

G Regular verbs have a set pattern of endings in the present tense (see pp. 36–37), but irregular verbs do not follow these patterns and have to be learned individually. The verbs you will use most frequently in Spanish are all irregular – so you need to learn them thoroughly and practise them often. The table below gives the present tense for four of the most common irregular verbs.

	ser (to be)	estar (to be)	ir (to go)	tener (to have)
(yo)	soy	estoy	voy	tengo
(tú)	eres	estás	vas	tienes
(él/ella/usted)	es	está	va	tiene
(nosotros/nosotras)	somos	estamos	vamos	tenemos
(vosotros/vosotras)	sois	estáis	vais	tenéis
(ellos/ellas/ustedes)	son	están	van	tienen

Some verbs are regular in the present tense apart from the 'I' form:

hago (*hacer* – to do/make) *salgo* (*salir* – to go out) *veo* (*ver* – to see/watch)
conozco (*conocer* – to know) *sé* (*saber* – to know) *pongo* (*poner* – to put)
doy (*dar* – to give) *traigo* (*traer* – to bring)

Ser and estar

Note that there are two verbs for 'to be' in Spanish: *ser* and *estar*. See p. 42 for full details on when to use them. To complete the activities in this section, bear in mind that you use:

- *ser* for descriptions/characteristics and times
- *estar* for location, feelings and states of being.

1 Connect each verb to its meaning in English and the correct infinitive.

- | | | |
|---------|------------|-------|
| 1 voy | a they are | ir |
| 2 están | b I go | |
| 3 tengo | c I am | estar |
| 4 está | d he is | |
| 5 van | e we are | ser |
| 6 tiene | f they go | |
| 7 somos | g I have | tener |
| 8 soy | h she has | |



2 Complete this grid with the correct verb forms. Can you see any patterns that might help you remember the different forms?

subject	tener	ir	estar	ser
Ana			está	
Ana and José	tienen			
Ana and I				somos
I		voy		

H 3 Complete these sentences with the correct form(s) of the correct irregular verb(s): *ser, estar, ir* or *tener*.

- 1 Mi hermano _____ gordito. En esta foto _____ un poco triste.
- 2 ¿Qué día _____ biología, Belén? Yo _____ química los lunes.
- 3 De vez en cuando mis amigos y yo _____ de paseo.
- 4 Jorge, ¿cómo _____ al insti por la mañana? Yo _____ en coche.
- 5 No quiero _____ al cine. ¿_____ cansado? ¡No, _____ perezoso!
- 6 ¿Qué hora _____? _____ las tres.

Think: is *triste* a description/ characteristic or a way you might feel? What about *gordito*?

You can't have two present tense verbs in a row. What form of the verb do you need after *querer*?

4 Match these sentences halves. Then translate the sentences into English.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 1 ¿De dónde | a hago mucho deporte. | _____ |
| 2 Tú | b está contento? | _____ |
| 3 Yo | c tiene hermanos. | _____ |
| 4 Es hijo único: no | d eres hablador. | _____ |
| 5 ¿Su primo | e son ustedes? | _____ |

5 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

- 1 The girls are tall and they have freckles.

- 2 My best friend goes to school by bus but I go on foot.

- 3 I'm Ana. I'm fifteen years old. I'm in Madrid.

Remember, you don't use *ser* or *estar* to give your age. Which verb do you use?

H 6 Translate this passage into Spanish.

Ser or *estar* for location?

My friend Greig is Scottish. He has a sister and two brothers. He goes to my school but his flat is far away. He's very cool! I know his brothers. I like them because they're really amusing but I know they are sometimes silly, too. Normally Greig and I **are** too tired to play with them. What are your friends like?

Remember there are two verbs for 'to know' – *saber* and *conocer*. Which do you need here?

Ser or *estar* for how you are feeling?

