

Spanish Quick Reference (Referencia Rápida de Español) v2.20

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*** Watch out, 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	verbos	ask	preguntar	be ser/estar	call llamar	Prepositions	Little words	Important Conjugations	conjugaciones importante
(I) agree	(estoy) de acuerdo	ask for	pedir	call	llamar	~of/from	de	the (s. m/f)	el*/la*
arrive/reach	llegar	believe	creer	carry	llevar	~of the (m)	del	the (pl. m/f)	los*/las*
begin	comenzar	break	romper	come	venir	~to/at	a	a (s. m/f)	un/una
buy/shop	comprar	choose	escoger	die	morir	~to/at the (m)	al	and/or	y/o
can/be able	poder	dance	bailar	eat	comer	above/on	sobre	but	pero
change	cambiar	desire	desear	feel	sentir	according to	según	if/whether	si*
close (shut)	cerrar	drive	conducir	give	dar	across	a través de	while	mientras
~do/make	hacer	find	encontrar	go	ir	~about	acerca de	after	después de
exit/depart	salir	forget	olvidar	hate	odiar	~at/in	en	before	antes de
fix (repair)	reparar	give me	dame	have	tener	behind	detrás de	beside	al lado de
get (go get)	conseguir	learn	aprender	hear	oír	between	entre	because	porque*
get on/off	subir/bajar de	listen	escuchar	help	ayudar	because of	por	only* (adv.)	sólo
~happen/pass	pasar	must	tener que	jump	saltar	~by way of	por	so* (much)	tan
know (a fact)	saber	need	necesitar	look	mirar	contra	against*	so that... para que...	
know (a person)	conocer	permit	permitir	lose	perder	during	durante	so (therefore)	asi que
~I like	me gusta	push	empujar	open	abrir	except	salvo	~so/well/given	pues
~let go/allow	dejar	say/tell	decir	pay	pagar	for	para*	therefore	por tanto
mean (signify)	significar	seem	parecer	play	jugar	hace* un día	one day ago	more/plus	más
move	mover(se)	should	deber	pull	tirar de	inside	dentro de	the most	la más
remember	recordar	sleep	dormir	put	poner	instead of	en lugar de	less/minus	menos
reply	responder	speak	hablar	read	leer	like*	como*	least	mínimo
search for	buscar	study	estudiar	run	correr	near	cerca de	a little	un poco
stop_ing	parar de _	take in	tomar	see	ver	outside	fuera de	very	muy
take/withdraw	sacar	teach	enseñar	sell	vender	since	desde	much/a lot	mucho
think (believe)	creer	tell me	dime	sing	cantar	toward	hacia	~already	ya
think about	pensar en	travel	viajar	sitsentar(se)		until	hasta	under	bajo*
translate	traducir	try out	probar	swim	nadar	with	con	with me	conmigo
turn on	encender	turn off	apagar	there is	hay	without	sin	my own	mi propio
understand	entender	use/wear	usar	try	intentar				
wait/hope	esperar	work*	trabajar	want	querer				
walk/ride	andar	write	escribir	wash	lavar				

Nouns	sustantivos
Vehicles <i>vehiculos</i>	bus el autobús
car/truck	el coche/camión
airplane	el avión
boat/train	el bote/tren
bicycle	la bicicleta
Buildings <i>edificios</i>	store la tienda
airport	el aeropuerto
house	la casa
bank/bench	el banco
school	la escuela
Furniture <i>muebles</i>	table la mesa
desk	el escritorio
chair	la silla
cupboard	el armario
bed	la cama
The body <i>el cuerpo</i>	face la cara*
arm/leg	brazo/pierna
finger/toe	el dedo
head	la cabeza
eye/ear	el ojo/oido
head	la cabeza
hair	el pelo (cabello)
mouth	la boca
hand/foot	la mano/el pie
skin	la piel
People <i>gente</i>	baby el/la bebé
dad/mom	padre/madre
boy/girl	niño/-a
friend	amigo/-a
teacher	profesor
servant/maid	sirviente/-a
waiter	camarero
Time/weather <i>tiempo</i>	rain la lluvia
second/2 nd	segundo
snow	la nieve
minute	el minuto
sun	el sol
hour/day	hora/el día
month	el mes
week	la semana
year	el año
Dining <i>comedor</i>	food la comida
cup/plate	la taza/plato
drink	la bebida
breakfast	el desayuno
water	la agua
lunch	el almuerzo
beer	la cerveza
supper	la cena
potato	la papa
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,	la foto, cámara,
hospital, chocolate,	gasolina, plaza,
taco, taxi, automóvil,	teléfono, idea,
sofá, jeans, coyote,	cafetería, pasta,
sólido, líquido, gas.	parte, televisión.

