THE BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO SPANISH
EVERYDAY VOCABULARY AND GRAMMAR TO HELP YOU SURVIVE IN SPANISH (AND THEN SOME!)
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While you may know “hola”, there are a number of other common Spanish greetings. Spanish speakers use different greetings depending on the time of day, including:

- **Buenos días** (good morning)
- **Buenas tardes** (good afternoon)
- **Buenas noches** (good evening/good night)

Note: You can also say “Buenas” or “muy buenas” a shortened version of the above three greetings, suitable in any informal situation.

There are, of course, other ways of greeting someone. Formal greetings use the formal form “usted”, including:

- ¿Cómo está **usted**? (How are you?)
- ¿Cómo le va? (How’s it going?)
- ¿Qué **hace**? (What are you doing?)

Informal greetings use the informal form “tu”, including:

- ¿Cómo **estás**? (Hello, how are you?)
- ¿Cómo te va? (How’s it going?)
- ¿Qué **haces**? (What are you doing?)

Another extremely common informal greeting is ¿Qué tal? which roughly means “What’s up?”

Common responses to these questions include:

- Bien, gracias. / Muy bien. (Well, thanks. / Very well.)
- Como siempre. (As always.)
- Más o menos. (Okay, so-so.)
- Todo bien. (All good, great.)
- Nada. (Nothing.)

When meeting someone for the first time, you can say “mucho gusto” (nice to meet you) or “encantado/encantada” (how do you do).
GREETINGS

When leaving somewhere, you can use the same expressions to say goodbye as you used to say hello, given the time of day:
  
  Buenos días (good morning)
  Buenas tardes (good afternoon)
  Buenas noches (good evening/good night)

Other common ways to say goodbye include:
  
  Adiós (Bye)
  Hasta luego/hasta más tarde (See you later)
  Hasta mañana (See you tomorrow)
  Hasta pronto (See you soon)
  Hasta la próxima (Until next time)
  Hasta ahora (See you in a minute)
  Nos vemos. (See you soon/See ya)

A few more formal ways to end a conversation or phone call include:
  
  Que tenga un buen día. (Have a nice day!)
  Encantada de haberle visto. (Pleased to have seen you.)

Practice pronouncing these greetings and more with this video from the Transparent Spanish YouTube channel.
CHAPTER TWO

PERSONAL PRONOUNS
Spanish personal pronouns serve the same purpose as in English, but they can be a bit trickier for a few reasons.

First, many speakers do not use personal pronouns in spoken Spanish. This is because the verb conjugation will identify the subject. A pronoun is usually only used when referring to a third person (he, she, or they). As you get more familiar with verb conjugations (which we’ll cover in this eBook), you’ll find this less confusing.
Second, Spanish uses different forms of address depending on the level formality required:

Tú -- Use tú with friends, peers, children, and people younger than you.

Usted – Use usted with your boss, people older than you, or any adults you do not know.

Third, Spanish pronouns vary based on location. In the table above, we’ve given the most common Latin American pronouns. But in Spain, “vosotros” is used for the plural, informal “you.”

Then there’s the confusing concept of “voseo”. In the Southern Cone (Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay) and some parts of Central America, “vos” is used as the single “you”. Learn more about the rules dictating the Spanish “voseo” in this blog post.
CHAPTER THREE

DEFINITE & INDEFINITE ARTICLES
DEFINITE & INDEFINITE ARTICLES

DEFINITE ARTICLES
In English, when referring to a specific object, we use one article: the. (The cats, the bottle, the sky, etc.) In Spanish, there are four ways to say the:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSONAL PRONOUNS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El</td>
<td>Masculine, singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La</td>
<td>Feminine, singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los</td>
<td>Masculine, plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las</td>
<td>Feminine, plural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We can see these pronouns in action when describing a dog:
El pero (the male dog)  Los perros (the male dogs)
La perra (the female dog) Las perras (the female dogs)

In those examples, it’s pretty obvious when to use the masculine or feminine pronoun—depending on the gender of the dog. But all Spanish nouns have gender, whether it’s an animate object or not. Unfortunately, there’s no rule governing noun gender—it’s just something you have to memorize.

