

Vocabulary list 1

chair	silla
table	mesa
pencil	lápiz (m)
book	libro
blackboard	pizarra
ball pen	bolígrafo
paper	papel (m)
student	alumno
teacher	profesor (m)
to read	leer
to listen	escuchar
to write	escribir
to speak	hablar
to ask	preguntar
hello	hola
goodbye	adiós
folder	carpeta
to eat	comer
to sing	cantar
to depart	partir
good morning	buenos días
good afternoon	buenas tardes
good night	buenas noches
big	grande
small	pequeño
ugly	feo
beautiful	bonito
red	rojo
orange	naranja
yellow	amarillo
green	verde
blue	azul
purple	púrpura
violet	violeta

sandwich	bocadillo
shoe	zapato
computer	ordenador (m)
coffee	café (m)
friend	amigo
to run	correr
to watch	ver
sweet	dulce
funny	gracioso
heavy	pesado
light	ligero
hungry	hambriento
kind	amable
to play	jugar
tall	alto
high	alto
short (people)	bajo
low	bajo
money	dinero
flower	flor (f)
food	comida
brown	marrón
gray	gris
black	negro
white	blanco
transparent	transparente
golden	dorado
wall	pared (f)
ceiling	techo
floor	suelo
sky	cielo
window	ventana
air	aire
fire	fuego
school	escuela/colegio
high school	instituto
day	día

week	semana
park	parque
library	biblioteca
book shop	librería
Spain	España
Portugal	Portugal
France	Francia
Netherlands	Holanda
Italy	Italia
Germany	Alemania
England	Inglaterra
United States	Estados Unidos
Sweden	Suecia
Denmark	Dinamarca
Norway	Noruega
Finland	Finlandia
Greece	Grecia
doctor	médico
builder	albañil
lawyer	abogado
chess	ajedrez
once	una vez
twice	twice
0	cero
1	uno
2	dos
3	tres
4	cuatro
5	cinco
6	seis
7	siete
8	ocho
9	nueve
10	diez
11	once
12	doce
13	trece

14	catorce
15	quince
16	dieciséis
17	diecisiete
20	veinte
21	veintiuno
22	veintidos
23	veintitrés
30	treinta
31	treinta y uno
32	treinta y dos
40	cuarenta
41	cuarenta y uno
50	cincuenta
60	sesenta
70	setenta
80	ochenta
90	noventa
100	cien
101	ciento uno
122	ciento ventidós
189	ciento ochenta y nueve
1000	mil
see you later	hasta luego
fun (adj)	divertido
to understand	entender
sometimes	a veces
word	palabra
always	siempre
to work	trabajar
to want	querer
every day	todos los días
everyone	todos
badly	mal
nobody	nadie
language	idioma
perfectly	perfectamente

horse	caballo
tree	árbol (m)
to like	gustar *
eye	ojo
blonde	rubio
hair	pelo
to dry up	secarse (pr)
to get wet	mojarse (pr)
to brush	cepillar
to get up	levantarse (pr)
to repair	reparar
what	qué
where	dónde
why	por qué
how many	cuántos/cuántas
to finish	acabar
bored	aburrido
cool	guay
fear	miedo
happy	feliz
calm	calmado
sweet	dulce (food)
smelly	maloliente
to feel	sentir/sentido/sintiendo
to laugh	reír/reído/riendo
to do/make	hacer/hecho/haciendo
to comb	peinar/peinado/peinando
to dry	secar/secado/secando
to take	tomar/tomado/tomando
to give	dar/dado/dando
to learn	aprender/aprendido/apre ndiendo
to remember	recordar/recordado/recor dando
to sit down	sentarse (pr)/sentado/sentando
to fly	volar (irr)/volado/volando

to be able to	poder/podido/pudiendo
school	escuela
quickly	rápidamente
bed	cama
party	fiesta
year	año
old	viejo
brown (hair)	castaño
to wake up	despertarse (pr)
to dry	secar
to get dressed	vestirse (pr)
to shower	ducharse (pr)
to lift	levantar
to go	ir (ir)
when	cuándo
who	quién
how	cómo
here	aquí
boring	aburrido
tender	tierno
spider	araña
forgetful	olvidadizo
annoying	molesto
exhausted	agotado
poor	pobre
stinky	apestoso
oven	horno
to type	teclear/-ado/-ando
key	tecla (keyboard)
key	llave (f)
to bake	hornear
to dance	bailar
to cook	cocinar
kitchen	cocina
to climb	escalar
bicycle	bicicleta
to ride	montar

to have dinner	cenar
dinner	cena
to burn (intr)	arder
log	tronco
bone	hueso
song	canción (f)
passion	pasión (f)
lesson	lección (f)
to find	encontrar (irr)
to cough	toser
a book about horses	un libro sobre caballos
to talk about games	hablar de juegos
to finish	acabar/terminar
to burn (tr)	quemar
train	tren (m)
to grow (intr)	crecer
plantation	plantación (f)
action	acción (f)
to arrive	llegar
OK	vale
to cry	llorar
History	historia
story	historia
salad	ensalada
to lit	encender(also to turn on)
newspaper	periódico
sofa	sofá
bread	pan (m)
television	televisión (f)
tv	tele (f)
movie	película
candle	vela
tomato	tomate (m)
to open	abrir/abierto/abriendo
to break	romper/roto/rompiendo
cinema	cine (m)
kitchen	cocina

