

Gramática Esencial

Grammar Booklet

*A comprehensive guide to beginning
Spanish grammar and vocabulary*

CONTENTS

01	Personal Pronouns	02	The Verb Ser (To Be)
03	Essential Verbs	04	Interrogatives
05	Nationalities	06	Articles
07	Masculine & Feminine Nouns	08	Present Simple: Regular Verbs
09	Negative Sentences	10	Expressions of Place
11	Nouns: Singular and Plural	12	Spanish Possessives
13	Irregular & Reflexive Verbs	14	The Verb Ir (To Go)
15	The Verb Gustar	16	Adjectives: Gender & Number
17	Colors	18	The Preterite (Past Tense)
19	Hay vs. Está(n)	20	Near Future: Ir a + Infinitive
21	Demonstratives	22	Adverbs of Place

CAPÍTULO 01

Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns replace names or nouns. Spanish pronouns change based on gender, formality, and number.

KEY CONCEPT

Spanish has more pronouns than English — including formal *usted*, regional *vosotros*, and gendered plural forms.

SPANISH	ENGLISH	USE
Yo	I	Yourself
Tú	You	Informal (friends, family)
Él / Ella	He / She	Third person singular
Nosotros / Nosotras	We	Group including yourself
Vosotros / Vosotras	You all	Plural — Spain only
Ellos / Ellas	They	Group of people
Usted	You (formal)	Respect (teachers, strangers)
Ustedes	You all	Group / Latin America

CAPÍTULO 02

The Verb Ser (To Be)

Ser is used for identity, characteristics, origin, profession, and permanent attributes.

SUBJECT	CONJUGATION	ENGLISH
Yo	soy	I am
Tú	eres	You are
Él / Ella / Ud.	es	He / She is
Nosotros	somos	We are
Vosotros	sois	You all are (Spain)
Ellos / Uds.	son	They / You all are

WHEN TO USE SER

Yo soy Juan. Identity	Ella es de México. Origin
Él es médico. Profession	Hoy es lunes. Date / Time

⚠ SER VS. ESTAR

- Ser** = permanent traits (who/what).
- Estar** = temporary states and locations (how/where).

CAPÍTULO 03

Essential Verbs

Llamarse, Tener, and Vivir are three verbs you'll use immediately — for introductions, possession, and describing your life.

NOTE ON TENER + AGE
In Spanish you *have* years, not *are* them:
Tengo 25 años.
I have 25 years → I am 25.

LLAMARSE · TO BE CALLED	
SUBJECT	FORM
Yo	<i>me llamo</i>
Tú	<i>te llamas</i>
Él/Ud.	<i>se llama</i>
Nosotros	<i>nos llamamos</i>
Ellos/Uds.	<i>se llaman</i>

VIVIR · TO LIVE	
SUBJECT	FORM
Yo	<i>vivo</i>
Tú	<i>vives</i>
Él/Ud.	<i>vive</i>
Ellos/Uds.	<i>viven</i>

TENER · TO HAVE	
SUBJECT	FORM
Yo	<i>tengo</i>
Tú	<i> tienes</i>
Él/Ud.	<i>tiene</i>
Nosotros	<i>tenemos</i>
Ellos/Uds.	<i>tienen</i>

Me llamo Ana, tengo 22 años y vivo en Madrid.
My name is Ana, I'm 22 and I live in Madrid.

CAPÍTULO 04

Interrogatives

Question words are essential for conversation. In Spanish, all interrogatives carry an accent mark.

ACCENT RULE

All question words carry a written accent: *¿Qué?* *¿Quién?* *¿Cómo?* *¿Dónde?* *¿Cuándo?* — this distinguishes them from relative pronouns.

SPANISH	ENGLISH	USE
<i>¿Cuál?</i> / <i>¿Cuáles?</i>	Which? / What?	Choosing from options
<i>¿Cómo?</i>	How?	Manner or well-being
<i>¿Cuándo?</i>	When?	Time or dates
<i>¿Dónde?</i>	Where?	Location
<i>¿Qué?</i>	What?	General question
<i>¿Quién?</i>	Who?	People

¿Cuál es tu comida favorita?
What is your favourite food?

¿Cómo estás?
How are you?

¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?
When is your birthday?

¿Dónde está la biblioteca?
Where is the library?