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 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>

el/la doctor, turista, policía, criminal, recepcionista, mecánico, piloto, veterinaria

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	brown marrón	green verde	gray gris
yellow amarillo	orange el naranja	purple morado	blue azul	red rojo	
Concepts <i>conceptos</i>	future el futuro	danger el peligro	darkness la oscuridad	relation la relación	security la seguridad
	past el pasado	luck la suerte	success el éxito	truth la verdad	
Other stuff <i>otras cosas</i>	ball el pelota	bag/box la bolsa/caja	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	bridge el puente	clothing la ropa	country el país	door la puerta
	game el juego	hat el sombrero	key* la llave	life la vida	meat la carne*
	shirt la camisa	wall el pared	word la palabra	world el mundo	paper el papel
Weekdays: lunes(M), martes(Tu), miércoles(Wed), jueves(Th), viernes(F), sábado(Sat), domingo(Sun).					
Numbers <i>los numeros</i>	20 veinte	1,2,3 uno, dos, tres	30 treinta	40 cuarenta	50 cincuenta
	60 sesenta	7,8,9 siete, ocho, nueve	70 setenta	80 ochenta	90 noventa
	100 cien/ciento	10,11,12 diez, once, doce	13,14 trece, catorce	15,16 quince, dieciseis	17... diecisiete...
	1000 mil				

Adjectives <i>adjectivos</i>	bad/ill malo	better/worse mejor/peor	dirty sucio	done hecho	dry seco
	best/worst el mejor/peor	boring aburrido	easy fácil	far lejano	fast rápido
	cold/cool frío/fresco	difficult difícil	far lejano	fast rápido	good bueno
	early temprano	enough* suficiente	happy feliz	healthy sano	hard (as rock) duro
	expensive caro*	first primero	hot caluroso	late tarde*	heavy/fat pesado/gordo
	hard (as rock) duro	high/tall alto	low bajo	long largo	interesting interesante
	large grande	light* (not heavy) ligero	round ronda	sad triste	new/old nuevo/viejo
	nearby cercano	nice/pretty bonito	short corto	slow lento	other/another otro
	rich/poor rico/pobre	sharp afilado	small pequeño	straight recto	strong/weak fuerte/débil
	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, humano, 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, ridículo, 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	enough* bastante	barely apenas	frequently con frecuencia	happily felizmente
	in addition además	probably probablemente	quickly rápidamente	rarely raramente	recently hace poco
	too (much) demasiado	unfortunately lamentablemente			

Pronunciation guide

Spanish is phonetic, but you must learn the rules:

- 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 (just add phlegm!)
- H is always silent.
- Ñ is a sound very similar to NY (as Russian “nyet”)
- O resembles O in “no”
- QU makes a K sound; U after Q is always silent.
- R is a *flap*: a short trilled R. *When spoken fast*, the English D in “ladder” 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” (but some speakers may pronounce like J in “jet”)
- Z sounds like S in Latin America, but English TH in Spain (as in “bath”)
- C represents Z (i.e. S/TH) if followed by E or I, or K otherwise (CA, CO, CU).
- 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 like Y (tortilla)

Áccents áre stóressed. If a word has no accent mark, stress the 2nd-to-last syllable if the word ends in AEI O U S (e.g. **baños**)

• Otherwise, stress the last syllable (e.g. **doctor**).

