

Subject Pronouns in Spanish

Pronouns (I, you, it, her, him, us, etc.) are words which replace nouns and refer to people or objects. **Subject pronouns** are words which replace the person *doing* the action in the sentence as in the case of “I” in the following sentence: (*I* wrote a book). Although pronouns are not required in every sentence, they are among the most common words in the language due to their simplicity.

Subject Pronouns with English equivalents	
yo (<i>I</i>)	nosotros (<i>we</i>) nosotras (<i>we fem.</i>)
tú (<i>familiar you</i>)	(vosotros/as) (<i>plural familiar you</i>)
él (<i>he</i>) ella (<i>she</i>) usted (<i>formal you</i>)	ellos (<i>they</i>) ellas (<i>they-feminine</i>), ustedes (<i>plural you</i>)
(3 rd person)	(3 rd person plural)

The chart to the right represents the standard subject pronouns in a graph meant to correspond to the verb conjugations (see Pattern Mastery Guide on verb

conjugations), as subject pronouns must be used with the corresponding form of the verb. It is set up so that the left column represents singular pronouns: I (*yo*), familiar you (*tú*) and he (*él*) / she (*ella*) / formal you (*usted*). The right column represents the plural forms: we (*nosotros/nosotras*), plural familiar you (*vosotros/vosotras*), they (*ellos-masc./masc. & fem.*), (*ellas-all feminine*) and standard plural you (*ustedes*)

When expressing “you” in Spanish, take note of these differences:

- *Tú* is used with family, friends, close acquaintances, younger children or pets. *Usted* is generally used with business associates, formal acquaintances, service professions or people you meet for the first time. If in doubt, you should usually use the *usted* form first, until the person with whom you are speaking gives you permission to use *tú* by using it himself or by direct request.
- *Vosotros* (the plural form of *tú*) is generally only used in Spain. The rest of the world uses the *ustedes* form to indicate any plural form of you (where *you* is made up of more than one person). You will be understood if you use the *ustedes* form everywhere.

To practice this concept, please visit:

<http://www.studyspanish.com/lessons/subpro.htm>