CAPÍTULO 05

Nationalities

Nationality adjectives in Spanish must agree in gender and number with the noun they describe.

COUNTRY	MASCULINE	FEMININE	PLURAL (M)
Spain	español	española	españoles
France	francés	francesa	franceses
Mexico	mexicano	mexicana	mexicanos
UK	inglés	inglesa	ingleses
Germany	alemán	alemana	alemanes
China	chino	china	chinos

Soy español.
I am Spanish. (m)

Ella es francesa.
She is French. (f)

GENDER PATTERN

Nationalities ending in **-o** change to **-a** for feminine. Those ending in a consonant add **-a**. Those ending in **-e** stay the same.

PLURAL

Add **-s** after vowels, **-es** after consonants.

CAPÍTULO 06

Articles

Spanish has four definite articles (the) and four indefinite articles (a/an/some), all agreeing with the noun's gender and number.

DEFINITE ARTICLES · THE		
	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Masculine	el	los
Feminine	la	las

El libro / La mesa
The book / The table

Los niños / Las flores
The children / The flowers

INDEFINITE ARTICLES · A / SOME		
	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Masculine	un	unos
Feminine	una	unas

Un coche / Una casa
A car / A house

Unos zapatos / Unas llaves
Some shoes / Some keys

EL VS. ÉL

El (no accent) = the (article).

Él (accent) = he (pronoun).

This distinction is critical in written Spanish.

CAPÍTULO 07

Masculine & Feminine Nouns

Most Spanish nouns have a grammatical gender. Knowing the patterns helps you assign the right articles and adjectives.

TYPICAL ENDINGS

Nouns ending in **-o** → usually masculine.
Nouns ending in **-a** → usually feminine.
Exceptions exist: *el día, la mano*.

TYPICALLY MASCULINE (-O, -OR, -AJE)		TYPICALLY FEMININE (-A, -CIÓN, -DAD)	
el libro	the book	la mesa	the table
el coche	the car	la ciudad	the city
el ordenador	the computer	la canción	the song
el viaje	the trip	la llave	the key

EXCEPTIONS TO MEMORISE

el día (day) · *el mapa* (map) · *la mano* (hand) · *el problema* (problem)

CAPÍTULO 08

Present Simple: Regular Verbs

Spanish present tense verbs are conjugated by removing the infinitive ending (-ar, -er, -ir) and adding personal endings.

THREE VERB CLASSES

Spanish regular verbs come in three groups: **-AR** (most common), **-ER**, and **-IR**. Each group has its own set of endings.

-AR · HABLAR (TO SPEAK)		
SUBJECT	ENDING	FORM
Yo	-o	hablo
Tú	-as	hablas
Él/Ud.	-a	habla
Nosotros	-amos	hablamos
Ellos/Uds.	-an	hablan

Yo hablo español.
I speak Spanish.

Nosotros comemos en casa.
We eat at home.

-ER · COMER (TO EAT)		
SUBJECT	ENDING	FORM
Yo	-o	como
Tú	-es	comes
Él/Ud.	-e	come
Nosotros	-emos	comemos
Ellos/Uds.	-en	comen

CAPÍTULO 09

Negative Sentences

Forming negatives in Spanish is straightforward — simply place *no* before the verb. No extra auxiliary verb is needed.

DOUBLE NEGATIVES

Unlike English, Spanish uses double negatives and they are grammatically correct.

No tengo nada.

I don't have nothing → I have nothing.

STRUCTURE

Subject + NO + Verb + Rest of sentence

Yo no hablo francés.

I don't speak French.

Ella no es médica.

She is not a doctor.

No tenemos tiempo.

We don't have time.

¿No hablas español?

Don't you speak Spanish?

NEGATIVE WORDS

NEGATIVE	MEANING	EXAMPLE
<i>nada</i>	nothing	No sé nada.
<i>nadie</i>	nobody	No hay nadie aquí.
<i>nunca</i>	never	No como nunca tarde.

CAPÍTULO 10

Expressions of Place

Prepositions of place are used with the verb *estar* to say where someone or something is located.

SPANISH	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
En	In / At	Estoy en casa.
Al lado de	Next to	Mi casa está al lado del parque.
Entre	Between	Está entre dos edificios.
Detrás de	Behind	El gato está detrás del sofá.
Delante de	In front of	Estoy delante de la puerta.
Cerca de	Near	Vivo cerca del centro.

