

Basic verb conjugation

Verbs have 2 main parts - the “stem”/ “root” which tells you what the action is, and the ending or suffix which show who is doing it and when it takes place. A verb in its unchanged form (unconjugated) is called an “infinitive” - it is infinite, it hasn’t been limited as to person or time. In Spanish - *infinitivo*. When you conjugate a verb, you are changing it to show who is doing it and when it is being done. The verb “tree” is used to help organize the verb conjugation. The subject pronouns (yo, tú, él etc.) should only be used for clarification or emphasis. They should be dropped whenever the meaning is already clear through the conjugated verb or the sentence context. For example: the conjugated verb *hablo* can only mean “I speak” – Do NOT say “yo hablo” – it is redundant.

1 st person (talking about yourself)	I = yo	we = nosotros
2 nd person (talking to someone)	you = tú	y’all, you guys = vosotros
3 rd person (talking about someone) (talking to someone formally)	he, she, it = él, ella you formal = usted (Ud.)	they = ellos, ellas more than one person formally = ustedes (Uds.)

There are 3 kinds of verb endings in Spanish - -ar, -er, -ir To conjugate a verb - take off the ending and add the correct suffix
The conjugations for regular verbs in Spanish are: (Accents on vosotros go over the vowel of the original verb)

<u>-AR</u>	<u>hablar – to speak</u>	<u>-ER</u>	<u>beber - to drink</u>	<u>-IR</u>	<u>vivir - to live</u>
o amos	hablo hablamos	o emos	bebo bebemos	o imos	vivo vivimos
as áis	hablas habláis	es éis	bebes bebéis	es ís	vives vivís
a an	habla hablan	e en	bebe beben	e en	vive viven

Irregular Verbs - irregular “yo” forms

caber – quepo (to fit)	hacer – hago (to make, do)	*tener - tengo (to have)	ver – veo (to see)
caer – caigo (to fall)	poner – pongo (to put)	traer – traigo (to bring)*	
dar – doy (to give)	saber – sé (to know)	venir – vengo (to come)	satisfacer (to satisfy)
* decir – digo (to say, tell)	salir – salgo (to leave)	valer – valgo (to be worth)	conjugates just like hacer

verbs that ends in a vowel + cer, cir; change to -zco in the “yo” form for example: conducir - conduzco (to drive)

conocer - conozco (to know) obedecer - obedezco (to obey) traducir - traduzco (to translate)

verbs that end in a consonant + cer, cir change to –zo in the “yo” form for example: convencer – convenzo (to convince)

ejercer – ejerzo (to practice) torcer (ue) – tuerzo (to twist) vencer – venzo (to conquer, beat)

Except for the starred verbs (stem change) - all these irregular verbs conjugate normally everywhere except in the “yo” form

<u>caer – to fall</u>	<u>hacer – to make/ do</u>	<u>conducir - to drive</u>
caigo caemos	hago hacemos	conduzco conducimos
caes caéis	haces hacéis	conduces conducís
cae caen	hace hacen	conduce conducen

Other Irregular verbs in present tense Some verbs that end in -iar will need accents on all forms but nosotros

enviar – to send

envío enviamos	Some verbs like this include:	criar – to raise	vaciar – to empty
envías enviáis	espíar – to spy	desafiar – to challenge	fotografiar – to photograph
envía envían	esquiar – to ski	guiar – to guide	fiar - to confide

Most verbs that end in -uar will need accents on all forms but nosotros

actuar – to act

actúo actuamos	Some verbs like this include:	
actúas actuáis	acentuar – to emphasize	evaluar – to evaluate
actúa actúan	continuar – to continue	graduarse – to graduate

Verbs that end in -uir will insert a y between the u and the suffix.

incluir – to include

incluyo incluimos	Some verbs like this include:	contribuir – to contribute
incluyes incluís	construir – to build	instruir – to instruct
incluye incluyen	destruir – to destroy	obstruir – to obstruct
	concluir – to conclude	substituir – to substitute

Totally irregular Verbs

<u>estar - to be</u>	<u>ser - to be</u>	<u>oír - to hear</u>	<u>ir - to go</u>
estoy estamos	soy somos	oigo oímos	voy vamos
estás estáis	eres sois	oyes oís	vas vais
está están	es son	oye oyen	va van