bathroom	baño
bedroom	habitación (f)
room	habitación (f)
home	casa/hogar (m)
entrance	entrada
attic	ático (top flat)
attic	desván (of a house)
basement	sótano
cellar	bodega
downstairs	en la parte de abajo
upstairs	en la parte de arriba
elevator	ascensor (m)
stairs	escaleras
cabinet	cajonera
drawer	cajón (m)
shelf	estantería (many shelves)
shelf	estante (one shelf)
bed	cama
wardrobe	armario
balcony	balcón (m)
armchair	sillón (m)
dining room	salón/comedor (m)
fridge	frigorífico
television	televisión (f)
tv	tele (f)
freezer	congelador (m)
frier	freidora
air conditioning	aire acondicionado
garden	jardín (m)
kitchen	cocina
pan	sartén (f)
lamp	lámpara
chandelier	lámpara de araña
mirror	espejo
carpet	alfombra
folder	carpeta
roof	tejado

microwave	microondas (m)
oven	horno
clock	reloj (m)
candle	vela
garage	garaje (m)
sink (toilet)	lavabo
sink (kitchen)	fregadero
to wash	fregar
bath tub	bañera
toilet	baño
loo	water (m)
shower	ducha
picture/painting	cuadro
washing machine	lavadora
drier	secadora
sponge	esponja
soap	jabón (m)
switch	interruptor (m)
socket	enchufe (m)
to shine	brillar
to pass	pasar
to happen	pasar/suceder/ocurrir
to think	pensar (irr)
pet	mascota
plant	planta
phone charger	cargador de teléfono
parking	aparcamiento
living room	sala de estar
in front of	delante de
over/about	sobre
parking	aparcamiento
water	agua (ambi)
potato	patata
to wait	esperar
knife	cuchillo
fork	tenedor (m)
spoon	cuchara

plate/dish	plato
hamburger	hamburguesa
fish (animal)	pez (m)
fish (as food)	pescado
tomato	tomate (m)
egg	huevo
candy	golosinas/chucherías
jam	mermelada
cheese	queso
pepper	pimienta
salt	sal
sugar	azúcar (m)
rice	arroz (m)
ice cream	helado
popsicle	polo
honey	miel (f)
pig/pork	cerdo
cow	vaca
beef	ternera
fries	patatas fritas
chips	patatas fritas
pie	pastel (m)
cake	tarta
banana	plátano
strawberry	fresa
blueberry	arándano
to fish	pescar
fruit	fruta
blackberry	mora
blackberry (plant)	zarza
milk	leche (m)
apple	manzana
vegetables	verdura (unc)
open (adj)	abierto
closed (adj)	cerrado
pillow	almohada
cushion	cojín (m)

comfortable	cómodo
uncomfortable	incómodo
pirate	pirata (m)
hand	mano (f)
bedroom cabinet	cómoda
to drink	beber
duck	pato
newspaper	periódico
– player	jugador de --
secretary	secretario
scientist	científico
boxer	boxeador
comedian	cómico
trainer	entrenador
boss	jefe/jefa
manager	encargado
actor	actor
actress	actriz
judge	juez
stylist	estilista
policeman/woman	policía
accountant	contable (com)
basketball	baloncesto
son	hijo
wine	vino
rich	rico
aspect/look	aspecto
to scratch	rascar
to buy	comprar
to kiss	besar
kiss (n)	beso
farmer	granjero
farmer (plants)	agricultor
delivery man	repartidor
cook	cocinero
waiter	camarero
engineer	ingeniero

nurse	enfermero
pilot	piloto (com)
dentist	dentista (com)
astronaut	astronauta (com)
surgeon	cirujano
receptionist	repcionista
bellboy	botones (com)
cup	taza
glass	vaso
glass (material)	cristal (m)
glass (material)	vidrio
glasses	gafas
to peel	pelar
to walk	andar (irr)
it's cold (weather)	hace frío
it's warm(weather)	hace calor
car	coche (m)
answer	respuesta
present	regalo
to help	ayudar
help	ayuda
also	también
date	fecha
other	otro
another	otro
to catch	coger
to say	decir
lie	mentira
to excuse	disculpar
liar	mentiroso
to go up	subir
to go down	bajar
to put in	meter
to take out	sacar
to enter/get in	entrar
to exit/get out	salir
piano	piano

to put	poner/puesto/poniendo
to think	pensar
cat	gato
to help	ayudar
to sleep	dormir/dormido/ durmiendo
towel	toalla
drawing	dibujo
photograph	foto
to study	estudiar
to pour	servir/servido/ sirviendo
tile	baldosa
doorknob	picaporte (m)
lamp post	farola
to glue/paste	pegar
chimney	chimenea
company	empresa
day	día (m)
night	noche (f)
morning	mañana
afternoon	tarde (f)
example	ejemplo
leg (person)	pierna
leg (animal, object)	pata
to screw up	meter la pata

Grammar notes.

Subject pronouns.

I	yo
You	tú
He	él
She	ella
We	nosotros
You(pl)	vosotros
They	ellos

Gender and number

In Spanish, many words have both gender and number, for example, the word “hermano” (brother) has masculine gender (género masculino) and singular number (número singular). The word “sister” has feminine gender and the word “brothers” has masculine gender and plural number (número plural).