- G** The verbs *ser* and *estar* both mean 'to be'. They are both irregular verbs in the present tense. They are used for different things.

	ser	estar
(yo)	soy	estoy
(tú)	eres	estás
(él/ella/usted)	es	está
(nosotros/nosotras)	somos	estamos
(vosotros/vosotras)	sois	estáis
(ellos/ellas/ustedes)	son	están

When to use ser

Ser is used for:

Description – when you want to describe a person or thing.

Yo soy alta pero mi hermano es muy bajo. I am tall but my brother is very short.

Origin – to say where someone comes from.

Somos de Ecuador. We are from Ecuador.

Characteristics to say what someone's character is like or what something is (always) like.

Mi insti es muy grande. My school is very big.

Time – to say what the time is.

Ahora son las seis de la mañana. It is now 6.00 a.m.

Occupation to say what job someone does.

Mis primos son profesores. My cousins are teachers.

Relationship – to talk about how people are related.

Y tú, ¿eres la tía de Juanita? Are you Juanita's aunt?



The word **DOCTOR** helps you to remember when to use *ser*.

When to use estar

Estar is used for:

Position – to say that someone is standing, sitting, etc.

¡Mira! Están sentados en el sofá. Look! They are sitting on the sofa.

Location – to say where something or someone is.

La estación está al lado del ayuntamiento. The station is next to the town hall.

Action – when you want to say what someone is doing.

¿Vosotros estáis copiando sus deberes? Are you copying her homework?

Condition – to say what state someone is in.

Después de tanto trabajo estoy muy cansado. After so much work I am very tired.

Emotion – to say how someone is feeling temporarily.

Pienso que está triste. I think he is sad.

Sometimes, you can use *ser* and *estar* with the same adjective but the meaning is different. For example:

ser aburrido – 'to be boring', **but** *estar aburrido* – 'to be bored'

ser listo – 'to be clever', **but** *estar listo* – 'to be ready'



The word **PLACE** helps you to remember when to use *estar*.

1 Choose the correct form of ser or estar.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Yo <i>somos</i> / <i>eres</i> / <i>soy</i> alta. | 4 Y tú, ¿ <i>está</i> / <i>estás</i> / <i>estamos</i> en el hotel? |
| 2 Juan y Miguel <i>son</i> / <i>somos</i> / <i>sois</i> hermanos. | 5 Las chicas <i>están</i> / <i>estamos</i> / <i>estáis</i> trabajando. |
| 3 Nosotros <i>eres</i> / <i>sois</i> / <i>somos</i> de Barcelona. | 6 Mi padre <i>estoy</i> / <i>estás</i> / <i>está</i> muy contento. |

2 Look at the sentences in exercise 1. For each one, say why *ser* or *estar* has been used. For the different uses, remember the letters from DOCTOR or PLACE from the grammar box.

Example: Mi madre es profesora. Occupation

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 3 _____ | 5 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 4 _____ | 6 _____ |

3 Complete these sentences with the correct form of the verb *ser* or *estar*. Remember to use the correct verb, according to the context.

- 1 Mi amigo Jaume _____ de Mallorca.
- 2 Yo _____ triste porque mi equipo ha perdido el partido.
- 3 ¿Dónde _____ tú?
- 4 Me gustan los chicos pero creo que _____ un poco egoístas.
- 5 Mi profesor dice que yo _____ perezoso, pero _____ trabajador en mi opinión.
- 6 En este momento nosotros _____ mirando ropa en Internet.

4 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

- 1 My favourite subject is history.

- 2 Where are Manolo and José?

Is this position or origin?

- 3 He's sitting next to his brother.

not *sentando*

- 4 We are listening to the radio.

- 5 They think we are from Scotland.

H 5 Translate this passage into Spanish.

Are these characteristics or emotions?

My brother is quite tall and thin and he is always tired. It is because he works a lot at school and spends a lot of time on his homework. However, he is very kind and sometimes he does my homework as well.

I'm a little selfish but I think it is great.

Be careful – you don't use *pequeño* in this context.

