

Higher Spanish

The Present Tense of Regular Verbs

The Present Tense is used to say what is happening now. In English it can be translated as “I do” and “I am doing”. In Spanish there are three groups of verbs which can be recognised by the Infinitive. These groups are –AR, -ER and –IR.

To form the Present Tense you must remove the INFINITIVE ending and add on the correct PRESENT tense ending for the group and for the person you are talking about.

	-AR	-ER	-IR	
YO	-O	-O	-O	I
TÚ	-AS	-ES	-ES	YOU(S)
ÉL/ELLA	-A	-E	-E	S/HE/IT
NOSOTROS/AS	-AMOS	-EMOS	-IMOS	WE
VOSOTROS/AS	-ÁIS	-ÉIS	-ÍS	YOU(PL)
ELLOS / ELLAS	-AN	-EN	-EN	THEY

-AR Verbs

HABLAR

habl	O	TO SPEAK	I speak	com
habl	AS	You (s) speak	com	
habl	A	S/he/ it speaks		
habl	AMOS	We speak	com	
habl	ÁIS	You (pl) speak	com	
habl	AN	They speak		

-ER Verbs

COMER TO EAT

O	I eat
ES	You eat
com E	S/he/it eats
EMOS	We eat
ÉIS	You (pl) eat
com EN	They eat

-IR Verbs

ESCRIBIR

escrib	O	TO WRITE	I write
escrib	ES	You(s) write	
escrib	E	S/he/it writes	
escrib	IMOS	We write	
escrib	ÍS	You(pl) write	
escrib	EN	They write	

In Spanish there are some verbs which have a spelling change. In the Present Tense in –AR, -ER, and –IR verbs this spelling change occurs in parts 1, 2, 3, and 6.

Although this may sound complicated there is an easy pattern to follow. You still remove the infinitive ending and add on the correct one for whom you are talking about, but you also must change a vowel.

Usually	“e”	becomes	“ie”
	“o”	becomes	“ue”
	“u”	becomes	“ue”
	“e”	becomes	“i” in some –IR verbs only

For example:- pensar	-	pIEnso	I think
Perder	-	pIErdo	I lose
preferir	-	prefIEro	I prefer
acostarse	-	me acUEsto	I go to bed
volver	-	vUElvo	I return
dormir	-	dUErmo	I sleep
jugar	-	jUEgo	I play
morir	-	mUEro	I die
pedir	-	pIdo	I ask for

Let's take a closer look:-	PODER	to be able to
	pUEdo	I can
	pUEdes	You can
	pUEde	He /she/ it can
BUT	pOdemos	We can
	pOdéis	You(pl) can
	pUEden	They can

Here are some common Stem Changing Verbs. Learn them!

Common “e” – “ie” Verbs:

empezar	-	to start	entender	-	to understand
comenzar	-	to start	querer	-	to want
despertarse	-	to wake up	perder	-	to lose
pensar	-	to think	preferir	-	to prefer
sentar	-	to sit	sentir	-	to feel
mentir	-	to lie			

Common "o" – "ue" Verbs:

acostarse	-	to go to bed	volver	-	to return
acordar	-	to remember	poder	-	can
almorzar	-	to snack	llover	-	to rain
contar	-	to tell / count	doler	-	to hurt
encontrar	-	to find	mover	-	to move
soñar	-	to dream	dormir	-	to sleep
morir	-	to die			

Common "e" – "i" Verbs

pedir	-	to ask for	vestirse	-	to get dressed
despedir	-	to say goodbye	repetir	-	to repeat
seguir	-	to follow	servir	-	to serve

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Reflexive Verbs in the Present Tense

A Reflexive Verb can be recognised in Spanish in the infinitive by the endings –ARSE, –ERSE, and –IRSE. This extra “se” is a Reflexive Pronoun.

A Reflexive verb is usually used to describe an action which is done to oneself, e.g. **I wash myself = me lavo, he has a shower = se ducha.**

To form the Present Tense of Reflexive Verbs you need two parts – the reflexive pronoun and the verb. Firstly remove the “SE” which is moved to in front of the verb and changed to match the person being spoken about.

Reflexive Pronouns	
me	I
te	You
se	She/He/It
nos	We
os	You
se	They

You must then remove the –AR, –ER and –IR and add the appropriate PRESENT TENSE ending as usual.

	-AR	-ER	-IR	
YO	-O	-O	-O	I
TÚ	-AS	-ES	-ES	YOU(S)
ÉL/ELLA	-A	-E	-E	S/HE/IT
NOSOTROS/AS	-AMOS	-EMOS	-IMOS	WE
VOSOTROS/AS	-ÁIS	-ÉIS	-ÍS	YOU(PL)
ELLOS / ELLAS	-AN	-EN	-EN	THEY

e.g.	<u>bañarse</u>	<u>to take a bath</u>	<u>sentarse(ie)</u>	<u>to sit down</u>
	me baño	I have a bath	me siento	I sit down
	te bañas	You have a bath	te sientas	You sit down
	se baña	S/he has a bath	se sienta	S/he sits down
	nos bañamos	We have a bath	nos sentamos	We sit down
	os bañáis	You have a bath	os sentáis	You sit down
	se bañan	They have a bath	se sientan	They sit down

Higher Spanish Spelling Changing Verbs in the Present Tense

In the Present Tense there are some verbs which have a special spelling change in some parts.

Verbs ending -cer and -cir.

It is only the first person singular which is irregular. All other forms work the same way as normal.