Examples:
El vestido (the dress) → “Dress” may seem like a feminine noun, but it’s masculine.
La corbata (the tie) → Again, “tie” might seem like a masculine noun, but it’s feminine.
DEFINITE & INDEFINITE ARTICLES

INDEFINITE ARTICLES
In English, when referring to an unspecified object, we use *a, an, or some*. (a flower, an apple, some cupcakes, etc.) In Spanish, there are four ways to say the:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSONAL PRONOUNS</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Un</td>
<td>Masculine, singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Una</td>
<td>Feminine, singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unos</td>
<td>Masculine, plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unas</td>
<td>Feminine, plural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We can see these pronouns in action when describing a dog:
- **Un** pero (a male dog)
- **Una** perra (a female dog)
- **Unos** perros (some male dogs)
- **Unas** perras (some female dogs)

Examples:
- Un sombrero (a hat)
- Una puerta (a door)
- Unos lápices (some pencils)
- Unas manzanas (some apples)

Learn more about noun gender in Spanish in this quick [grammar video.](#)
CHAPTER FOUR

VERB CONJUGATIONS
VERB CONJUGATIONS

-AR VERBS

The first group of verbs, known as –ar verbs, includes verbs that end in –ar, such as trabajar (to work), hablar (to talk), and mirar (to look at). To conjugate –ar verbs, drop the –ar from the end of the verb (this forms the “root”) and append the correct conjugation suffix. The suffix changes depending on the subject performing the verb, so it’s important to memorizing these endings.

Verbs ending in –ar are conjugated using the following endings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo</td>
<td>-o</td>
<td>Nosotros -amos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú</td>
<td>-as</td>
<td>Vosotros -àis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted*</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes -an</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Usted (you) used the same conjugation as él/ella (he/she), NOT tú. Same goes for ustedes using the same conjugation as ellos/ellas.

**Note: Remember, vosotros is only used in Spain.

Trabajar (to work)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo</td>
<td>trabajo</td>
<td>Nosotros trabajamos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú</td>
<td>trabajas</td>
<td>Vosotros trabajàis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted*</td>
<td>trabajają</td>
<td>Ellos/Ellas trabajan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hablar (to speak)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo</td>
<td>hablo</td>
<td>Nosotros hablamos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú</td>
<td>hablaas</td>
<td>Vosotros hablàis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted habla*</td>
<td>habla</td>
<td>Ellos/Ellas haban</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**VERB CONJUGATIONS**

-**ER VERBS**

The second group of verbs, known as –er verbs, includes verbs that end in –er, such as comprender (to understand) or correr (to run). To conjugate –er verbs, drop the –er and add the following endings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo -o</td>
<td>Nosotros -emos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú -es</td>
<td>Vosotros** -éis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted* -e</td>
<td>Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes -en</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Usted (you) used the same conjugation as él/ella (he/she), **NOT** tú. Same goes for ustedes using the same conjugation as ellos/ellas.

**Note: Remember, vosotros is only used in Spain.**

**Comprender (to understand)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo compren<strong>do</strong></td>
<td>Nosotros comprend<strong>emos</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú comprendes</td>
<td>Vosotros comprendé<strong>ís</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted comprende</td>
<td>Ellos/Ellas comprenden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Correr (to run)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo corre<strong>o</strong></td>
<td>Nosotros corre<strong>mos</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú corres</td>
<td>Vosotros corre<strong>ís</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted corre</td>
<td>Ellos/Ellas corre<strong>n</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VERB CONJUGATIONS

-IR VERBS
The third group of verbs, known as –ir verbs, includes verbs that end in –ir, such as vivir (to live) or escribir (to write). To conjugate –ir verbs, drop the –ir and add the same endings are –er verbs (with the exception of vosotros, for the Castililan Spanish learners among us!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo</td>
<td>-o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú</td>
<td>-es</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted*</td>
<td>-e</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Usted (you) used the same conjugation as él/ella (he/she), NOT tú.
Same goes for ustedes using the same conjugation as ellos/ellas.
**Note: Remember, vosotros is only used in Spain.

Vivir (to live)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yo</th>
<th>Nosotros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vivo</td>
<td>vivemos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú</td>
<td>Vosotros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vives</td>
<td>vivéis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted</td>
<td>Ellos/Ellas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comprende</td>
<td>viven</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, the different verb endings indicate the subject of the sentence—”vivo” indicates that the subject is “I”, because it ends in “o”. That’s why many Spanish speakers drop the personal pronouns. More often than not, you’ll hear:

Escribo. (I write.)
Trabajas. (You work.)
Ella habla. (She speaks.)*

Partemos. (We leave.)
Vivéis. (You live.)
Ellos corren. (They run.)*

*Note: You should still use the pronoun in the third person, unless you’ve already determined who you’re talking about.
CHAPTER FIVE

STEM-CHANGING VERBS
STEM-CHANGING VERBS

We hate the be the bearer of bad news, but the last chapter was a bit of an over-simplification of conjugation Spanish verbs. There are many exceptions in the form of stem-changing verbs, or verbs whose stems change when conjugated in the present. You’ll want to memorize the following rules to help you manage the exceptions.

