Top 27 Verbs to Build Phrases

Jumpstart Your Spanish Practice with These Key Verbs for Daily Spanish Conversations.



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Exercise - Ejercicio

These 27 verbs are extremely common in Spanish. Since you'll use them in different situations, it's important to get familiar with them.

So, let's do a simple exercise with them:

- 1. Review each verb and read about its use.
- 2. Write 2-3 sentences or a short story (if you want to make things more challenging) about yourself using each verb.

The only rule is that you must use all of these verbs. When you finish, do the same exercise with a small variation – use another person. It can be a friend, partner, relative or even a made up character. This will get you to use other conjugations and subject (personal) pronouns.

Phrase Building Worksheet:

English Sentence	Spanish Sentence

Tener - To Have

How to Use 'Tener'

In Spanish, tener allows you to:

- Say your and people's age → [Tener conjugated] + [number] + años
- Talk about obligations → [Tener conjugated] + que + [the activity you must do]
- Express possession (things you own) → [Tener conjugated] + (qualitative adj) + [thing you own]

I have	Yo tengo
You have	Tú tienes
He/She/It has	Él/Ella/Usted tiene
We have	Nosotros tenemos
You have	Vosotros tenéis
They have	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes tienen

Querer - To Want / To Love

How to Use 'Querer'

You can use the verb *querer* to talk about the activities you wish to do or things you want. This verb can also help you express affection for people or your pets. These are the formulas you should use:

- For activities → [Querer conjugated] + [verb in infinitive form]
- For things → [Querer conjugated] + [determiner] + [noun]
- To express affection → [Direct object pronoun] + [querer conjugated]

l want	Yo quiero
You want	Tú quieres
He/She/It wants	Él/Ella/Usted quiere
We want	Nosotros queremos
You want	Vosotros queréis
They want	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes quieren

Ser - To Be

How to Use 'Ser'

We use *ser* to talk about our inherent characteristics such as your name, nationality, personality, profession, physical appearance, and family relationships. *Ser* also allows you to tell the time and talk about possession.

Useful structures:

- Telling time → Son + las + [number]
- Describing inherent characteristics → [Ser conjugated] + [adjective/noun]
- Talking about possession → [Ser conjugated] + [demonstrative] + [noun]

l am	Yo soy
You are	Tú eres
He/She/It is	Él/Ella/Usted es
We are	Nosotros somos
You are	Vosotros sois
They are	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes son

Estar - To Be

How to Use 'Estar'

We use *estar* to talk about location, feelings, physical conditions, and today's date or weather. To do this, you can use these guidelines:

- Location → [Noun] + [estar conjugated] + [preposition] + [place]
- Feelings & Conditions → [Estar conjugated] + [adjective]
- Date → Estamos a + [today's date]
- Weather → Está + [adjective]

l am	Yo estoy
You are	Tú estás
He/She/It is	Él/Ella/Usted es
We are	Nosotros estamos
You are	Vosotros estáis
They are	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes están

Gustar - To Like

How to Use 'Gustar'

In Spanish, *gustar* is an affective verb which is used to talk about the activities or things you like or dislike. Simply add that information after the conjugated verb.

like	Me gusta / Me gustan
You like	Te gusta / Te gustan
He/She/It likes	Le gusta / Le gustan
We like	Nos gusta / Nos gustan
You like	Os gusta / Os gustan
They like	Les gusta / Les gustan

Ir - To Go

How to Use 'Ir'

To express that you're going from one place to another, you must use the verb 'ir'. The structure for this case is ir conjugated + a + [place]. The formula ir + a + infinitive allows you to talk about actions that will take place in the near future.

l go	Yo voy
You go	Tú vas
He/She/It goes	Él/Ella/Usted va
We go	Nosotros vamos
You go	Vosotros vais
They go	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes van

Poder - Can / To Be Able To

How to Use 'Poder'

In Spanish, 'poder' allows you to describe your skills and things you can do. Such as 'puedo hablar español'. To build sentences, you simply need to conjugate 'poder' and add a verb in infinitive form.

l can	Yo puedo
You can	Tú puedes
He/She/It can	Él/Ella/Usted puede
We can	Nosotros podemos
You puedo	Vosotros podéis
They puedes	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes pueden

Saber - To Know

How to Use 'Saber'