Many English words have no gender, such as “computer”, “window” or “face”, even those that might have a use for it, such as “cat” or “bear”, but in Spanish almost all words have a gender, for example, “ventana” (window) is feminine, and “suelo” (floor) is masculine.

There are some exceptions, but generally the words that end in “a” are feminine and those that end in “o” are masculine. The ones that don't end in either... you'll have to remember.

Just like in English, plurals are formed by adding “s” at the end of the word, but you have to keep an eye on the articles: we don't have one single “the” for all, we have four:

el (masculine singular)

la (feminine singular)

los (masculine plural)

las (feminine plural)

Let's see a few examples:

El suelo	the floor
La manzana	the apple (since “manzana” is feminine)
Los hermanos	the brothers
Las hermanas	the sisters
La llave	the key (“llave” is one of the difficult ones you'll have to remember)
La botella	the bottle
El libro	the book
Las estrellas	the stars

These rules apply also to adjectives:

The short book	el libro corto
The short candle	la vela corta
The short movies	las películas cortas
The short roads	los caminos cortos

And, of course, to pronouns:

This book	este libro
This candle	esta vela
These movies	estas películas
These roads	estos caminos

As usual, there are some exceptions: some nouns don't change when you change the gender, such as some professions (“el pianista” or “la pianista” depending on whether it's a man or a woman, but the word “pianista” doesn't change). Some adjectives also don't change (“verde” means “green”, but it won't change depending on what it refers to)

Basic verb conjugation.

The first thing you have to know about Spanish is: we conjugate the verb differently depending on the person. By this I mean that “I eat” and “you eat” have the same form of the verb: “eat”, but in Spanish it's slightly different. Check the differences between English and Spanish.

to eat		comer	
I	eat	yo	como
you	eat	tú	comes
he	eat	él/ella	come
we	eat	nosotros/nosotras	comemos
you(pl)	eat	vosotros/vosotras	coméis
they	eat	ellos/ellas	comen

But don't panic: all regular verbs can be conjugated if you know the three “model” verbs, one ending in “ar”, one ending in “er” and one ending in “ir”. Here they are.

infinitive	cantar		beber		vivir
participle	cantado		bebido		vivido
gerund	cantando		bebiendo		viviendo
yo	canto	yo	bebo	yo	vivo
tú	cantas	tú	bebes	tú	vives
él/ella	canta	él/ella	bebe	él/ella	vive
nosotros/nosotras	cantamos	nosotros/nosotras	bebemos	nosotros/nosotras	vivimos
vosotros/vosotras	cantais	vosotros/vosotras	bebéis	vosotros/vosotras	vivís
ellos/ellas	cantan	ellos/ellas	beben	ellos/ellas	viven

This means that any time you find a verb and the infinitive ends in “ar”, you can conjugate it (unless it's irregular) like the verb “cantar”.

You may have noticed that the participle and the gerund are also included. Both will be essential a bit later in the course.

Now, let's imagine you find a new verb such as “cortar” (to cut). How would you conjugate it? Well, all you have to do is get the infinitive, which in this case is “cortar” and look at the ending. This one ends in “ar”, so it belongs to what we call in Spanish “first conjugation”, and it will be conjugated just like “cantar”, that is:

infinitivo	cortar
participio	cortado
gerundio	cortando
yo	corto
tú	cortas
él/ella	corta
nosotros/nosotras	cortamos
vosotros/vosotras	cortais
ellos/ellas	cortan

Verbs “ser” and “estar”.

The most important verb in Spanish is the verb “ser”, which means “to be”. Oddly enough, we have two verbs for “to be”: “ser” and “estar”.

We use the verb “ser” when we describe a state or quality of something or someone if that quality or state is permanent, but if it's temporary we use “estar”. For example, if I say I'm tall, I would say “yo soy alto”, but if I say I'm sick, I say “yo estoy enfermo”.

We also use “estar” for spatial location and durative periphrasis (what is called in English “present continuous” (you know, like in “you ARE eating”).

Unfortunately they are both irregular. Here are the impersonal forms and the present.

infinitivo	ser	estar
participio	sido	estado
gerundio	siendo	estando
yo	soy	estoy
tú	eres	estás
él/ella	es	está
nosotros/nosotras	somos	estamos
vosotros/vosotras	sois	estáis
ellos/ellas	son	están

I know it sounds stupid, but a good way to learn them is to mumble them to yourself while walking (specially if you do it a tempo with your steps).

The main 8 verbs and the very important things you can do with them.

There are eight verbs in Spanish that are used very often and you'll need to memorize and master them as soon as possible. As it often happens in most languages, the most used verbs are irregular (don't despair, many of the irregularities are shared with other verbs, so learning them by heart will come in handy as you learn more Spanish).

The first two you already know: “ser” and “estar”. The others are: “haber” (to have), “tener” (to have), “ir” (to go), “poder” (to be able to), “querer” (to want) and “hacer” (to do or to make).

infinitivo	haber	tener	ir	poder	querer	hacer
participio	habido	tenido	ido	podido	querido	hecho
gerundio	habiendo	teniendo	yendo	pudiendo	queriendo	haciendo
yo	he	tengo	voy	puedo	quiero	hago
tú	has	tienes	vas	puedes	quieres	haces
él/ella	ha	tiene	va	puede	quiere	hace
nosotros/nosotras	hemos	tenemos	vamos	podemos	queremos	hacemos
vosotros/vosotras	habéis	tenéis	vais	podéis	queréis	hacéis
ellos/ellas	han	tienen	van	pueden	quieren	hacen

All these verbs must be mastered perfectly as soon as possible, these are the kind of verbs that you cannot afford to have to think about in the middle of the speech, they have to come up immediately.