G Verbs of opinion

In Spanish, many verbs for giving opinions need a pronoun like 'me'. In these structures, the person who likes / dislikes is actually the indirect object of the verb and the thing they like / dislike is the subject. To remember this, it might help you to think about what the Spanish literally means, for example:

Me gusta el helado.

I like ice cream.

(literally: The ice cream is pleasing to me.)

Les interesan los idiomas.

They are interested in languages.

(literally: Languages are interesting to them.)



The important things to remember:

- Choose the correct pronoun to go before the verb (see the table below).
- When these verbs are followed by a noun, check that the verb agrees with the noun. They are simpler than other verbs – there are only two options:
 - 'he/she/it' form if what you like / dislike is singular (*me gusta*)
 - 'they' form if what you like / dislike is plural (*me gustan*)

<i>me gusta / me gustan</i>	I like	<i>nos gusta / nos gustan</i>	we like
<i>te gusta / te gustan</i>	you like (singular)	<i>os gusta / os gustan</i>	you like (plural)
<i>le gusta / le gustan</i>	he/she/it likes	<i>les gusta / les gustan</i>	they like
<i>le gusta / le gustan</i>	you like (singular, formal)	<i>les gusta / les gustan</i>	you like (plural, formal)

The following verbs of opinion behave in the same way as *gustar*:

encantar, *chiflar*, *molar*, *flipar* (to love/to be mad about), *interesar* (to be interested in), *apasionar* (to be passionate about), *molestar* (to bother), *fastidiar* (to annoy).

These verbs can also be followed by a verb. The second verb is in the infinitive form. The verb of opinion has the singular ending.

A mi padre le chifla hacer deportes. My Dad loves doing sport.

When you give the person who likes/dislikes (e.g. *mi padre*), the sentence needs to start with *A*.

To talk about things you liked / disliked in the past, use the preterite form of the verbs, e.g. *me gustó*, *me gustaron*, etc.

Le encantó la clase de ayer. He loved the class yesterday.

Doler

Another verb which behaves like *gustar* is *doler*. You use this verb to say that something hurts.

Doler is a stem-changing verb in the present tense – *doler* → *duele* (see p. 40).

Me duele la cabeza.

My head hurts. (literally: The head hurts to me.)

¿Te duelen las piernas?

Do your legs hurt?

1 Circle the correct form to complete each sentence.

- 1 *Me gusta / Me gustan* tu chaqueta.
- 2 *Nos encanta / Nos encantan* las ciencias.
- 3 *Le chifla / Le chiflan* ir de compras.
- 4 *Me duele / Me duelen* los ojos.
- 5 *Les interesa / Les interesan* los cuadros.

★ To work out which form of the verb you need, look carefully at the noun – singular or plural?

2 Match these sentence halves.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 A Pedro | a nos gusta ver series en Netflix. |
| 2 A ustedes | b ¿Te gusta el baloncesto? |
| 3 A mis amigos y yo | c le gustan las películas de acción. |
| 4 ¿Y a tí? | d les gusta ir de vacaciones. |

3 Complete these sentences with the correct verb form.

- 1 _____ el museo. (*interesar* – we)
- 2 Laura, ¿ _____ las canciones españolas? (*encantar* – you)
- 3 Jorge y Carolina, ¿ _____ hacer barbacoas? (*chiflar* – you plural)
- 4 _____ los deportes acuáticos. (*apasionar* – they)
- 5 No _____ quedarme en los albergues juveniles. (*gustar* – I)
- 6 No _____ la cabeza. (*doler* – she)

★ Remember the verb doesn't agree with the pronoun – the verb form is determined by whether the noun is singular or plural.

4a Choose four things and write your opinion of them, using the four verbs supplied.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| el fútbol | los idiomas | llevar uniforme | las matemáticas |
| subir videos a Internet | la red | conocer a gente nueva | las historias de vampiros |
| los caramelos | los blogs | la tele | hacer deporte |

- 1 (*flipar*) _____
- 2 (*molar*) _____
- 3 (*no gustar*) _____
- 4 (*no interesar*) _____

b Now translate your sentences into English.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

5 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

English doesn't use the definite article here, but you need it in Spanish.

