

Introduction to Spanish

Greetings, saying good-bye, and polite questions:

In Spanish, there are 2 levels of formality used when you talk to other people. They use a formal style of address when talking with people they don't know well, people they are on a last name basis with (Mr. Smith), and for people in positions of authority. They use an informal style of address with people they are on a first name basis with (John), friends, family, and children. I have given you both forms.

FORMAL:

Buenos días, señor. Hello, good day, sir.
Buenas tardes, señora. Good afternoon ma'am.
Buenas noches, señorita. Good evening, miss.

¿Cómo está (usted)? How are you?
Muy bien, gracias. ¿Y usted?
Regular, así así.

¿Cómo se llama usted? What's your name?
Me llamo... My name is...

Permítame presentarle a...
Allow me to introduce you to...
Mucho gusto. Pleased to meet you.
El gusto es mío. The pleasure is mine.

Other questions:

¿De dónde es usted? Where are you from?
Soy de... I'm from...

INFORMAL:

Hola. Hi.
Muy buenas. Hi. Hello.

¿Cómo estás? ¿Qué tal? ¿Cómo te va? How are you?
Muy bien. ¿Y tú?
Regular, así así.

¿Cómo te llamas? What's your name?
Me llamo... My name is...

Quiero presentarte a...
I want to introduce you to...
Mucho gusto. Pleased to meet you.
Igualmente. Same here.

¿De dónde eres? Where are you from?
Soy de... I'm from...

2. Subject Pronouns: Subject pronouns replace a noun that is the subject of a verb. In English we use them to avoid repeating a noun over and over. For example: John is smart. John lives in Montana. John has 14 children. We would replace John with he after the first sentence. John is smart. He lives in Montana. He has 14 children. You do the same in Spanish. Here are the subject pronouns in Spanish:

yo	I	nosotros	we
tú	you (familiar)		
él	he	ellos	they
ella	she	ellas	they (all feminine)
usted	you (formal)	ustedes	you (fam. & form. Plural)

3. Verbs: When you change a verb to match a subject (I walk, he walks) you are conjugating the verb. In Spanish, a verb will have more forms in the present than verbs do in English. Most verbs follow a set pattern for how they are conjugated. These are called regular verbs. Some verbs do not follow the normal pattern. They are irregular verbs. Following are the conjugations of some useful verbs, both regular and irregular:

ser - to be (irregular)

yo soy I am	nosotros somos we are
tú eres you are	
él es he is	ellos son they are
ella es she is	ellas son they are
usted es you are	ustedes son you are

¿De dónde eres/es?
Soy de ...

estar - to be (irregular)

yo estoy I am	nosotros estamos we are
tú estás you are	
él está he is	ellos están they are

¿Cómo estás? How are you?

Estoy muy bien. I'm fine.

¿Dónde están mis papeles?

Están en su oficina.

- ♦ Condition (considered changeable)
- ♦ Location (estar en)

ir - to go (irregular)

yo voy I go	nosotros vamos we go
tú vas you go	
él va he goes	ellos van they go
ella va she goes	ellas van they go (all fem)
usted va you go	ustedes van you go

¿Adónde vas/va?
Voy a...

tener - to have (irregular)

yo tengo I have	nosotros tenemos we have
tú tienes you have	
él tiene he has	ellos tienen they have

¿Cuántos años tienes? How old are you?

Tengo 81 años. I'm 81 years old.

4. Regular -ar/-er/-ir Verbs: When you conjugate a verb, you change it to fit the subject you are using it with. Regular verbs follow a set pattern for conjugation.

- ♦ Formation: From the verb infinitive (estudiar, mirar, beber, asistir), DROP the infinitive ending (-ar/-er/-ir) and ADD the following ending: (YOU MUST MEMORIZE THESE ENDINGS!!!!)

	-AR	-ER	-IR
yo	-o	-o	-o
tú	-as	-es	-es
él	-a	-e	-e
nosotros	-amos	-emos	-imos
ellos	-an	-en	-en

Infinitive:	hablar(to speak)	beber(to drink)	escribir(to write)
	yo hablo	yo bebo	yo escribo
	tú hablas	tú bebes	tú escribes
	él habla	él bebe	él escribe
	nosotros hablamos	nosotros bebemos	nosotros escribimos
	ellos hablan	ellos beben	ellos escriben

- ♦ Meaning: The present tense form of the verb can translate a variety of ways:

yo estudio (I study, I do study, I am studying, I will study)

- ♦ If a conjugated verb is followed directly by another verb, only the first verb is conjugated. The second verb remains in the infinitive form.

Yo deseo estudiar. I want to study.