1. e→ie verbs
In some verbs, “e” becomes “ie” in the stem when conjugated, except in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

   Example: empezar (to begin)
   Yo empiezo
   Tú empiezas
   Él/ella/usted empieza
   Nosotros(as) empezamos*
   Vosotros(as) empezáis*
   Ellos, ellas, ustedes empiezan

The following verbs are all “e→ie” verbs:

advertir (to warn)  
apretar (to tighten)  
atender (to pay attention)  
atravesar (to go through)  
calentar (to heat)  
cerrar (to close)  
comenzar (to start)  
concertar (to set a date)  
confesar (to confess)  
convertir (to convert)  
defender (to defend)  
despertarse (to wake up)  
digerir (to digest)  
divertirse (to have fun)  
encender (to light)  
entender (to understand)  
extender (to stretch)  
herir (to hurt)  
hervir (to boil)  
mentir (to lie)  
negar (to deny)  
pensar (to think)  
perder (to lose)  
prefeirir (to prefer)  
queder (to want)  
sentarse (to sit)  
sentirse (to feel)  
sugerir (to suggest)  
temblar (to tremble)  
tender (to spread out)  
transferir (to transfer)  
tropezar (to stumble)
STEM-CHANGING VERBS

2. o→ue verbs

In some verbs, “o” becomes “ue” in the stem when conjugated, except in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

Example: almorzar (to have lunch)
- Yo almuerzo
- Tú almuerzas
- Él/ella/usted almuerza
- Nosotros(as) almorzamos
- Vosotros(as) almorzáis
- Ellos/ellas/ustedes almuerzan

The following verbs are all “o→ue” verbs:

- acordar(se) (to remember)
- acostar(se) (to lie down, to go to bed)
- apostar (to bet)
- colgar (to hang)
- comprobar (to confirm)
- contar (to tell, to count)
- desenvolver (to unwrap)
- devolver (to give back)
- doler (to hurt)
- dormir (to sleep)
- encontrarse (to meet, to find)
- envolver (to wrap)
- forzar (to force)
- morder (to bite)
- morir (to die)
- mostrar (to show)
- mover (to move)
- poder (to be able to)
- probar (to try)
- recordar (to remember)
- resolver (to solve)
- rodar (to roll)
- soler (to be used to)
- soltar (to let go, to release)
- soñar (to dream)
- volar (to fly)
- volver (to come back)
3. e→i verbs

In some verbs, “e” becomes “i” in the stem when conjugated, except in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

Example: pedir (to ask)
- Yo pido
- Tú pides
- Él/ella/usted pide
- Nosotros(as) pedimos
- Vosotros(as) pedís
- Ellos/ellas/ustedes piden

The following verbs are all “e→i” verbs:
- competir (to compete)
- impedir (to stop)
- rendir (to produce, yield)
- servir (to serve)
- vestir(se) (to (get) dressed)
- despedir (to say goodbye)
- medir (to measure)
- repetir (to repeat)
- teñir (to dye)
STEM-CHANGING VERBS

4. c→zc verbs
In some verbs, “c” becomes “zc” in the stem when conjugated, but ONLY in the first person “yo” form.

Example: parecer (to seem)
- Yo parezco
- Tú pareces
- Él/ella/usted parece
- Nosotros(as) parecemos
- Vosotros(as) parecéis
- Ellos/ellas/ustedes parecen

The following verbs are all “c→cz” verbs:

- abastecer [to supply]
- agradecer [to thank]
- amanecer [to dawn]
- anochecer [to get dark]
- aparecer [to appear]
- conducir [to drive]
- conocer [to know, to meet]
- crecer [to grow]
- deducir [to deduce]
- empobrecer [to make poor]
- enriquecer [to get rich]
- envejecer [to age]
- establecer [to establish]
- fallecer [to pass away]
- favorecer [to favor]
- fortalecer [to strengthen]
- inducir [to induce]
- introducir [to insert]
- merecer [to deserve]
- nacer [to be born]
- obedecer [to obey]
- ofrecer [to offer]
- permanecer [to remain]
- pertenecer [to belong]
- producir [to produce]
- reducir [to reduce]
- rejuvenecer [to rejuvenate]
- seducir [to seduce]
- traducir [to translate]
STEM-CHANGING VERBS

