

Simplified Spanish

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Spanish Verb Forms

Present Tense

The present tense is formed differently for verbs that end in -ar, -er and -ir. Remove the ending of the verb to get to the "stem" form and then add the appropriate ending depending on the subject of the verb.

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
<i>Infinitive verb form</i>	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
<i>Stem</i>	<i>habl-</i>	<i>com-</i>	<i>viv-</i>
yo	hablo	como	vivo
tú	hablas	comes	vives
usted, él, ella	habla	come	vive
nosotros, nosotras	hablamos	comemos	vivimos
vosotros, vosotras (used in Spain)	habláis	coméis	vivís
ustedes, ellos, ellas	hablan	comen	viven

Command Forms

Command forms, also known as imperatives, are for telling someone what to do or what not to do. The -er and -ir verbs are conjugated the same in the command form, but the -ar form is different. All verb forms are the same in the affirmative and negative commands except for the tú form.

Affirmative Commands

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
Infinitive verb form	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
Stem	<i>habl-</i>	<i>com-</i>	<i>viv-</i>
tú	habla	come	vive
usted	hable	coma	viva
nosotros, nosotras	hablemos	comamos	vivamos
vosotros, vosotras (used in Spain)	habléis	comáis	viváis
ustedes	hablen	coman	vivan

Negative Commands

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
Infinitive verb form	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
Stem	<i>habl-</i>	<i>com-</i>	<i>viv-</i>
tú	no hables	no comas	no vivas
usted	no hable	no coma	no viva
nosotros, nosotras	no hablemos	no comamos	no vivamos
vosotros, vosotras (used in Spain)	no habléis	no comáis	no viváis
ustedes	no hablen	no coman	no vivan

Past Tense

There are two past tense forms in Spanish: the preterite and the imperfect. The -er and -ir verb endings are the same in the preterite and the imperfect tenses, but the -ar form is different.

Preterite

The preterite form is for actions that took place in the past at a specific time and are finished.

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
Infinitive verb form	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
Stem	<i>habl-</i>	<i>com-</i>	<i>viv-</i>
yo	hablé	comí	viví
tú	hablaste	comiste	viviste
usted, él, ella	habló	comió	vivió
nosotros, nosotras	hablamos	comimos	vivimos
vosotros, vosotras (used in Spain)	hablasteis	comisteis	vivisteis
ustedes, ellos, ellas	hablaron	comieron	vivieron

Imperfect

The imperfect form is used for . . .

- Actions that were repeated in the past
Caminaba a la escuela todos los días. (I walked to school every day.)
- Actions that happened continuously in the past
Vivía en Nueva York durante dos años. (I lived in New York for two years.)
- Time and dates
Eran las tres. (It was three o'clock.)
- Age in the past
Ella tenía cinco años. (She was five year old.)
- Mental or physical states
Él estaba muy cansado. (He was very tired.)

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
Infinitive verb form	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
Stem	<i>habl-</i>	<i>com-</i>	<i>viv-</i>
yo	hablaba	comía	vivía
tú	hablabas	comías	vivías
usted, él, ella	hablaba	comía	vivía
nosotros, nosotras	hablábamos	comíamos	vivíamos
vosotros, vosotras (used in Spain)	hablabais	comíais	vivíais
ustedes, ellos, ellas	hablaban	comían	vivían

Future Tense

The future tense is like "will" in English. To form the future tense an ending is added to the infinitive form of the verb. The endings for -er and -ir verbs in the future tense are the same.

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
<i>Infinitive verb form</i>	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
yo	hablaré	comeré	viviré
tú	hablarás	comerás	vivirás
usted, él, ella	hablará	comerá	vivirá
nosotros, nosotras	hablaremos	comeremos	viviremos
vosotros, vosotras (used in Spain)	hablaréis	comeréis	viviréis
ustedes, ellos, ellas	hablarán	comerán	vivirán

Note: The future tense can also be used in Spanish to speculate about what is probably or might be true.

Example:

Ella estará en casa ahora.

(She probably is at home now.)

Conditional

The future tense is like "would" in English. To form the conditional tense an ending is added to the infinitive form of the verb. The endings for -er and -ir verbs in the conditional are the same.

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
<i>Infinitive verb form</i>	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
yo	hablaría	comería	viviría
tú	hablarías	comerías	vivirías
usted, él, ella	hablaría	comería	viviría
nosotros, nosotras	hablaríamos	comeríamos	viviríamos
vosotros, vosotras (used in Spain)	hablaríais	comeríais	viviríais
ustedes, ellos, ellas	hablarían	comerían	vivirían

Subjunctive

The subjunctive form is used to describe mood or our attitude towards something, not fact. The subjunctive usually appears in the subordinate clause. If you see the word "que" (that) or "quien" (who) in the middle of a sentence, that's a red alert that you might need the subjunctive with the second verb. Look for the following in a sentence to know if you need the subjunctive.

- **"que" or "quien"** - indicating a subordinate clause
- **Two different subjects** - The subject of the first verb is different from the subject of the second verb.
- **Two different verbs, the first of which is a WEIRDO verb** (explained below)

WEIRDO is an acronym for Wishes, Emotions, Impersonal Expressions, Recommendations, Doubt/Denial, and Ojalá. These kinds of verbs generally trigger the subjunctive tense in the second verb in the sentence.

- **Wishes** - Verbs that describe wishes, wants, desires or orders
- **Emotions** - Verbs that show anger, happiness, sadness, fear, etc.
- **Impersonal Expressions** - Verbs that express opinion or judgement
- **Recommendations** - Verbs to recommend that someone do or not do something
- **Doubt/Denial** - Verbs used to doubt or deny that something is true
- **Ojalá** - "I hope," "God willing," "if only"

Present Subjunctive

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
Infinitive verb form	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
Stem	<i>habl-</i>	<i>com-</i>	<i>viv-</i>
yo	hable	coma	viva
tú	hables	comas	vivas
usted, él, ella	hable	coma	viva
nosotros, nosotras	hablemos	comamos	vivamos
vosotros, vosotras (used in Spain)	habléis	comáis	viváis
ustedes, ellos, ellas	hablen	coman	vivan

Past Subjunctive (Imperfect Subjunctive)

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
Infinitive verb form	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
Stem	<i>habl-</i>	<i>com-</i>	<i>viv-</i>
yo	hablara	comiera	viviera
tú	hablaras	comieras	vivieras
usted, él, ella	hablara	comiera	viviera
nosotros, nosotras	habláramos	comiéramos	viviéramos
vosotros, vosotras (used in Spain)	hablarais	comerais	viverais
ustedes, ellos, ellas	hablaran	comieran	vivieran

Present Participle (Gerund)

The present participle or gerund is the form that ends in -ing in English such as "walking" or "cooking." In Spanish these are formed by adding -ando onto the stem of -ar verbs or -iendo onto the stem of -er and -ir verbs.

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
Infinitive verb form	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
Stem	<i>habl-</i>	<i>com-</i>	<i>viv-</i>
	hab lando	com iendo	viv iendo

Past Participle

Past participles are the forms that end in -ed in English such as "worked" or "talked." These forms are used with the present perfect tenses ("I have worked."). In Spanish these are formed by adding -ado onto the stem of -ar verbs or -ido onto the stem of -er and -ir verbs.

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
Infinitive verb form	<i>hablar (to speak)</i>	<i>comer (to eat)</i>	<i>vivir (to live)</i>
Stem	<i>habl-</i>	<i>com-</i>	<i>viv-</i>
	hab lado	com ido	viv ido