CONTRACTION: DEL

When **de** is followed by **el**, they merge: *de + el = del*.
Al lado del parque — not "de el parque".

ALSO NOTE

a + el = al (to the)

CAPÍTULO 11

Nouns: Singular and Plural

The rules for making Spanish nouns plural depend on the final letter of the word.

SPELLING CHANGES

Nouns ending in **-z** change the z to c before adding **-es**:
lápiz → *lápices*

ENDING	RULE	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Vowel	Add -s	<i>gato</i>	<i>gatos</i>
Consonant	Add -es	<i>ciudad</i>	<i>ciudades</i>
Ends in -z	z → c + es	<i>lápiz</i>	<i>lápices</i>

El estudiante es inteligente.
Singular

Los estudiantes son inteligentes.
Plural

Una flor bonita.
Singular indefinite

Unas flores bonitas.
Plural indefinite

CAPÍTULO 12

Spanish Possessives

Possessive adjectives must agree in number with the noun they describe — not with the owner.

⚠ CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE

Tú (accent) = You (pronoun)
Tu (no accent) = Your (possessive)
This distinction matters in writing.

OWNER	SINGULAR	PLURAL	ENGLISH
Yo	Mi	Mis	My
Tú	Tu	Tus	Your
Él/Ella/Ud.	Su	Sus	His / Her / Your
Nosotros	Nuestro/a	Nuestros/as	Our

Mi libro está aquí.
My book is here.

Nuestros amigos viven lejos.
Our friends live far away.

CAPÍTULO 13

Irregular & Reflexive Verbs

Reflexive verbs describe actions done to oneself. They use reflexive pronouns: *me, te, se, nos, os, se*.

STEM-CHANGING VERBS

Some verbs change their stem vowel in all forms except *nosotros/vosotros*:

- o → ue:** *acostarse*
- e → i:** *vestirse*

SUBJECT	LEVANTARSE	ACOSTARSE (O → UE)	VESTIRSE (E → I)
Yo	<i>me levanto</i>	<i>me acuesto</i>	<i>me visto</i>
Tú	<i>te levantas</i>	<i>te acuestas</i>	<i>te vistes</i>
Él/Ud.	<i>se levanta</i>	<i>se acuesta</i>	<i>se viste</i>

Yo vuelvo a casa.
I return home. (stem changes)

Nosotros volvemos juntos.
We return together. (no change)

CAPÍTULO 14

The Verb Ir (To Go)

Ir is highly irregular and essential — it's also the building block of the near future tense.

CONTRACTION: AL
a + el = al — always written as one word.
Voy al cine.
I'm going to the cinema.

IR CONJUGATION	
SUBJECT	FORM
Yo	voy
Tú	vas
Él/Ella/Ud.	va
Nosotros	vamos
Vosotros	vais
Ellos/Uds.	van

Voy al cine.
I'm going to the cinema.

¿Adónde vas?
Where are you going?

Vamos de viaje.
We're going on a trip.

Ella va a la escuela.
She goes to school.

CAPÍTULO 15

The Verb Gustar

Gustar works differently — the thing you like is the subject, and you are the indirect object. Literally: 'it pleases me'.

GUSTA VS. GUSTAN

Me gusta = singular or verb

Me gustan = plural items

The verb agrees with the *thing liked*, not the person.

INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

PRONOUN	MEANING	EXAMPLE
Me	To me	Me gusta el café.
Te	To you	Te gustan los gatos.
Le	To him/her	Le gusta la música.
Nos	To us	Nos gusta viajar.
Les	To them	Les gustan las fiestas.

Me gusta bailar.
I like to dance.

Me gustan las manzanas.
I like apples.

CAPÍTULO 16

Adjectives: Gender & Number

Spanish adjectives must agree in gender and number with the noun they describe, and usually come after the noun.

El libro azul
Masculine singular

La casa roja
Feminine singular

Los libros azules
Masculine plural

Las casas rojas
Feminine plural

ADJECTIVE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	PLURAL
big	grande	grande	grandes
small	pequeño	pequeña	pequeños/as
interesting	interesante	interesante	interesantes

AGREEMENT RULES

- Ending in -o: change to -a for feminine
- Ending in -e or consonant: same for both genders
- Plural: add -s (vowel) or -es (consonant)

CAPÍTULO 17

Colors

Colors in Spanish are adjectives and must agree in gender and number with the noun they describe.

