

## Spanish | The Present Tense

The Present Tense is the 'now' tense in Spanish, it describes an action or event in the present time - e.g. *He **buys** a book.* The formation of regular verbs in the Present Tense is also very easy, with only three sets of regular endings to remember.

### Regular Verbs

To form the Present Tense, simply take the stem off the infinitive and add the following endings - the stem is the verb minus its ending.

- For -AR verbs, take the AR off the end. **Then add the AR endings.**
- For -ER verbs, take the ER off the end. **Then add the ER endings.**
- For -IR verbs, take the IR off the end. **Then add the IR endings.**

Form	AR Verbs	ER Verbs	IR Verbs
<b>Yo</b> (I)	o	o	o
<b>Tú</b> (You S.)	as	es	es
<b>El / Ella</b> (He/She)	a	e	e
<b>Nosotros/as</b> (We)	amos	emos	imos
<b>Vosotros/as</b> (You P.)	áis	éis	ís
<b>Ellos/as</b> (They)	an	en	en

Note:

The we forms for **-ar** and **-ir** regular verbs (not **-er**) are identical in the present and preterit. **Hablamos** can be *we speak* or *we spoke*, depending on the context, and the same thing occurs with **vivimos**.

## Irregular Verbs

1. Stem Changing / Radical Changing Verbs - Boot Verbs
2. Appearance Of -g- In The First Person
3. Completely Irregular Verbs

### Radical Changing Verbs

Radical changing verbs in Spanish change their stem in all but the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> person. The stem vowel undergoes a change when it is stressed in the present tense. These verbs do **not** change in any other tense. They are also commonly known as **boot verbs**, as the shape of the change looks like a boot.

#### **e > ie (the stem vowel e changes to ie when stressed):**

<b>Form</b>	<b>Empezar - To Begin</b>	<b>Querer - To Want</b>	<b>Sentir - To Feel</b>
<b>Yo</b> (I)	emp <u>ie</u> zo	qu <u>ie</u> ro	s <u>ie</u> nto
<b>Tú</b> (You S.)	emp <u>ie</u> zas	qu <u>ie</u> res	s <u>ie</u> ntes
<b>El / Ella</b> (He/She)	emp <u>ie</u> za	qu <u>ie</u> re	s <u>ie</u> nte
<b>Nosotros/as</b> (We)	empezamos	queremos	sentimos
<b>Vosotros/as</b> (You P.)	empez <u>á</u> is	quer <u>é</u> is	sent <u>í</u> s
<b>Ellos/as</b> (They)	emp <u>ie</u> zan	qu <u>ie</u> ren	s <u>ie</u> nten

#### **o > ue (the stem vowel o changes to ue when stressed)**

<b>Form</b>	<b>Acostar - To Put to Bed</b>	<b>Volver - To Return</b>	<b>Dormir - To Sleep</b>
<b>Yo</b> (I)	acu <u>ue</u> sto	vu <u>ue</u> lvo	du <u>ue</u> rmo
<b>Tú</b> (You S.)	acu <u>ue</u> stas	vu <u>ue</u> lves	du <u>ue</u> rmes
<b>El / Ella</b> (He/She)	acu <u>ue</u> sta	vu <u>ue</u> lve	du <u>ue</u> rme
<b>Nosotros/as</b> (We)	acostamos	volvemos	dormimos
<b>Vosotros/as</b> (You P.)	acost <u>á</u> is	volv <u>é</u> is	dorm <u>í</u> s
<b>Ellos/as</b> (They)	acu <u>ue</u> stan	vu <u>ue</u> lven	du <u>ue</u> rmen

#### **u > ue (the stem vowel u changes to ue when stressed):**

<b>Form</b>	<b>Jugar - To Play</b>
<b>Yo (I)</b>	<b>j<u>ue</u>go</b>
<b>Tú (You S.)</b>	<b>j<u>ue</u>gas</b>
<b>El / Ella (He/She)</b>	<b>j<u>ue</u>ga</b>
<b>Nosotros/as (We)</b>	<b>jugamos</b>
<b>Vosotros/as (You P.)</b>	<b>jugáis</b>
<b>Ellos/as (They)</b>	<b>j<u>ue</u>gan</b>

The following verbs all take a -g- in the I form, making them slightly irregular:

<b>Verb</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Person Form</b>
Decir*	<b>Digo</b>
Hacer	<b>Hago</b>
Poner	<b>Pongo</b>
Salir	<b>Salgo</b>
Tener*	<b>Tengo</b>
Venir*	<b>Vengo</b>

\* These verbs are also irregular in other fashions

Completely Irregular Verbs

The following verbs are completely irregular - their conjugations must be learnt.

<b>Form</b>	<b>Ser - To Be</b>	<b>Estar - To Be (PP)</b>	<b>Ir - To Go</b>
<b>Yo</b> (I)	soy	estoy	voy
<b>Tú</b> (You S.)	eres	estas	vas
<b>El / Ella</b> (He/She)	es	está	va
<b>Nosotros/as</b> (We)	somos	estamos	vamos
<b>Vosotros/as</b> (You P.)	sois	estáis	vais
<b>Ellos/as</b> (They)	son	están	van