You have noticed that we have two verbs for “have”, but don't worry, just like “ser” and “estar” it's easy to tell when to use each.

“Tener” means possession, and we use it for everything we have, including parts of our bodies. We use “haber” when we want to use it with another verb, just like in English:

I have read a book Yo he leído un libro

These tenses are called compound tenses (formas compuestas) and, just like in English, there is one for each simple tense (see below for more information).

Out of the 8 main verbs (see further down in “repertoire of irregular verbs”), there are 7 that can be used for very important things in Spanish. Let's see each of them.

Ser: passive clauses.

Just like in English, you can create passive clauses using the verb “ser”. In Spanish the clauses that are considered impersonal (in Swedish these would be those in which the subject is “man” and in french those in which the subject is “on”) are included as a type of passive called reflex passive or “pasiva refleja”, and instead of “man” we use “se”.

The more common type of passives is the one analogous to the English version:

The car is washed	el coche es lavado
Those companies are helped	esas empresas son ayudadas
The building is watched	el edificio es vigilado

Estar: perífrasis durativa.

Just like in English, we have a periphrasis to state that an action is taking place right now.

I am writing	yo estoy escribiendo
The dog is barking	el perro está ladrando
My aunt is sleeping	mi tía está durmiendo
You are cooking	vosotros estais cocinando

As you can obviously see, the verb that is conjugated is “estar” and the other verb (which is the actual action that is taking place) remains as gerund no matter what tense we use for the other.

Haber: formas compuestas.

The verb “haber” is present in half of all the tenses in Spanish. The same happens in English; for every simple tense there is a compound one in which the verb “have” is combined with the other verb. Let's see examples.

I sing	I have sung
I played	I had played
I would write	I would have written
I will break	I will have broken

You can see that, in each pair, the verb “have” in the compound form is in the same tense the other

verb was in the simple form, that is, in “I would have written” the verb “would have” is in conditional form, just like “would write”.

The exact thing happens in Spanish (but with 8 tenses instead of 4), that's why it's crucial that you master this verb as soon as possible (unfortunately, it's quite irregular).

So far it will be more than enough that you master the “present perfect” or, as it is called in Spanish, “pretérito perfecto compuesto”. Let's see a few examples.

I have eaten	yo he comido
You have played	tú has jugado
He has kissed	él ha besado
We have built	nosotros hemos construido
You(pl) have drunk	vosotros habeis bebido
They have found	ellos han encontrado

I recommend (for those who want to go forward learning Spanish) that, every time you learn a new simple form, you also learn the compound one.

Tener and the obligation periphrasis.

I have to pee	yo tengo que mear
You have to clean	tú tienes que limpiar
He has to open	él tiene que abrir
We have to repair	nosotros tenemos que reparar
You(pl) have to dance	vosotros teneis que bailar
They have to pay	ellos tienen que pagar

Simple enough. Just remember that you always have to use “que” in the middle and the action goes in infinitive.

Ir: perífrasis de intención.

In English we say “I'm going to buy”, but in Spanish we just say “I go to buy” when we mean that we intend to do the action in the near future. Remember that the verb “ir” is the most irregular verb, so keep an eye on it.

I'm going to close	yo voy a cerrar
You are going to speak	tú vas a hablar
He is going to call	él va a llamar
We are going to search	nosotros vamos a buscar
You(pl) are going to break	vosotros vais a romper
They are going to sleep	ellos van a dormir

Poder: perífrasis de habilidad.

This one is also exactly like in English, all you have to remember is that the action verb goes in infinitive.

I can clean	yo puedo limpiar
You can type	tú puedes teclear

He can walk	él puede andar
We can cut	nosotros podemos cortar
You(pl) can throw	vosotros podeis tirar
They can put	ellos pueden poner

One thing you also have to remember is that when we mean human abilities that require learning such as driving, playing an instrument or swimming, we don't use the verb "poder", we use "saber" (to know). Examples:

I can swim	yo sé nadar
He can play piano	él sabe tocar el piano
You can drive	tú sabes conducir

Querer y la perífrasis desiderativa.

This is yet another periphrasis that goes with the action verb in infinitive. Use it like you would use the English version.

I want to fly	yo quiero volar
You want to run	tú quieres correr
He wants to catch	él quiere atrapar
We want to build	nosotros queremos construir
You(pl) want to sell	vosotros quereis vender
They want to burn	ellos quieren quemar

Object pronouns.

Let's explain what happens in spanish when you do things to people or to other things, like giving someone a present. (review the verb "ver")

I see me	yo me veo	
I see you	yo te veo	(see that "te" means "you" but not as subject)
I see him/it	yo lo veo	(also notice that "te" or "lo" goes before the verb)
I see her	yo la veo	
I see us	yo nos veo	
I see you(pl)	yo os veo	
I see them	yo los veo	
I see them (females)	yo las veo	

The words like "us" or "her" are called "object pronouns" (pronombres objeto).