There are other irregular verbs that change in the present tense for pronunciation purposes. The verbs keep the same sound but add or change a letter:

**Ending**: -car  
**Spelling change**: C for QU  
**Before**: E  
**Example**: buscar – busqué, busque

**Ending**: -gar  
**Spelling change**: C for GU  
**Before**: E  
**Example**: entregar – entregué, entregue

**Ending**: -zar  
**Spelling change**: Z for C  
**Before**: E  
**Example**: utilizar – utulicé – utilice

**Ending**: -cer, -cir  
**Spelling change**: C for Z  
**Before**: A/O  
**Example**: vencer – venzo, venza

**Ending**: -ger, -gir  
**Spelling change**: G for J  
**Before**: A/O  
**Example**: recoger – reocojo, recoja;

**Ending**: -guir  
**Spelling change**: deletion of U  
**Before**: A/O  
**Example**: conseguir – consigo, consiga

**Ending**: -quir  
**Spelling change**: QU for C  
**Before**: A/O  
**Example**: delinquir – delinco, delinca
CHAPTER SIX

NUMBERS 1-100
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cero</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Uno</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dos</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tres</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cuatro</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cinco</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Seis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>Siete</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ocho</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nueve</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Diez</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>Once</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>Doce</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Trece</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Catorce</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quince</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dieciséis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dieciséiete</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dieciocho</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td><strong>Diecinueve</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>Veinte</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice pronouncing these numbers with our video on [Spanish Numbers 1-20](http://www.spanishnumbers1-20.com).
NUMBERS 1-100

After 20, the numbers follow a formula. Memorize the numerals of ten (twenty, thirty, etc.), then add the single digits to form bigger numbers.

For example, twenty is veinte. So twenty-one is veintiuno, twenty-two is veintidós, etc.

Starting from 30 upwards, use “y” to combine the tens place with the digit. For example, thirty is treinta, so thirty-one is treinta y uno.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Veinte</td>
<td>Twenty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Treinta</td>
<td>Thirty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Cuarenta</td>
<td>Forty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Cincuenta</td>
<td>Fifty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Sesenta</td>
<td>Sixty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Setenta</td>
<td>Seventy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Ochenta</td>
<td>Eighty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Noventa</td>
<td>Ninety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Cien*</td>
<td>One hundred</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*When we use the number 100 in isolation we call it “cien” but when it is combined with other units or tens (from 101 to 199), then it changes to “ciento” as in “ciento uno” (101).
CHAPTER SEVEN

SER VS. ESTAR
SER VS ESTAR

One challenge for Spanish learners is distinguishing when to use **ser** or **estar**, both of which translate into “**to be**” in English. But first, let’s start with their conjugations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SER (to be)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo</td>
<td>soy</td>
<td>Nosotros</td>
<td>somos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú</td>
<td>eres</td>
<td>Vosotros</td>
<td>sois</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted</td>
<td>es</td>
<td>Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes</td>
<td>son</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESTAR (to be)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo</td>
<td>estoy</td>
<td>Nosotros</td>
<td>estamos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú</td>
<td>estás</td>
<td>Vosotros</td>
<td>estáís</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Él/Ella/Usted</td>
<td>está</td>
<td>Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes</td>
<td>están</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generally, **ser** is used with adjectives expressing **permanent** characteristics, including nationality, physical appearance and personality.

On the other hand, **estar** is used with **temporary** states or conditions, such as emotions.

Example:

El café **es** caliente. (Coffee is hot.)

In this case, use ser because coffee is usually hot.

Los cafés **están** fríos. (The coffees are cold.)

In this case, use estar because the coffees were hot but have become cold, which is not their normal condition.
SER VS ESTAR

WHEN TO USE SER

• Origin or Nationality
  Soy de Honduras. (I am from Honduras.)

• Occupation
  Él es un bombero. (He is a firefighter.)

• Possession
  Es mi pero. (It’s my dog.)

• Telling Time* and Place
  Es la una. (It is 1:00.)
  Son las dos. (It is 2:00.)
  La fiesta es a su casa. (The party is at her house.)

• Essential Characteristics**
  El libro es largo. (The book is long.)
  Ella es rubia. (She is blonde.)
  La salsa es picante. (Salsa is spicy.)
  Tú eres muy joven. (You are very young.)

*Note: When telling time, 1:00 uses the third personal singular (es), while all other times using the third person plural (son.)

