

Regular Present Verb Conjugation

Spanish verbs are divided into three categories, -ar, -er and -ir verbs. These names refer to the last two letters of the verbs in their infinitive (unconjugated) forms (The English infinitive of speak is “to speak”). In order to express oneself properly, Spanish verbs must be *conjugated* (changed from their infinitive form), depending on who or what is performing the action. The following three charts show the changed endings of the three verb types, given in the chart introduced on the “Subject Pronouns” Pattern Mastery Guide.

Subject pronouns		-ar verb endings		-er / (-ir) verb endings	
yo (I)	nosotros (we)	-o	-amos	-o	-emos (-imos)
tú (you)	vosotros (all of you)	-as	-áis	-es	-éis (ís)
él (he) ella (she) Usted (formal you)	ellos (they) ellas (they) Ustedes (all of you)	-a	-an	-e	-en

Verbs are properly conjugated by taking the infinitive form (*example: hablar, comer, vivir*), removing the last two letters (*ar, er, ir*) and adding the appropriate ending from the charts above, according to who or what is performing the action. For example, to say “I speak”, one should first remove the “ar” from hablar (to speak), and add the ending which corresponds to the “yo” (“I”) form. A second example is given with the tú form of “comer” (to eat).

“I speak”	<u>(Person)</u>	<u>Infinitive - “ar”</u>	<u>+ ending =</u>	<u>proper form</u>	
“You (fam.) eat”	(yo)	hablar	+ o =	hablo	
	(Tú)	comer	+es =	comes	

Sample Regular Verb Conjugations

hablar (to speak)		comer (to eat)		vivir (to live)	
(yo) hablo	(nosotros) hablamos	(yo) como	(nosotros) comemos	(yo) vivo	(nosotros) vivimos
(tú) hablas	(vosotros) <i>habláis</i>	(tú) comes	(vosotros) <i>coméis</i>	(tú) vives	(vosotros) <i>vivís</i>
(él, ella, usted) habla	(ellos/ellas/ustedes) hablan	(él, ella, usted) come	(ellos/ellas/ustedes) comen	(él, ella, usted) vive	(ellos/ellas/ustedes) viven

Other common -ar verbs:

comprar (to buy)
desear (to desire)
escuchar (to listen)
estudiar (to study)
mirar (to watch)
tomar (to take)
trabajar (to work)

Other common -er verbs:

aprender (to learn)
beber (to drink)
comprender (to understand)
leer (to read)
responder (to respond)
vender (to sell)
deber (should, must, ought)

Other common -ir verbs:

abrir (to open)
describir (to describe)
escribir (to write)
recibir (to receive)
subir (to go up; to board)

For additional practice on these concepts, please visit:

<http://www.studyspanish.com/tutorial> (exercises #8-10)

<http://www.conjuguemos.com> (exercise #1)

http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercises/present_tense.html (includes some irregulars)