Courtesy	<i>cortesía</i>	hello/goodbye hola/adiós	excuse me! ¡disculpe! o ¡perdón!	I'm sorry. lo siento.	May I pass? ¡permiso!	What's up? 'what such?' ¿qué tal?	Pleased to meet you. Mucho gusto.
Small phrases	<i>frases pequeños</i>	of course por supuesto	you're right tienes razón	at the same time a la vez	the opposite of lo contrario de	..is the one that.. ..es el que..	..that which (what).. ..lo que..
Reverse verbs	<i>verbos inversos</i>	What do you fancy? 'What appetizes you sir?' Qué le apetece ?	I love him! ¡Él me encanta !	literally 'he delights me'			
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 seem to see me parece ver
I come to see vengo a ver	I need to see necesito ver	I want to see quiero ver	I finish seeing termino de ver	I learn to see aprendo a ver	I must see tengo que ver	I enjoy seeing disfruto ver	I'm going to see voy a ver
I can see puedo ver	I should see debo ver	I begin to see comienzo a ver	I remember to see recuerdo ver	I desire to see deseo de ver	I ask to see pido ver	I let him see le dejo 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)	empezar (start)	llegar (reach/arrive)†	tomar (take/drink)†	usar (use) †
Tense	Gerund/participle	estando/estado	llamando/llamado	encontrando	dando/dado	empezando/empezado	llegando/llegado	tomando/tomado	usando/usado
Presente Indicativo Present Indicative	I do, we do	estoy/estamos	llamo/llamamos	encuentro*	doy/damos	empiezo/empezamos	llego/llegamos	tomo/tomamos	uso/usamos
	You do, y'all do	estás/estáis	llamas/llamáis	encuentras	das/dais	empiezas/empezáis	llegas/llegáis	tomas/tomáis	usas/usáis
	One does, they do	está/están	llama/llaman	encuentra	da/dan	empieza/empezan	llega/llegan	toma/toman	usa/usan
Pretérito Indicativo Past perf.	I did, we did	estuve/estuvimos	llamé/llamamos	encontré	di/dijimos	empecé/empezamos	llegué/llegamos	tome/tomamos	usé/usamos
	You did, y'all did	estuviste/estuvisteis	llamaste/llamasteis	encontraste	dijste/dijsteis	empezaste/empezasteis	legaste/llegasteis	tomaste/tomasteis	usaste/usasteis
	One did, they did	estuvo/estuvieron	llamó/llamaron	encontró	dio/dieron	empezó/empezaron	llegó/llegaron	tomó/tomaron	usó/usaron
Futuro Indicativo Future indicative	I will, we will	estaré/estaremos	llamaré/llamaremos	encontraré	daré/daremos	empezaré/empezaremos	llegaré/llegaremos	tomaré/tomaremos	usaré/usaremos
	You will, y'all will	estarás/estaréis	llamarás/llamaréis	encontrarás	darás/daréis	empezarás/empezaréis	llegarás/llegaréis	tomarás/tomaréis	usarás/usaréis
	One will, they will	estará/estarán	llamará/llamarán	encontrará	dará/darán	empezará/empezarán	llegará/llegarán	tomará/tomarán	usará/usarán
Imperf	I/One, you were ___ing	estaba/estabas	llamaba/llamabas	encontraba	daba/dabas	empezaba/empezabas	llegaba/llegabas	tomaba/tomabas	usaba/usabas
Cond.	I/One, you would (if)	estaría/estaría	llamaría/llamaría	encontraría	daría/daría	empezaría/empezaría	llegaría/llegaría	tomaría/tomaría	usaría/usaría
Subj.	I do, you do	esté/estés	llame/llames	encuentre	dé*/des	empiece/empieces	llegue/llegues	tome/tomes	use/uses
Imp.	Do, do not (informal)	está/no estés	llama/no llames	encuentra	da/no des	empieza/no empieces	llega/no llegues	toma/no tomes	usa/no uses