- 1 I like fish but I don't like chips. _____
- 2 Do they love horror films? _____
- 3 Paula is not interested in going to the ice rink. _____

What word do you need before 'Paula' in Spanish?

H 6 Translate this passage into Spanish.

I'm mad about books because they are a door to another world and I love using my imagination. My friend Paz really likes magazines but they don't interest me. The students at my school love the internet but I don't like it at all. When I surf the net, I have a headache after half an hour!

Think about how you can use *doler* to say this.

G Some common verbs are irregular in the preterite and it is important that you know which they are and how they are formed. They don't follow a fixed pattern, so you need to learn them separately.

ser (to be)	ir (to go)	estar (to be)	hacer (to do, to make)	tener (to have)
fui	fui	estuve	hice	tuve
fuiste	fuiste	estuviste	hiciste	tuviste
fue	fue	estuvo	hizo	tuvo
fuimos	fuimos	estuvimos	hicimos	tuvimos
fuisteis	fuisteis	estuvisteis	hicisteis	tuvisteis
fueron	fueron	estuvieron	hicieron	tuvieron

poner (to put)	poder (to be able to)	venir (to come)	querer (to want)	decir (to say, to tell)
puse	pude	vine	quise	dije
pusiste	pudiste	viniste	quisiste	dijiste
puso	pudo	vino	quiso	dijo
pusimos	pudimos	vinimos	quisimos	dijimos
pusisteis	pudisteis	vinisteis	quisisteis	dijisteis
pusieron	pudieron	vinieron	quisieron	dijeron

The preterite of the verbs *ser* and *ir* is identical. This means that *fue*, for example, can mean either 'he/she/it was' or 'he/she/it went'. This is something to be aware of when you are translating from Spanish to English. In the context, it will always be clear which verb is being used. For instance, *fue* in the following sentence has to mean 'he went':

El año pasado fue a Ibiza. Last year he went to Ibiza.

In this sentence, on the other hand, *fue* has to mean 'it was':

Fue guay It was cool

The verb *poder* means 'to be able to'. In the preterite, therefore, it can translate as 'I was able to' etc. However, you would usually say 'I could'.

1 Match each Spanish verb to its English meaning.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 I could | a fui |
| 2 we wanted | b tuvisteis |
| 3 they came | c pude |
| 4 she could | d vinieron |
| 5 he went | e hicieron |
| 6 I was | f fue |
| 7 they did | g quisimos |
| 8 you (informal plural) had | h dijiste |
| 9 you (singular) said | i pudo |



2 Correct the incorrect verbs in these sentences. Some of the sentences are correct.

- Mi amigo tuvo que ir de vacaciones con sus padres. _____
- Hizo sol todos los días. _____
- Y tú, ¿fuisteis de vacaciones el verano pasado? _____
- Yo puso la mesa. _____
- Nosotros estuvimos en el restaurante anoche. _____
- La cena fui estupenda. _____

3 Complete these sentences with the correct verb in the preterite.

- 1 Mis amigos _____ (went) a Gran Canaria.
- 2 Esta mañana _____ (it was) calor.
- 3 El hombre _____ (wanted) volver.
- 4 Nosotros _____ (came) a tu casa.
- 5 Yo le _____ (told) que María estaba enferma.

Use the verb *hacer*.

4 Rewrite these sentences in the correct order and then translate them into English.

- 1 y de vacaciones fui fotos saqué. _____

- 2 chico amigos a el quiso invitar sus. _____

- 3 mis que lo primos fue bueno vinieron. _____

- 4 pudo restaurante mi padrastro no al ir. _____

5 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

- 1 I went on holiday with my best friend last year.

Remember, you need the definite article here.

