the infinitive |
| Subj. | I/one do, you do | vea / veas | parezca | quiera/quieras | permita/permitas | venga/vengas | vaya / vayas | salga/salgas | diga / digas | |
| Imp. | Do, do not (informal) | ve */no veas | parece | quiere /no quieras | permite/no permitas | ven /no vengas | ve */no vayas | sal /no salgas | di /no digas | |

A sample of 25 common Spanish verbs. Due to lack of space, only the most important tenses are listed, and plural forms of some verbs (encontrar, obtener, parecer) have been left out. On the Subj. row, the first two words are present-tense subjunctive, but the first word is also used for formal imperative, e.g. "use este (usted)" = "use this" and "no use" = "do not use". Spoken irregularities are underlined. Orthographic (spelling) irregularities are in bold.

* Watch out, this is a homonym † Regular verb, or nearly so

The 4-page Spanish course: A quick guide to the quick reference

My ambitious goal with this reference is that you can go to any Spanish-speaking country with a double-sided sheet of paper and engage in basic pidgen conversation. To do this, you need to understand basic Spanish grammar and how to use this reference. Good eyesight also helps!

This guide can only be so tiny because Spanish is phonetic. The spelling of any word tells you how to say it! Study the rules on p.2. Practice pronunciation as much as possible, and remember: H is silent! Note: “y” (and) is pronounced “i” as in “si”.

Languages are never translated word-for-word, but all languages have the same basic elements: **nouns, pronouns, verbs, descriptive words (adjectives, determiners and adverbs) and connective words (conjunctions and prepositions)**. The reference is packed with all of these.

- **Nouns** (people, places, concepts) are the things we talk about. For example, a **boat** (un **bote**) is a noun.
- **Pronouns** (e.g. **he, they, it**) refer to nouns introduced elsewhere.
- **Verbs** (e.g. **jump, speak, seem, be**) combine with nouns to make sentences: *un bote va* (a boat goes).
- **Adjectives** (e.g. *tall, happy, late*) describe nouns: *bote pequeño rápido* (fast little boat). Note that Spanish adjectives normally come after the noun, but a few are normally placed before it, e.g. *otro* (other), *bueno* (good), *mejor* (better), *pocos* (a few). Put numbers before, too.
- **Determiners** (e.g. the, an, each) are little words that come before nouns: *el bote* (the boat).
- **Adverbs** (e.g. *today, there, happily, very*) describe the time, location, or manner of verbs (*llueve hoy* = it rains today) or adjectives (*muy mojado* = very wet).
- **Conjunctions** (and, or, if) combine two phrases of the same type: *estés y esos* (these and those), *ver o ser* (see or be).
- **Prepositions** (e.g. to, for, on, except) serve the same purpose as adverbs, but are followed by a noun: *a casa* (to home),

en la piscina (at the pool)

In the examples section,

- **Verbs** are underlined,
- **Nouns/pronouns** are bold, and
- **Descriptive words** are italicized
- (In parenthesis: literal translations and words needed in only one language).

This is to help you to see how the *English* and *Spanish sentences are related*. (**Esto es para ayudarte a ver** cómo las **frases Inglés y españoles están relacionados.**)

Spanish grammar is more complex than English. Firstly, **all** nouns have a gender (masculine “m” or feminine “f”) that affects nearby words:

- Un **hombre bueno**: a good man
- Una **mujer buena**: a good woman
- El otro **horno**: the other oven
- La otra **esquina**: the other corner

Feminine forms most often end in “a”, masculine forms most often end in “o”. When space permits, this guide marks masculine nouns “el” and feminine ones “la”. The word “the” can also be plural (e.g. los **hornos**, las **esquinas**). To make a plural noun, just add -s (or -es if the word does not end in a vowel.) Even adjectives have plural forms: **palabras importantes** = important words.

Luckily, the order of words in Spanish is often the same as English. For **example**, the **order of the words in this sentence is exactly the same in both English and Spanish**: Por **ejemplo**, el **orden** de las **palabras** en **esta frase es exactamente el mismo** en **ambos Inglés y español**.

However, pronouns tend to be in different places in Spanish. The pronoun table is on p.1. Here are three rows from it:

| Pronouns | Subject | Direct | Indirect | Prepositional |
|------------|---------|--------|----------|---------------|
| I/me | yo | me | me | mí* |
| you (fam.) | tú* | te | te | tí |
| he/him | él* | lo | le | él* |

It's complicated, so study this well:

- There is no word for “it”, so it is usually translated as “lo” or “la” (him or her): **lo** for masculine “it”, **la** for feminine “it”. Use **lo** if you are unsure.
- **Subject** pronouns are the ones that come

before the verb in English, e.g. “I, we, he, she”. So “**él cocina**” means “**he cooks**” or possibly “**it (m) cooks**” (as in “the oven cooks”). One can move a subject pronoun to the end (“cocina él”).

