

Vocabulary list 1

chair	silla	sandwich	bocadillo
table	mesa	shoe	zapato
pencil	lápiz (m)	computer	ordenador (m)
book	libro	coffee	café (m)
blackboard	pizarra	friend	amigo
ball pen	bolígrafo	to run	correr
paper	papel (m)	to watch	ver
student	alumno	sweet	dulce
teacher	profesor (m)	funny	gracioso
to read	leer	heavy	pesado
to listen	escuchar	light	ligero
to write	escribir	hungry	hambriento
to speak	hablar	kind	amable
to ask	preguntar	to play	jugar
hello	hola	tall	alto
goodbye	adiós	high	alto
folder	carpeta	short (people)	bajo
to eat	comer	low	bajo
to sing	cantar	money	dinero
to depart	partir	flower	flor (f)
good morning	buenos días	food	comida
good afternoon	buenas tardes	brown	marrón
good night	buenas noches	gray	gris
big	grande	black	negro
small	pequeño	white	blanco
ugly	feo	transparent	transparente
beautiful	bonito	golden	dorado
red	rojo	wall	pared (f)
orange	naranja	ceiling	techo
yellow	amarillo	floor	suelo
green	verde	sky	cielo
blue	azul	window	ventana
purple	púrpura	air	aire
violet	violeta	fire	fuego

school	escuela/colegio	0	cero
high school	instituto	1	uno
day	día	2	dos
week	semana	3	tres
park	parque	4	cuatro
library	biblioteca	5	cinco
book shop	librería	6	seis
Spain	España	7	siete
Portugal	Portugal	8	ocho
France	Francia	9	nueve
Netherlands	Holanda	10	diez
Italy	Italia	11	once
Germany	Alemania	12	doce
England	Inglaterra	see you later	hasta luego
United States	Estados Unidos	fun (adj)	divertido
Sweden	Suecia	to understand	entender
Denmark	Dinamarca	sometimes	a veces
Norway	Noruega	word	palabra
Finland	Finlandia	always	siempre
Greece	Grecia	to work	trabajar
doctor	médico	doctor	médico
builder	albañil	to want	querer
lawyer	abogado	every day	todos los días
chess	ajedrez	everyone	todos
once	una vez	badly	mal
twice	twice	nobody	nadie
language	idioma	school	escuela
perfectly	perfectamente	quickly	rápidamente
horse	caballo	bed	cama
tree	árbol (m)	party	fiesta
to like	gustar *	year	año
eye	ojo	old	viejo
blonde	rubio	brown (hair)	castaño
hair	pelo	to wake up	despertarse (pr)
to dry up	secarse (pr)	to dry	secar
to get wet	mojarse (pr)	to get dressed	vestirse (pr)
to brush	cepillar	to shower	ducharse (pr)

to get up	levantarse (pr)	to lift	levantar
to repair	reparar	to go	ir (irr)
what	qué	when	cuándo
where	dónde	who	quién
why	por qué	how	cómo
how many	cuántos/cuántas	here	aquí
to finish	acabar	boring	aburrido
bored	aburrido	tender	tierno
cool	guay	spider	araña
fear	miedo	forgetful	olvidadizo
happy	feliz	annoying	molesto
calm	calmado	exhausted	agotado
sweet	dulce (food)	poor	pobre
smelly	maloliente	stinky	apestoso
to feel	sentir/sentido/sintiendo	oven	horno
to laugh	reír/reído/riendo	to type	teclear/-ado/-ando
to do/make	hacer/hecho/haciendo	key	tecla (keyboard)
to comb	peinar/peinado/peinando	key	llave (f)
to dry	secar/secado/secando	to bake	hornear
to take	tomar/tomado/tomando	to dance	bailar
to give	dar/dado/dando	to cook	cocinar
to learn	aprender/aprendido/aprendiendo	kitchen	cocina
to remember	recordar/recordado/recordando	to climb	escalar
to sit down	sentarse (pr)/sentado/sentando	bicycle	bicicleta
to fly	volar (irr)/volado/volando	to ride	montar
to be able to	poder/podido/pudiendo	to have dinner	cenar
dinner	cena	to finish	acabar/terminar
to burn (intr)	arder	to burn (tr)	quemar
log	tronco	train	tren (m)
bone	hueso	to grow (intr)	crecer
song	canción (f)	plantation	plantación (f)
passion	pasión (f)	action	acción (f)
lesson	lección (f)	to arrive	llegar
to find	encontrar (irr)	OK	vale
to cough	toser	to cry	llorar
a book about horses	un libro sobre caballos	History	historia
to talk about games	hablar de juegos	story	historia

Useful examples.

I have brown hair
I brush my teeth
I am scared of the train

Tengo el pelo castaño
Yo me cepillo los dientes
Me da miedo el tren.

Grammar notes.

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).

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

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
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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
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Tú	debes
Él	debe
Nosotros	debemos
Vosotros	debeis
Ellos	deben

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)
this	este (esta estos estas)
that	e (ese (esa esos esas)

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 aquellos aquellas)

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"

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 a 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”)
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.

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.