Let's do some more examples.

The bird sees us	el pájaro nos ve
You buy it	tú lo compras
They speak to us	ellos nos hablan
She kisses me	ella me besa
We help you	nosotros te ayudamos
I find him	yo lo encuentro
I see her	yo la veo
you help them (masc)	vosotros los ayudais
you help them (fem)	vosotros las ayudais
she helps you (pl)	ella os ayuda

Later on in the course we will also learn that these pronouns (only the third person actually) change if they are indirect object instead of direct object. Also, the indirect object may appear twice in the same sentence (yes, it will be tons of fun).

To be scared of something in Spanish is literally “something gives me fear”, so it looks like this:

Me	da	miedo	el pollo
To me	gives	fear	the chicken

So if I wanted to say that they are scared of birds, it would be

Les	dan	miedo	los pájaros
to them	give	fear	the birds

Pronominal and reflexive verbs.

Pronominal verbs are those that go preceded by the **pronoun** of the subject, like the subject did it to himself (reflexive verbs are a type of pronominal verbs).

An example of a reflexive verb is to wash (lavarse)

Yo me lavo	I wash myself
Tú te lavas	You wash yourself
Él se lava	He washes himself
Nosotros nos lavamos	We wash ourselves
Vosotros os lavais	You wash yourselves
Ellos se lavan	They wash themselves

But not all pronominal verbs are verbs that the subject does upon himself, some are pronominal even though the action is not reflexive. One example is to wake up (despertarse).

Yo me despierto	I wake up
Tú te despiertas	You wake up
Él se despierta	He wakes up
Nosotros nos despertamos	We wake up
Vosotros os despertais	You wake up
Ellos se despiertan	They wake up

Other examples of pronominal verbs are to get up (levantarse), to have a shower (ducharse), to dry up (secarse) or to get wet (mojarse). These verbs are reflexive, **but in some cases they could be used non-reflexively** (it is possible to dry something or someone other than yourself or to wake up someone else) and in those cases they don't have the pronoun.

The verbs that are pronominal even though they are not reflexive, are always pronominal. Example of this type is the verb to laugh (reírse).

Repertoire of pronominal verbs:

to wake up	despertarse
to get up	levantarse
to shave	afeitarse
to dress up	vestirse
to get naked	desnudarse
to get wet	mojarse
to get dry	secarse

to laugh	reirse
to stand up	levantarse
to sit down	sentarse
to leave	irse
to worry	preocuparse
to move	moverse
to eat (specific thing)	comerse
to drink (specific thing)	beberse
to fall	caerse
to fall in love	enamorarse
to get sick	ponerse enfermo

Possessive articles.

Well, it's not that they are a mystery... you know what they are...

It's just that in Spanish we have a few more because we distinguish between different number and sometimes gender.

my book (masculine singular)	mi libro
my books (masculine plural)	mis libros
my house (feminine singular)	mi casa
my houses (feminine plural)	mis casas

your book (masculine singular)	tu libro
your books (masculine plural)	tus libros
your house (feminine singular)	tu casa
your houses (feminine plural)	tus casas

his/her book (masculine singular)	su libro
his/her books (masculine plural)	sus libros
his/her house (feminine singular)	su casa
his/her houses (feminine plural)	sus casas

our book (masculine singular)	nuestro libro
our books (masculine plural)	nuestros libros
our house (feminine singular)	nuestra casa
our houses (feminine plural)	nuestras casas

your(pl) book (masculine singular)	vuestro libro
your(pl) books (masculine plural)	vuestros libros
your(pl) house (feminine singular)	vuestra casa
your(pl) houses (feminine plural)	vuestras casas

their (masculine singular)	su libro
their books (masculine plural)	sus libros
their house (feminine singular)	su casa
their houses (feminine plural)	sus casas

So basically all have singular and plural and only the ones that end in “o” have feminine. Needless to say, you need to know if the noun you are referring to is masculine or feminine.

“There is” and “there are”

In Spanish we use a “strange” form of the verb “haber”.

“I have” in Spanish is “yo he” (which, as you know, doesn't mean to have as property, so it would be like a “I have + participle” that is waiting for the participle to arrive), “he has” is “él ha”, and here we should add another form, the “impersonal” form: **hay**

The verb would end up looking like this:

Yo	he
Tú	has
Él	ha
(impersonal)	hay
Nosotros	hemos
Vosotros	habéis
Ellos	han

This impersonal form is the one we use to say that there is something, in other words, that something exists:

There is a building: hay un edificio

There is a chair: hay una silla

There is a problem: hay un problema

There is a word: hay una palabra

There is space in the hard drive: hay espacio en el disco duro

The easy part is that it doesn't change for plural:

There are seven doors: hay siete puertas

There are two options: hay dos opciones

There are clouds in the sky: hay nubes en el cielo

Basic prepositions.

Prepositions are not always translatable because one single preposition can be equivalent to different ones depending on the context.