	-er verbs	ser (be:perm.)	creer (believe)†	poder (can)	hacer (do)	tener (have)	saber (know)	conseguir(get)	poner (put)	deber (should/owe)†
Tense	Gerund/participle	siendo/sido	creyendo/creído	pu diendo/podido	haciendo/hecho	teniendo/tenido	sabiendo/sabido	consigo	poniendo/puesto	debiendo/debido
Presente Indicativo Present Indicative	I do, we do	soy/somos	creo/creemos	puedo/podemos	hago/hacemos	tengo/tenemos	sé*/sabemos	consigo	pongo/ponemos	debo/debemos
	You do, y'all do	eres/sois	crees/creéis	puedes/podéis	haces/hacéis	tienes/tenéis	sabes/sabéis	consigues	pones/ponéis	debes/debéis
	One does, they do	es/son	cree/creen	puede/pueden	hace/hacen	tiene/tienen	sabe/saben	consigue	pone/ponen	debe/deben
Pretérito Indicativo Past perf.	I did, we did	fui*/fuimos*	creí/creímos	pude/pudimos	hice/hicimos	tuve/tuvimos	supe/supimos	conseguí	puse/pusimos	debí/debimos
	You did, y'all did	fuiste*/fuisteis*	creíste/creísteis	podiste/pudisteis	hiciste/hicisteis	tuviste/tuvisteis	supiste/supisteis	conseguiste	pusiste/pusisteis	debiste/debisteis
	One did, they did	fue*/fueron*	creyó/creyeron	pudo/pudieron	hizo/hicieron	tuvo/tuvieron	supo/supieron	consiguió	puso/pusieron	debió/debieron
Futuro Indicativo Future indicative	I will, we will	seré/seremos	creeré/creeremos	podré/podremos	haré/haremos	tendré/tendremos	sabré/sabremos	conseguiré	pondré/pondremos	deberé/deberemos
	You will, y'all will	serás/seréis	creerás/creeréis	podrás/podrás	harás/haréis	tendrás/tendrás	sabrás/sabrás	conseguirás	pondrás/pondrás	deberás/deberás
	One will, they will	será/serán	creerá/creerán	podrá/podrá	hará/hará	tendrá/tendrá	sabrá/sabrán	conseguirán	pondrá/pondrá	deberá/deberán
Imperf	I/One, you were ___ing	era/eras	creía/creías	podía/podías	hacía*/hacías	tenía/tenías	sabía/sabías	conseguía	ponía/ponías	debía/debías
Cond.	I/one, you would (if)	sería/serías	creería/creerías	podría/podría	haría/haría	tendría/tendría	sabría/sabría	conseguiría	pondría/pondría	debería/debería
Subj.	I/one do, you do	sea/seas	crea/creas	pueda/puedas	haga/hagas	tenga/ tengas	sepa/sepas	consiga	ponga/pongas	deba/debas
Imp.	Do, do not (informal)	sé*/no seas	crea/no creas	puede/no pueda	haz /no haga	ten /no tenga	sabe/no sepa	consigue	pon /no ponga	debe/no deba