Yo necesito bailar como Pee Wee Herman. I need to dance like Pee Wee Herman.

- 5. Negatives: to make a statement negative, put NO before the verb. When answering a yes/no question, use NO to answer the question and NO to negate the verb:

Miguel no es profesor. Es estudiante.

¿Es Miguel médico? No, Miguel no es médico.

- 6. Nouns & Articles: All nouns in Spanish have gender (masculine or feminine) and number (singular or plural). Any word that modifies or describes a nouns must agree in number and gender with that noun.

- ♦ Note: most nouns ending in -o and -ma are masculine
most nouns ending in -a, -dad, -ción, sión are feminine

- ♦ Pluralizing nouns: nouns ending in a vowel, add -s: libro - libros, mesa - mesas
nouns ending in a consonant, add -es: papel - papeles

- ♦ The definite article (the):

	masc.	fem.		
sing.	el	la	el libro	la mesa
plural	los	las	los libros	las mesas

- ♦ The indefinite article (a, an, some):

	masc.	fem.		
sing.	un	una	un libro	una mesa
plural	unos	unas	unos libros	unas mesas

7. Adjectives: Adjectives will agree in number (always) and gender (if the masc. sing. form ends in -o) with the noun it modifies (describes). Here are the endings:

- ♦ adjectives ending in -o agree in number and gender:

	masc.	fem.		
sing.	-o	-a	guapo	guapa
pl.	-os	-as	guapos	guapas

- ♦ adjectives ending in -e, -ista, or a consonant agree in number:

	masc.	fem.			
sing.	Ø		excelente	idealista	moral
pl.	-s/-es		excelentes	idealistas	morales

- ♦ most adjectives of nationality have 4 forms (m. sing & pl, fem. sing. & pl) even if the masc. singular form ends in a consonant:

	masc.	fem.		
sing.	Ø	-a	español	española
pl.	-es	-as	españoles	españolas

- ♦ Some adjectives of nationality are:

francés / francesa	americano
italiano	mexicano
ruso	alemán / alemana (German)
inglés / inglesa	chino
portugués / portuguesa	japonés / japonesa

- Note: adjectives of nationality ending in *és* have written accent only in the masc. singular form.

- ♦ Possessive Adjectives: agree in number (nuestro agrees in gender too) with the object possessed by someone and precede it. Here are the forms:

my	mi	mis	our	nuestro (-a/-os/-as)
your	tu	tus		
his	} su	sus	their	}
her			your	
your				

mi libro, mis libros

nuestra clase, nuestros amigos

- ◆ **Placement:** adjectives generally follow the noun they modify, with some predictable exceptions:
 - adjectives of quantity: mucho, poco, numbers, etc.
 - bueno/malo/grande (change to buen/mal/gran before a masc. sing. noun
un mal libro, una mala persona)
 - possessive adjectives (mi, mis, tu, tus, su, sus, etc.)

8. Numbers: the cardinal numbers in Spanish are as follows:

1	uno	11	once	21	veinte y uno (veintiuno)
2	dos	12	doce	22	veinte y dos (veintidós)
3	tres	13	trece	23	veinte y tres (veintitrés)
4	cuatro	14	catorce	24	veinte y cuatro (veinticuatro)
5	cinco	15	quince	25	veinte y cinco (veinticinco)
6	seis	16	diez y seis (dieciséis)	26	veinte y seis (veintiséis)
7	siete	17	diez y siete (diecisiete)	27	veinte y siete (veintisiete)
8	ocho	18	diez y ocho (dieciocho)	28	veinte y ocho (veintiocho)
9	nueve	19	diez y nueve (diecinueve)	29	veinte y nueve (veintinueve)
10	diez	20	veinte	30	treinta

*Note: number 16 - 29 can be written as one word or three words. Numbers from 31 - 99 are written only as three words.

31	treinta y uno
41	cuarenta y uno
51	cincuenta y uno
61	sesenta y uno
71	setenta y uno
81	ochenta y uno
91	noventa y uno
100	cien (ciento)

9. Gustar (to like): the verb gustar is not used like other verbs. It is only conjugated in the 3rd person sing. and plural forms and is used with an indirect object pronoun (huh?). What follows gustar (noun or verb infinitive) is the subject of the verb and determines whether you use gusta or gustan. This is how you use it:

(no)	me te le nos les	+	gusta + <u>sing. noun or verb infinitive</u> gustan + <u>pl. noun</u>
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I like ...
you (fam.) like...
he/she/you like...
we like...
they like

Me gusta el español. Me gustan los animales. I like Spanish. I like animals.
No nos gusta estudiar. No nos gustan los exámenes. We don't like to study. We don't like tests.