In further courses you will learn which preposition is to be used in each case, but here we have a list of the main ones and some examples.

in: en

the cat is in the bag: el gato está en la bolsa

on: en / encima de

the flowers are on the table: las flores están en la mesa / las flores están encima de la mesa

above/over: sobre

there is a picture over the TV: hay un cuadro sobre la television

under: bajo/debajo de

my shoes are under the bed: mis zapatos están bajo la cama / mis zapatos están debajo de la cama

between: entre

I weigh between sixty and ninety: peso entre sesenta y noventa

beside/by: junto a/al lado de

The broomstick is by the door: la escoba está junto a la puerta / la escoba está al lado de la puerta

in front of: en frente de / delante de

The cinema is in front of the theater : el cine está en frente del teatro / el cine está delante del teatro.

behind: detrás de / tras

the book is behind the chair: el libro está detrás de la silla / el libro está tras la silla.

Demonstrative articles

this **este** (**esta** if it's feminine, **estos** if it's plural and **estas** if it's feminine and plural)

that **ese** (**esa** if it's feminine, **esos** if it's plural and **esas** if it's feminine and plural)

In Spanish we have a third one that is used for nouns that are far away and/or not in the speaker's situation:

aquel (aquella if it's feminine, **aquellos** if it's plural and **aquellos** if it's feminine and plural)

So, for example, if I'm eating a chicken I say “este pollo está muy bueno”.

If I look at someone else's shoes I say “esos zapatos son nuevos”

And if I'm thinking about last summer I say “aquella playa era preciosa”

The general rule is that we use “este” and “ese” in the same cases as we use in English “this” and “that”, but we use the third position when:

- the object is located far away from both the speaker and listener
- the object is referred to as a memory

Repertoire of irregular verbs.

To be (permanent)

Ser / sido / siendo

Yo	soy
Tú	eres
Él	es
Nosotros	somos
Vosotros	sois
Ellos	son

To be (temporary and location)

Estar / estado / estando

Yo	estoy
Tú	estás
Él	está
Nosotros	estamos
Vosotros	estais
Ellos	están

To have (in compound forms)

Haber / habido / habiendo

Yo	he
Tú	has
Él	ha
Nosotros	hemos
Vosotros	habeis
Ellos	han

To have (possession)

Tener / tenido / teniendo

Yo	tengo
Tú	tienes
Él	tiene
Nosotros	tenemos
Vosotros	teneis
Ellos	tienen

To go

Ir / ido / yendo

Yo	voy
Tú	vas
Él	va
Nosotros	vamos
Vosotros	vais
Ellos	van

To be able to

Poder / podido / pudiendo

Yo	puedo
Tú	puedes

Él	puede
Nosotros	podemos
Vosotros	podéis
Ellos	pueden

To want

Querer / querido/ queriendo

Yo	quiero
Tú	quieres
Él	quiere
Nosotros	queremos
Vosotros	quereis
Ellos	quieren

To do/make

Hacer / hecho / haciendo

Yo	hago
Tú	haces
Él	hace
Nosotros	hacemos
Vosotros	haceis
Ellos	hacen

To give

Dar / dado / dando

Yo	doy
Tú	das
Él	da
Nosotros	damos
Vosotros	dais
Ellos	dan

To must (also to owe)

Deber / debido / debiendo

Yo	debo
Tú	debes
Él	debe
Nosotros	debemos
Vosotros	debeis
Ellos	deben

To find

Encontrar / encontrado / encontrando

Yo	encuentro
Tú	encuentras
Él	encuentra
Nosotros	encontramos
Vosotros	encontrais
Ellos	encuentran

Some important articles:

a un (una if it is feminine, unos if it is plural and unas if it is feminine and plural)
the el (la if it is feminine, los if it is plural and las if it is feminine and plural)

Spanish Crash course material

(warning, this is quite hard stuff that is here just for reference, you don't need to study this unless I say otherwise, but if you do, feel free to ask me if you have doubts)

Word categories.

Words in Spanish can be divided into 8 categories.

1. Verbs.

They talk about an action and, in a sentence, they usually play the role of the verb, although participles can be used as adjectives.

In Spanish almost all verbs have approximately 113 forms, depending on tense, person and number. Tenses are grouped in four groups: indicative, subjunctive, imperative and non-personal forms (but the imperative only has two and non-personal only three, so most are either indicative or subjunctive).

We use indicative tenses when the role of the speaker in the action is not declared.

We use subjunctive tenses when the speaker expresses some connection with the action (for example wishes the action would take place).

We use imperative to give orders.

The non-personal forms are the infinitive, the participle and the gerund.

In indicative and subjunctive there are two types of tenses, the simple and the compound.

Just like in English we have "I eat" and the equivalent compound "I have eaten" for every simple form there is a compound one that is formed with the verb "haber" followed by the participle of the other verb. So we have

Yo como (I eat)

Yo he comido (I have eaten)

Yo comía (I ate)

Yo había comido (I had eaten)

Yo comeré (I will eat)

Yo habré comido (I will have eaten)

... and so on.

2. Nouns.

They refer to realities (that includes, in this case, abstract realities such as non-existent or impossible things).

They can be the subject (or the main word in it), the direct object, the indirect object or sometimes circumstantial complement.

Nouns have gender (masculine and feminine, sorry, the gods haven't blessed this language with a neutral gender like they have German) and number (singular and plural).

The general rule is that if a noun ends in "o" it is masculine (few exceptions) and if it ends in "a" it is feminine (also, few exceptions).

Some nouns may refer to men and women alike (some professions) and other rare nouns have both genders.

Nouns are also changed depending on the number (singular or plural).