- The **direct object** comes after the verb in English, e.g. “me, us, him, her”; however, in Spanish it often comes before the verb. So “**él cocina**” means “**he cooks**”, but “**lo cocina**” means “**sb. cooks him/it**.” (“sb.” is short for “somebody/something”)
- An **indirect object** corresponds to the third, middle noun in English sentences. For example, “**He gives him a bird**” translates to “**Yo le doy un ave**”, and “**He gives it to me**” translates to “**Él me lo da**”. The direct object may be absent, so “**le voy a mostrar**” means “**I’m going to show** (something to) **him/her**”, but “**lo voy a mostrar**” means “**I’m going to show him/it** (to someone)”. However, notice that “te” or “me” can be a direct or indirect object. So “**te voy a mostrar**” means “**I’m going to show you**”—either “show you something”, or “show you to somebody”.
- Prepositional pronouns come after prepositions, e.g. a **mi** = to **me**, para **ti** = for **you**, como **él** = like **him**.
- There are also “formal” ways of saying “you” that use 3rd-person verbs. It's very confusing; just remember, use “**le**” or “**usted**” when saying “you” to old people.

By far the most complex issue is **verbs**. Spanish verbs have around a hundred regular forms (called conjugations) in total. Verb forms depends on tense (present, past, conditional...), person (first person “I”, second person “you”, third person “he/she”), number (plural or not) and mood (indicative/subjunctive). Regular forms may also vary depending on the infinitive ending: -ar, -er or -ir. Plus, many verbs are irregular. And often Spanish speakers leave out the subject pronoun (“yo”, “tú”, “él” etc.) because the verb already encodes it!

The first thing to know is that there are two verbs for **to be** (is): **estar** and **ser**. Both have dozens of forms, but the most important are **estoy/soy** (I am), **estás/eres** (you are), **está/es** (someone or something is), and **están/son** (they are). A table on p.1 lists some of these:

| | tense | I do | sb. does | I did | sb. did |
|----|-------|-------|----------|--------|---------|
| be | ser | soy | es | fui* | fue* |
| be | estar | estoy | está* | estuve | estuvo |

- **ser** describes the time or date (**es lunes** = it's **monday**; **son las tres** = it's **three** (3:00); **ella es tarde** = **she is late**).
- **ser** also describes qualities that are innate or expected: **soy blanco** = I'm **white**, **ella es feliz** = **she is happy** (normally), **él es malo** (he is a bad guy)
- **estar** describes location or present status: **está aquí** = it's **here**, **estoy feliz** = I'm **happy** (at present), **él está malo** = **he is ill** (a few adjectives can change meaning.)

Other than that, don't worry too much about verbs at first: just use the infinitive form (which ends in -r) so people know you aren't any good at Spanish. Tell them, “**hable muy despacio, por favor**” (**speak very slowly please**) and “**no hable español**!”. Consider using time phrases: “**ahora**” now, “**hoy**” today, “**ayer**” yesterday, “**próximo mes**” next month.

When you're ready, memorize the “**important conjugations**” on page 1, so you can say correct phrases such as “**tengo una idea**” (I **have** an **idea**) or “**Él debe salir**” (**He should leave**).

Also, you should learn that “-o” endings usually mean “I (present tense)”, and -es/-as endings usually mean “you (present tense)”. After you have practiced Spanish for a long time, you should start using the verb table on p.3. Note: a lot of related nouns also end in “o”; e.g. “almuerzo” can mean either “lunch” or “I eat lunch”; “trabajo” is “work” or “I work”.

A pronoun sometimes merges with a verb to form one word, e.g. *llamarse* (to call oneself), *dime* (tell me). Some Spanish verbs are “reflexive”, typically involving the word “se”; they're different from the “Reverse verbs” on p.2, and there's no space to explain here.

A word's range of meaning varies a lot between languages, e.g. **sentence** normally becomes **frase** in Spanish, but a punishment for a crime is a **sentencia**. I carefully picked translations, but watch out for variations of meaning, especially when you see * or ~.

Finally, study the examples, watch the *excelente* BBC online course “Mi Vida Loca”, read this page repeatedly, and practice as much as you can. ¡Buena suerte!