- 2 He did his homework at half past six.

In Spanish say 'the'.

- 3 They were in the same hotel.

H 6 Translate this passage into Spanish.

This is plural in Spanish.

Remember, *ser* and *ir* are identical in the preterite.

The best day of my holiday was Saturday, when my family and I went to Barcelona. The guide told us what to visit and we were able to see some interesting places. The best thing was the stadium and I took lots of photos there. When I returned home I put them up on my wall.

Object pronouns come before the verb.

G The preterite and the imperfect tense have different meanings and uses in Spanish:

- You use the preterite to talk about **completed actions** in the past (see pp. 50–55).
- You use the imperfect tense to describe what things **were like** or what someone **was doing**, what someone **did repeatedly**, what someone **used to do** or what something **used to be like** (see pp. 56–57).

The challenge is to know which to use and how to use them together. Combining the preterite with the imperfect in your speaking and writing will allow you to produce work that is more complex and descriptive.

For example, you might want to say what **was happening** (imperfect) when another action **took place** (preterite).

Hablaba por Skype cuando recibí un mensaje de mi amigo.

I was talking on Skype when **I received** a message from my friend.

You could turn the sentence around, but the verbs would remain the same:

Cuando recibí un mensaje de mi amigo, hablaba por Skype.

When **I received** a message from my friend, **I was talking** on Skype.

When writing descriptions in the past, you will often need to use both tenses:

Estaba muy contento porque mi equipo de rugby ganó el final.

I was really happy because my rugby team **won** the final.

When considering which tense to use, it can be helpful to picture the trace of a heartbeat; the constant horizontal line being the imperfect tense and the interrupting beat being a completed action in the preterite.



1 Write which tense you would use to translate these sentences.

Example: She was tall. imperfect

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 I saw the match. _____ | 4 We fell over. _____ |
| 2 He was crying. _____ | 5 Every day I helped my boss. _____ |
| 3 They used to work. _____ | 6 I arrived late. _____ |

2 Circle the verb in the correct tense to complete these sentences.

- El primer día *conocí / conocía* a mi jefe y no *fue / era* nada simpático.
- El fin de semana pasado *nos alojamos / nos alojábamos* en un hotel que *estuvo / estaba* en la costa.
- Hablé / Hablaba* con mi hermano por teléfono cuando mi padre *llegó / llegaba* a casa.
- Montaba / Monté* en bici cuando *vi / veía* a mi amigo.
- Cuando *tuve / tenía* diez años, *fui / iba* a un concierto de Adele.



Look out for time markers to help you identify completed actions in the past.

3 Put the verb in brackets into the correct form of either the imperfect or the preterite tense.

- El hotel _____ (tener) una piscina. Sin embargo no _____ (nadar) porque no me gusta hacer natación.
- El año pasado mis amigos y yo _____ (ir) a Italia y la gente _____ (ser) muy amable.
- H** Yo _____ (pasear) al perro en el parque cuando _____ (conocer) a un chico guapo.
- H** Mis padres _____ (ver) la tele cuando yo _____ (llamar).



Each sentence has one verb in the preterite and one verb in the imperfect.

4 Translate the sentences you have completed in exercise 3 into English.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- H 3 _____
- H 4 _____

★ Remember that *hacer* can mean 'to go' when used with sports.

★ There are lots of ways to translate the imperfect tense. Use the context to work out what it needs to be in English.

5 Translate the following sentences into Spanish using the correct tense (imperfect or preterite).

- 1 They played tennis every day. _____
- 2 I used to wake up early. _____
- 3 They played tennis last weekend. _____
- 4 I didn't wake up late yesterday. _____

Remember to include the correct reflexive pronoun.

Put *no* before the reflexive pronoun to make this negative.

H 6 Now translate these sentences into Spanish.

- 1 I was hungry so I ate a sandwich.

- 2 It was raining when he went out with his friends.

- 3 Six years ago, when I was in Paris, I lost my passport.