Plural is formed adding an "s" at the end, but if the original noun ends in a consonant, then "es" is added. Also, if the last consonant happens to be a "z" it has to be changed to a "c" (the sound doesn't change though).

Mesa - mesas

Libro - libros

Árbol - árboles

Cristal - cristales

Lapiz - lápices

3. Adjectives.

They modify the meaning of a noun.

They must have the same gender and number as the noun they modify. This means that if the noun is feminine and plural, then the adjective must be feminine and plural too.

Many adjectives don't change between masculine and feminine, usually the ones that don't end in "o" or in "a", such as "grande", "jóven", "verde" or "caliente", but they do require an "s" to form the plural.

4. Articles

I will use the word "determinant" because in Spanish the category is called "determinante" and there is a subcategory called "artículo" but only includes a few types.

Determinants specify the noun.

They actually can specify different things about the noun, such as whether it is a specific one or not ("the tree" or "a tree"), how many (two trees), where it is (this tree, that tree) or who is the owner (my tree, her tree).

There can be more than one (**the three** musketeers) and they also must have the same number and gender as the noun: masculine (el primer hijo) and feminine (la primera hija).

5. Pronouns

They substitute the noun.

In English we have only a few: I, you, him, her, it, we, they, this, that, something, nobody...

The interrogative pronouns are included in this category (where, what, when, who, how, why)

6. Adverbs.

They modify or specify the meaning of a verb.

Many in English end in "-ly" and in Spanish many end in "-mente".

Often they can be derived from an adjective (quick – quickly), just like in Spanish.

7. Prepositions.

They express location in time, space or logical frame.

Before we get into the fearsome lists of prepositions, remember that in Spanish there are two contractions: “to the” should be “a el” but is joined and becomes “al”.

Also, “of the” should be “de el” but it is joined and becomes “del”.

There is no direct translation to many of them, because different uses of one preposition in English may correspond to different prepositions in Spanish and vice versa.

I'll try to make a Spanish to English list and then English to Spanish examples.

a	to (like in “I go to school” or “give that to me” but not like “talk to me”)
ante	before (like in “he stood before the king”)
bajo	under, although it is more common to use “debajo de”
cabe	by (like in “she waited by the door”), but this one isn't used by almost anybody.
con	with
contra	against
de	of, but sometimes from. This one requires specific work.
desde	since (sometimes from)
durante	for (always regarding time, like in “the candle has been lit for two hours”)
en	in or on
entre	between
hacia	towards
hasta	until
mediante	by means of
para	for (indicating destination, like “this is for you”). Also requires specific work.
por	for (and many others. Requires specific work.)
según	“depending on” or “according to”
sin	without
so	upon (like “upon his demise”). Really unused, you may not find it even once.
sobre	over (sometimes about)
tras	after (although most times “after” is translated as “después de”)

There is also something that happens between languages: sometimes one language uses a preposition and other language doesn't. This is the case of several prepositions in Spanish, but the preposition “de” is the worst of all. You'll see right away.

A metal spoon: una cuchara de metal.

A car wheel: una rueda de coche.

A chicken breast: una pechuga de pollo.

A typewriter key: una tecla de máquina de escribir (literally a key of machine of writing)

You can see what I mean: in Spanish we put the preposition but we also say the nouns in the opposite order.

Here is a quite complete set of examples that you could use. If you master all these examples you will probably handle Spanish prepositions perfectly (I could estimate a 5% of exceptions). You can see that quite often there is no preposition in Spanish.

on Monday:	el lunes
on Mondays:	los lunes
in August:	en agosto
in the morning:	por la mañana
in 2006:	en 2006
in an hour:	en una hora
at night :	por la noche
at the weekend:	el fin de semana
at half past nine:	a las nueve y media
at half past one:	a la una y media
since 1980:	desde 1980
for 2 years:	durante 2 años
2 years ago:	hace dos años
before 2004:	antes de 2004
from Monday to/till Friday:	desde el lunes hasta el martes
He is on holiday until Friday.:	está de vacaciones hasta el Viernes
in the kitchen:	en la cocina
in London:	en Londres
in the book:	en el libro
in the car:	en el coche
in the picture:	en la foto
at the door:	en la puerta
at the table:	en la mesa
at a concert:	en un concierto
at the cinema:	en el cine
at work:	en el trabajo
the picture on the wall:	el cuadro de la pared
London lies on the Thames:	Londres está junto al Thames
on the left:	a la izquierda
on the first floor:	en la primera planta
the bag is under the table:	la bolsa está bajo la mesa
the fish are below the surface:	los peces están bajo la superficie
put a jacket over your shirt:	ponte una chaqueta encima de la camiseta
over 16 years of age:	por encima de los 16 años
walk over the bridge:	andar por el puente
climb over the wall:	saltarse la pared
a path above the lake:	un camino sobre el lago
swim across the lake:	cruzarse el lago
go to the cinema:	ir al cine
go to bed:	irse a la cama
go into the kitchen/ the house:	entrar en la cocina/la casa
go 5 steps towards the house:	anda 5 pasos hacia la casa
jump onto the table:	subirse a la mesa
a present from Jane:	un regalo de Jane
a page of the book:	una página del libro
the picture of a palace:	la foto de un palacio
a book by Mark Twain:	un libro de Mark Twain
on foot:	a pie

on horseback:	a caballo
get on the bus:	subirse al autobús
get in the car:	meterse en el coche
get off the train:	bajarse del tren
get out of the taxi:	bajarse del taxi
prices have risen by 10 percent:	los precios han subido un 10%
by car, by bus:	en coche, en autobús

8. Conjunctions.

They link. Sometimes adding a specific connection.