**Note: Essential characteristics may not be permanent, but they describe the nature of the subject rather than describing the subject at a given moment. For example, the subject of the sentence “you are very young” will not be young forever, but for many years to come, he or she will be considered young.
SER VS ESTAR

WHEN TO USE ESTAR
• Temporary State or Condition
  Estoy enferma. (I am sick.)
  Estamos perdidos. (We are lost.)
  No estoy casado. (I am not married.)
• Emotions
  Estás muy triste hoy. (You are very sad today.)
• Location
  No están en casa. (They are not at home.)

Note that your choice of ser or estar can change the meaning of a sentence:

Elena está aburrida. 
Elena es aburrida.

Marco está cansado.
Correr un maratón es cansado.

La manzana está verde.
Las manzanas Granny Smith son verdes.

¿Estás listo para ir al cine?
Ese niño es muy listo.

Elena is bored.
Elena is boring.

Marco is tired.
Running a marathon is tiring.

The apple is unripe
Granny Smith apples are green.

Are you ready to go to the movies?
That little boy is very clever.
NEGATION

There are many ways to negate a sentence in Spanish.

The most common negation involves simply placing “no” before the verb.
   María no conoce a Carlos. (Maria does not know Carlos.)
   No tengo bastante tiempo. (I don’t have enough time.)

Beyond “no”, there are other common negative words:
   Nadie (nobody, no one)
   Nada (nothing, not anything)
   Ningúno, Ningúna* (none, not any)
   Nunca (never)
   Ni... ni... (neither... nor...)
   Tampoco (neither, not either)

   *Note: Ningúno changes to “ningún” before masculine singular nouns.

These words can be used alone before the verb, just like “no”.
   Nadie habla español aquí. (Nobody speaks Spanish here.)
   Nada puede detenerme. (Nothing can stop me.)
   Nunca bebo leche. (I never drink milk.)
In Spanish double and even triple negatives are allowed and, in many cases, necessary.

**No** hay **nadie** aquí. (No one is here.)
**No** tiene **ninguna** esperanza. (He doesn’t have any hope.)
No lo se. Ella **no** lo sabe **tampoco**. (I don’t know. She doesn’t know either.)

If you use this double negative construction, any words that follow must be negative. For example, in English, we would say “I don’t have *anything.*” But in Spanish, you must say “I don’t have *nothing.*”

**No** tenemos **nada**. - We don’t have *anything.* (literally nothing)
CHAPTER NINE

ASKING QUESTIONS
# ASKING QUESTIONS

To ask a question in Spanish, place one of the question words above at the beginning of the sentence. Note that Spanish questions begin with an inverted question mark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question Words</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qué</td>
<td>What</td>
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<tr>
<td>Por qué</td>
<td>Why</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuándo</td>
<td>When</td>
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<td>Dónde</td>
<td>Where</td>
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<td>Cómo</td>
<td>How</td>
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<td>Cuál</td>
<td>Which</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quién</td>
<td>Who</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuánto(a)</td>
<td>How much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuántos(as)</td>
<td>How many</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Examples:**

- ¿Qué estás diciendo? [What are you saying?]
- ¿Por qué ella se fue tan temprano? [Why did she leave so early?]
- ¿Cuándo vas a darme la respuesta? [When are you going to give me the answer?]
- ¿Dónde te vas a quedar en tus vacaciones? [Where are you going to stay during your vacation?]
- ¿Cómo estás? [How are you?]
- ¿Cuál tren debo tomar? [Which train do I take?]
- ¿Quién quiere ir conmigo? [Who wants to go with me?]
- ¿Cuánto tiempo necesitas para hacer eso? [How much time do you need to do that?]
- ¿Cuántos libros tenemos que comprar? [How many books do we have to buy?]
ASKING QUESTIONS

For simple yes or no questions, you don’t even need a question word. An inverted question mark will indicate a question in writing, while intonation is key to indicating a question in spoken Spanish. Raise the pitch of your voice the same way you would when asking a question in English. For example:

She’s pregnant.
She’s pregnant? → Emphasizing the end of the sentence turns it into a question.

Word order in yes or no questions is flexible. For example, both of the following questions mean the same thing: Does she speak English?

¿Ella habla inglés?
¿Habla ella inglés?

If you’re worried about your intonation, you can also indicate you’re asking a question by added some kind of question statement at the end.

Ella habla inglés, ¿no? (She speaks English, doesn’t she?)
Ella habla inglés, ¿verdad? (She speaks English, right?)