★ In question 1, look out for a phrase that cannot be translated word for word!

Use *así que* here.

Use *Hace* + time here.

H 7 Translate this passage into Spanish

You need *de* here.

You need *mientras* here.

★ To help you decide which tense to use, keep in mind the heartbeat line; is the verb describing something, saying what used to happen or is it a single event in the past?

When I lived in Madrid I went on holiday to the coast. One day, while I was sunbathing on the beach, I saw Rafa Nadal. He had brown eyes, long hair and was very tall. Unfortunately, I used to be quite shy and I didn't say anything!

Remember to include the personal *a*.

This verb is irregular in the preterite.

Remember to include the definite article with body parts.

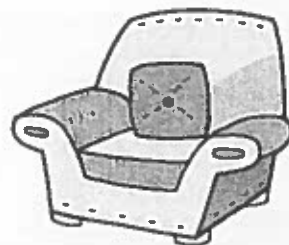
G The conditional is used to say what someone would do or what would happen in the future. Endings are added on to the infinitive of the verb and irregular stems are exactly the same as they are for the future tense (see p. 62).

	comprar (to buy)
(yo)	compraría
(tú)	comprarías
(él/ella/usted)	compraría
(nosotros/nosotras)	compraríamos
(vosotros/vosotras)	compraríais
(ellos/ellas/ustedes)	comprarían

*Su casa es bastante bonita pero yo **cambiaría** los muebles.*
His house is quite nice but **I would change** the furniture.

***Pondrían** la televisión en el salón pequeño.*
They would put the TV in the small lounge.

*No **iríamos** al Caribe sin mucho dinero.*
We wouldn't go to the Caribbean without lots of money.



The conditional form of *haber* is **habría** – 'there would be'.

The conditional can be used to express desires for the future by using the verb *gustar* followed by an infinitive:

***Me gustaría** enseñar inglés.*

I would like to teach English.

H A useful construction is *se debería* plus the infinitive of a verb, which means 'you/we should' or 'you/we ought to' do something.

***Se debería** ahorrar energía.*

You/we should save energy.

***No se debería** usar bolsas de plástico.*

You/we shouldn't use plastic bags.

1 Match the sentence halves. Then translate the underlined verbs into English.

1 Me gustaría

a el sistema de transporte público.

2 En mi ciudad, yo mejoraría

b en el campo.

3 Mis amigos

c ser azafata.

4 Preferiría ir

d cambiarían los muebles viejos.

5 No podríamos vivir

e a Mallorca.

H 2 Write the correct form of the conditional of the verb in brackets.

1 Yo _____ (*ir*) a la universidad.

2 Nosotros _____ (*ayudar*) a nuestra tía.

3 ¿Tú _____ (*aprender*) un nuevo idioma?

4 Mis padres _____ (*cambiar*) el color de la cocina.

5 ¿Vosotros _____ (*trabajar*) en España?

6 Lucas no _____ (*hacer*) nada.

- H 3** There are five conditional form mistakes in this passage. Find and circle them, then rewrite the passage with your corrections.

Me gustaría trabajar en el extranjero porque serían una oportunidad fantástica de ver otras culturas. También ganarían dinero y podrían visitar el resto del país los fines de semana. Viajarías en coche a muchos sitios diferentes.

- H 4** Write four sentences saying what should be done to improve where you live. Begin each one with *Se debería*.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

- H 5** Translate these sentences into Spanish.

1 I would like to go to France.

Which form of the verb do you use here?

2 We would buy a flat in the centre.

3 I think they would live in the countryside.

Remember that in Spanish you have to say 'I think that'.

- D 6** Translate this passage into Spanish.

Remember that adjectives usually come after the noun.

I would like to take a gap year in Central America. It would be a fantastic experience! I would teach English to young children and I would learn a lot about their culture. I would work many hours but it would be great. I would go back to my country after nine months.

This is the same as 'to return'.

Translate this as 'of'.