Common verbs in this group are: **aparecer, conocer, ofrecer, producir, traducir**

aparecer	conocer	conducir	producir
aparez co	conoz co	conduz co	produz co
apareces	conoces	conduces	produces
aparece	conoce	conduce	produce
aparecemos	conocemos	conducemos	producemos
aparec éis	conoc éis	conduc éis	produc éis
aparecen	conocen	conducen	producen

Verbs ending in -uir

Verbs ending in **-uir** take a **y** in all parts of the present tense except nosotros and vosotros.

Some common verbs in this group are: **atribuir, contruir, contribuir, disminuir, distribuir, huir, incluir, sustituir.**

construir	huir	sustituir
constru y o	hu y o	sustitu y o
constru y es	hu y es	sustitu y es
constru y e	hu y e	sustitu y e
construimos	huimos	sustituimos
constru í s	hu í s	sustitu í s
constru y en	hu y en	sustitu y en

Verbs ending in -iar and -uar

Some verbs ending in **-iar** and **-uar** require an accent to be added to the **i** or **u** in all parts except nosotros and vosotros.

These verbs are: **enviar, fiar, liar, actuar, habitar, situar, valuar, variar, conitnuar.**

variar	continuar
var í o	contin ú o
var í as	contin ú as

varía
variamos
variáis
varían

continúa
continuamos
continuáis
continúan

Verbs ending -ger and -gir

In the first person singular of verbs ending in **-ger** and **-gir** the **G** changes to a **J**.

coger	dirigir
cojo	dirijo
coges	diriges
coge	dirige
cogemos	dirigimos
cogéis	dirigís
cogen	dirigen

Verbs ending in -guir

In this case the **GU** changes to **G** in the first person singular

distinguir
distingo
distingues
distingue
distinguimos
distinguís
distinguen

Verbs ending in -quir

In these verbs the **QU** changes to **C** in the first person singular

delinquir
delinco
delinques
delinque
delinquimos
delinquís
delinquen

Irregular Verbs in the Present Tense

IR To go	DAR To give	ESTAR To be	HABER* To have	SER To be
Voy	Doy	Estoy	He	Soy
Vas	Das	Estás	Has	Eres
Va	Da	Está	Ha	Es
Vamos	Damos	Estamos	Hemos	Somos
Vais	Dais	Estáis	Habéis	Sois
Van	Dan	Están	Han	Son

PONER To put	HACER To do	SALIR To go out	VALER To be worth	TRAER To bring
Pongo	Hago	Salgo	Valgo	Traigo
Pones	Haces	Sales	Vales	Traes
Pone	Hace	Sale	Vale	Trae
Ponemos	Hacemos	Salimos	Valemos	Traemos
Poneís	Hacéis	Salís	Valéis	Traéis
Ponen	Hacen	Salen	Valen	Traen

CAER To fall	OÍR To hear	DECIR To say	TENER To have	VENIR To come
Caigo	Oigo	Digo	Tengo	Vengo
Caes	Oyes	Dices	Tienes	Vienes
Cae	Oye	Dice	Tiene	Viene
Caemos	Oímos	Decimos	Tenemos	Venimos
Caéis	Oís	Decís	Tenéís	Venís
Caen	Oyen	Dicen	Tienen	Vienen

CABER To fit in	PODER To be able	QUERER To want	SABER To know	VER To see
Quepo	Puedo	Quiero	Sé	Veo
Cabes	Puedes	Quieres	Sabes	Ves
Cabe	Puede	Quiere	Sabe	Ve
Cabemos	Podemos	Queremos	Sabemos	Vemos
Cabéis	Podéis	Queréis	Sabéis	Veis
Caben	Pueden	Quieren	Saben	Ven

*Haber is the verb "to have" which you only use to make up compound tenses.

1. My parents pay for all my clothes.
2. I study every night in my bedroom.
3. My parents don't earn much money.
4. I spend many hours chatting to my friends on MSN.
5. Lots of young people travel the world.
6. We wear school uniform.
7. My mum understands me very well.
8. My sister reads in the bedroom until late and I cannot sleep.
9. My older brother sells CDs over the Internet.
10. My family promises to share our problems.
11. My friends live very close to my house.
12. My brother always argues with my dad.
13. My mum and my sister never argue.
14. I share a bedroom with my sister.
15. I want to leave home as soon as I can.
16. My mum begins work when I arrive home.
17. We think we have the ideal parents.
18. My brother wants to buy a car.
19. I never lie to my parents.
20. My friend always lies to her mum about where she is.
21. My dad sleeps until midday, every day.
22. My mum scolds me if I get bad marks at school.
23. I can ask my parents for money if I need it.
24. My family gets on very well.
25. My younger sister goes to bed at the same time as me.

Higher Spanish Present Tense
Reflexives, Radicals and Irregulars

Translate the sentences below into Spanish. In each case you will use a reflexive, a radical or an irregular verb.

1. **My parents get angry when I arrive home late.**
2. **My parents complain about my friends.**
3. **My brother showers in the morning and at night.**
4. **I get on well with my brother most of the time.**
5. **My brother and I fight every day.**
6. **I complain about my brother's taste in music.**
7. **My older sister gets angry if I wear her clothes.**
8. **My twin sisters don't get on.**
9. **I can go to discos on Saturday nights.**
10. **My brother asks me for advice.**
11. **My parents think my friends are too old.**
12. **My sister lies to my parents about where she goes.**
13. **I tell my mum all my secrets.**
14. **My dad doesn't understand me.**
15. **My sister wakes me when she gets home late.**
16. **My brother prefers classical music but I prefer pop.**
17. **I give money to my brother.**
18. **My parents come home late from work.**
19. **My boyfriend comes to my house on Friday nights.**
20. **I don't know where my parents work.**
21. **I see my dad every two weeks.**
22. **I go to discos every Saturday.**
23. **My brother and I go to the cinema together.**
24. **I always put my clothes in the wardrobe.**