And, or, but, although, therefore, however, they are all conjunctions, but in Spanish we include here small combinations of words that play the role of a link, such as “which is to say” or “in order to”.

Spanish syntax.

The sentence in Spanish is made of nine different parts, but they can't all be in the same sentence, because some of them appear only in certain types of sentence.

1. The verb.

The verb is the part of the sentence that states the action that takes place.

It is the one part of the sentence that can't be missing.

Think about the verb more as a role to play in the sentence than as a type of word, because it is not only verbs that can play the role of the verb, sometimes it is other verbal constructions called periphrasis.

Here are some examples of verbs in sentences.

The dog **runs**.

The sun **shines**.

I **read** a book

My friend **has played**

By then I **will have arrived**

The train **keeps moving**

As you can see, the verb can have many forms depending on the tense, the subject and whether it is a verb or a periphrasis.

A periphrasis is a combination of verbs or verbs and other words (literally the word “periphrasis” means a “workaround of the speech”). We use them constantly also in English, for example “I have just eaten”, “he keeps calling” or “I'm trying to do it”. You can recognize them easily because they almost always have more than one verb.

When we have a periphrasis, only one verb is conjugated and the others are kept exactly the same. For example: trying to sleep.

I try to sleep	yo intento dormir
You try to sleep	tú intentas dormir
He tries to sleep	él intenta dormir
We try to sleep	nosotros intentamos dormir
You try to sleep	vosotros intentais dormir

They try to sleep ellos intentan dormir

In this case the verb that is conjugated is “intentar”, and the other one is kept as the infinitive.

2. The subject.

It is the part of the sentence that carries out the action that the verb describes.

In English there are no sentences without subject, but in Spanish there are very very few.

The role of subject has to be made by a noun, a pronoun or nominal group (a group that has a noun as main word or, sometimes, only word) or something bigger, like a nominal subordinate clause (example 5).

Here are some examples.

I run.

The table is full.

My house is grey.

My children, my wife and I live together.

The man who helped me change the wheel was tall.

You can see that sometimes sentences have more than one verb, but in this case there is a main one (was).

3. The direct object.

Is the part of the sentence that receives directly the action of the verb.

It doesn't have to appear in all sentences, but it is very common.

It has to be a nominal group (like the subject), a pronoun or a whole subordinate clause.

I ate **a donut**.

My friend bought **a new bike**.

I saw **two huge whales and a smaller one**.

We found **the key that didn't work in any of the locks**.

4. The indirect object.

Is the part of the sentence that receives indirectly the action of the verb.

For it to appear, there has to be a direct object that receives the action directly.

The indirect object usually receives the action in a way different from the direct object.

It has to be a nominal group, a pronoun or a whole nominal clause, just like the subject and the direct object.

In these examples the direct object is underlined and the indirect is bold.

I bought **my friend** a present.

My father read **me** a story.

Give **me** that.

We show **our teacher** our work.

In all these examples the indirect went first, but in Spanish that happens only sometimes. The indirect object is usually afterwards specially when there is a preposition involved, but it may be twice (in case you thought Spanish was simple).

5. Attribute.

There is a special type of sentences in Spanish called “copulative”, in which a subject is associated an adjective using the verbs to be (ser or estar) or look (parecer).

Yo soy guapo (I am handsome)

The action is barely an action, it is just being something or looking something, and that something (handsome) is called the attribute.

Your book is **long**.

That car is **broken**.
The bridge is **finished**.

Almost every time the attribute is an adjective, but in certain cases it can be something bigger (we won't go into that).

6. Circumstantial complement.

It locates the action in time, space or logical frame.

There are about nine subtypes, but the most important ones are of “time” “place” and “way”, that is, they inform about when the action takes place, where and how respectively.

There can be many in the same sentence and they can be different types of words, such as adverbs:

The scar is healing **fast**.

A lightning struck **suddenly**.

They can be nominal groups:

Every day I get up at half past six.

He struck the nail **several times**

They can also be weirder things

Make sure you fix the sofa **in a way that no one notices it was broken**.

7. Agent (agent complement)

In passive clauses the direct object becomes the subject of the sentence:

active: The builders fixed my roof

passive: The roof was fixed by the builders

Even though the action of fixing is done by the builders, the action of being fixed is “done” by the roof. That is what I meant when I said that when a sentence is turned into passive the direct object becomes the verb. Then what does the subject become? Not the direct object, because the builders don't receive the action...

It becomes the agent (or the agent complement if we are talking in Spanish), so in that sentence the builders are the agent.

It is quite common that the agent doesn't appear in the sentence, because very usually we use the passive because we don't know who did the action:

The sink had been cleaned (I don't know who was the agent of that and I don't want to say “someone had cleaned the sink”)

In Spanish they all start with the preposition “por”.

8. Supplement.

We won't study this one until it appears (and it will).

9. Predicative complement.

It's a bit strange and avoidable, so I think it is unnecessary. You may ask me if you are interested but it will require mastery of the other 8 components, otherwise you'll mistake it.

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aicique
oiachi
ucuceo