INVARIABLE COLORS

Colors like *azul* and *verde* end in a consonant or -e — they don't change for gender, only for plural.

COLOR	MASCULINE	FEMININE	PLURAL
Red	rojo	roja	rojos/as
Blue	azul	azul	azules
Green	verde	verde	verdes
Yellow	amarillo	amarilla	amarillos/as
Black	negro	negra	negros/as
White	blanco	blanca	blancos/as

El coche rojo.
The red car. (m)

Las flores amarillas.
The yellow flowers. (f pl)

CAPÍTULO 18

The Preterite (Past Tense)

The preterite is used for completed actions in the past — things that happened and ended at a specific time.

WHEN TO USE IT

Use the preterite for single, completed events: *Ayer comí pizza.* (Yesterday I ate pizza.) Not for ongoing or habitual past actions.

-AR · HABLAR		
SUBJECT	ENDING	FORM
Yo	-é	hablé
Tú	-aste	hablaste
Él/Ud.	-ó	habló
Nosotros	-amos	hablamos
Ellos/Uds.	-aron	hablaron

Ayer hablé con mi madre.
Yesterday I spoke with my mother.

-ER/-IR · COMER		
SUBJECT	ENDING	FORM
Yo	-í	comí
Tú	-iste	comiste
Él/Ud.	-ió	comió
Nosotros	-imos	comimos
Ellos/Uds.	-ieron	comieron

Comimos en un restaurante.
We ate at a restaurant.

CAPÍTULO 19

Hay vs. Está(n)

Two essential verbs that describe existence and location — easy to confuse, but they serve different purposes.

QUICK TEST

Announcing something exists? → Hay

Saying where a specific known thing is? → Está / Están

HAY — EXISTENCE (THERE IS/ARE)

Used to say something **exists**. Works for singular and plural.

Hay una farmacia aquí.

There is a pharmacy here.

Hay muchos estudiantes.

There are many students.

ESTÁ(N) — SPECIFIC LOCATION

Used to say **where** a specific thing is located.

La farmacia está allí.

The pharmacy is there.

Los libros están en la mesa.

The books are on the table.

CAPÍTULO 20

Near Future: Ir a + Infinitive

The near future is used for plans and things about to happen — equivalent to 'going to' in English.

STRUCTURE

[Ir conjugated] + a + [Infinitive]

Use the present tense of **ir** + **a** + any verb in its infinitive form.

Voy a estudiar.
I am going to study.

Vas a comer.
You are going to eat.

Vamos a viajar.
We are going to travel.

Van a llegar tarde.
They are going to arrive late.

COMMON NEAR-FUTURE EXPRESSIONS

esta noche

mañana

la semana que viene

el próximo mes

pronto

CAPÍTULO 21

Demonstratives

Demonstratives point to specific nouns based on their distance from the speaker.

THREE DISTANCES

- Este/Esta** — near the speaker
- Ese/Esa** — near the listener
- Aquel/Aquella** — far from both

DISTANCE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	ENGLISH
Here (close)	Este / Estos	Esta / Estas	This / These
There (medium)	Ese / Esos	Esa / Esas	That / Those
Over there (far)	Aquel / Aquellos	Aquella / Aquellas	That / Those (far)

Este libro es interesante.
This book is interesting. (close)

Aquella montaña es alta.
That mountain is tall. (far away)

CAPÍTULO 22

Adverbs of Place

Aquí, Ahí, and Allí describe where something is relative to speaker and listener — and correspond to the demonstratives.

CULTURAL NOTE · ACÁ & ALLÁ
In Latin America, **Acá** (instead of Aquí) and **Allá** (instead of Allí) are common. The difference is subtle: acá/allá suggest a general area; aquí/allí a specific spot.

ADVERB	DISTANCE	DEMONSTRATIVE	EXAMPLE
<i>Aquí</i>	Close (speaker)	Este / Esta	El libro está aquí.
<i>Ahí</i>	Medium (listener)	Ese / Esa	Tu mochila está ahí.
<i>Allí</i>	Far (both)	Aquel / Aquella	La montaña está allí.

Ven aquí, por favor.
Come here, please.

Déjalo ahí sobre la mesa.
Leave it there on the table.

La tienda está allí al final.
The store is over there at the end.

Allí nació mi abuelo.
My grandfather was born over there.