	-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	queriendo/querido	permitiendo/permitido	viniendo/venido	yendo/ido	saliendo/salido	diciendo/dicho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -o, -oy = "I do" • -é, -í = "I did" • -s = "you" • -n = "they" • -ron = "they did" • -mos = "we" • -ando, -iendo = "-ing" in English • -ado/-ido = "-en": comido = eaten • -aba, -abas, -aban mean "was ___ing" • -ía, -ías, -ían mean "was ___ing or would" • Future tenses add endings to the infinitive
Presente Indicativo Present Indicative	I do, we do	veo/vemos	parezco	quiero/queremos	permito/permitimos	vengo/venimos	voy/vamos	salgo/salimos	digo/decimos	
	You do, y'all do	ves/veis	pareces	quieres/queréis	permites/permitís	vienes/venís	vas/vais	sales/salís	dices/decís	
	One does, they do	ve*/ven*	parece	quiere/quieren	permite/permiten	vienen/vienen	va/van	sale/salen	dice/dicen	
Pretérito Indicativo Past perf.	I did, we did	vi/vimos	parecí	quise/quisimos	permití/permitimos	vine/vinimos	fui*/fuimos*	salí/salimos	dije/dijimos	
	You did, y'all did	viste/visteis	pareciste	quisiste/quisisteis	permitiste/permitisteis	viniste/vinisteis	fui*/fuisteis*	saliste/salisteis	dijiste/dijisteis	
	One did, they did	vio/vieron	pareció	quiso/quisieron	permitió/permitieron	vino*/vinieron	fue*/fueron*	salíó/salieron	dijo/dijeron	
Futuro Indicativo Future indicative	I will, we will	veré/veremos	pareceré	querré/querremos	permitiré/permitiremos	vendré/vendremos	iré/iremos	saldré/saldremos	diré/diremos	
	You will, y'all will	verás/veréis	parecerás	querrás/querréis	permitirás/permitiréis	vendrás/vendrás	irás/iréis	saldrás/saldrás	dirás/dirás	
	One will, they will	verá/verán	parecerá	querrá/querrán	permitirá/permitirán	vendrá/vendrán	irá/irán	saldrá/saldrán	dirá/dirán	
Imperf	I/One, you were ___ing	veía/veías	parecía	quería/querías	permitía/permitías	venía/venías	iba/ibas	salía/salías	decía/decías	
Cond.	I/one, you would (if)	vería/verías	parecería	querría/querrías	permitiría/permitirías	vendría/vendría	iría/irías	saldría/saldría	diría/dirías	
Subj.	I/one do, you do	vea/veas	parezca	quiera/quieras	permita/permitas	venga/vengas	vaya/vayas	salga/salga	diga/digas	
Imp.	Do, do not (informal)	ve*/no veas	parece	quiere/no quieras	permite/no permitas	ven */no vengas	ve*/no vaya	sal */no salga	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, conseguir, parecer) were 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 (sometimes caused by a "special vowel" that *changes when stressed*, e.g. o→ue in encontrá→encuéntra, poder→puéde, volvé→vuélve). Orthographic (spelling) irregularities are in **bold** (often not "real" irregularities, just the result of Spanish spelling rules!) * **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 pidgeon 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:** the word “y” (and) is pronounced “i” as in “sí”.

Languages are never translated word-for-word, but most 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:

- Spanish has no word for “it”! At the start of a sentence, it is usually left out; elsewhere it's “lo” or “la” (meaning him or her): **lo** is masculine, **la** is feminine. Use **lo** if 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, rarely, “**it (m) cooks**”, as in “the oven cooks”). A subject pronoun can be moved to the end (e.g. “**cocina él**” is also correct).

- 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 it.**” (“sb.” is short for “somebody/something”)
- An **indirect object** (3rd person **le, les**) corresponds to the third, middle noun in English sentences. For example, “**I give 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 it/him** (to someone)”. 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 mí** = 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 verbs 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 (by nature) happy**, **él es malo** (**he is** a bad person)
- **estar** describes location or current status: **está aquí** = it's **here**, **estoy feliz** = I'm **happy** (right now), **él está malo** = **he is ill** (note: *malo* changes meaning with *estar*!)

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**”. You don't know the verb tenses, so use time phrases instead: “*ahora*” now, “*hoy*” today, “*ayer*” yesterday, “*próximo mes*” next month.

When ready, memorize the “**important conjugations**” on page 1, so you can say correct phrases like “**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). There's no space to explain “se” or reflexive verbs, but e.g. **se come** = **one eats**, **se vende** = **one sells** = for sale, but **él se baña** = **he bathes himself**.

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!