With 'saber' you can talk about:

- The things you know how to do → [Saber conjugated] + [verb in infinitive form]
- Topics or things you know → [Saber conjugated] + [noun]
- $\bullet \quad \text{Things you know by heart} \rightarrow \textbf{[Saber conjugated] + [determiner] + [noun]}$

I KIIOW	10 5 E	
You know	Tú sabes	
He/She/It knows	Él/Ella/Usted sabe	
We know	Nosotros sabemos	
You know	Vosotros sabéis	
They know	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes saben	
Llamarse - Name Is / To be Named How to Use 'Llamarse' Llamarse is exclusively used to say your or someone else's name in Spanish. You simply must add the name after the conjugation.		
My name is	Yo me Ilamo	
Your name is	Tú te llamas	
His/Her/Its name is	Él/Ella/Usted se llama	
Our names are	Nosotros nos Ilamamos	
Your names are	Vosotros os Ilamáis	
Their names are	Fllos/Fllas/Ustedes se llaman	

Haber - To Be

How to Use 'Haber'

Hay is the direct translation of 'there is' or 'there are'. As a result, you should use hay when you want to say or ask if something exists in a certain place. The formulas to do these are:

- Hay + [quantitative adjective] + [singular noun]
- Hay + [plural noun]

There is	Hay
There are	Hay

Haber - To Have (Auxiliary Verb)

How to Use 'Haber'

In a more advanced setting, *haber* is used to build compound tenses such as the <u>present</u> <u>perfect</u>. To do this, you simply need to add a <u>past participle</u> form after you conjugate *haber*.

l have	Yo he
You have	Tú has
He/She/It has	Él/Ella/Usted ha
We have	Nosotros hemos
You have	Vosotros habéis
They have	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes han

Creer - To Think / To Believe

How to Use 'Creer'

In Spanish, *creer que* is a structure that helps you express your opinions. This structure is usually followed by a conjugated verb. On the other hand, *creer en* conveys that you believe in something or someone.

think	Yo creo
You think	Tú crees
He/She/It thinks	Él/Ella/Usted cree
We think	Nosotros creemos
You think	Vosotros creéis
They think	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes creen

Trabajar - To Work

How to Use 'Trabajar'

Trabajar helps you talk about your working life. You can use 'trabajar en' to talk about the place where you work or 'trabajar de' to mention your job position.

l work	Yo trabajo
You work	Tú trabajas
He/She/It works	Él/Ella/Usted trabaja
We work	Nosotros trabajamos
You work	Vosotros trabajáis
They work	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes trabajan

Irse - To Leave

How to Use 'Irse'

You should use the reflexive verb *irse* to say that you're departing from a certain place. *Irse* a can help you say the specific time that you're leaving or your destination.

l leave	Yo me voy
You leave	Tú te vas
He/She/It leaves	Él/Ella/Usted se va
We leave	Nosotros nos vamos
You leave	Vosotros os vais
They leave	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes se van

Preferir - To Prefer

How to Use 'Preferir'

If you need to talk about your preferences, you must use the verb *preferir*. This verb allows you to talk both about things and activities. In other words, once you conjugate 'preferir', you can add a noun or a verb in infinitive form to describe your preferences.

l prefer	Yo prefiero
You prefer	Tú prefieres
He/She/It prefers	Él/Ella/Usted prefiere
We prefer	Nosotros preferimos
You prefer	Vosotros preferís
They prefer	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes prefieren

Hacer - To Do / To Make

How to Use 'Hacer'

I do/make

The verb *hacer* allows you to talk about the activities people carry out. The most common formula you'll use with this verb is *hacer conjugated + noun*.

Yo hago

Tao/make	1011460	
You do/make	Tú haces	
He/She/It does/makes	Él/Ella/Usted hace	
We do/make	Nosotros hacemos	
You do/make	Vosotros hacéis	
They do/make	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes hacen	
Poner - To Put How to Use 'Poner' The most common formula you'll use with this verb is poner conjugated + [determiner] + noun. If needed, you can provide more information such as where you put something.		
l put	Yo pongo	
You put	Tú pones	
He/She/It puts	Él/Ella/Usted pone	
We put	Nosotros ponemos	
You put	Vosotros ponéis	
They nut	Fllos/Fllos/Listedes nonen	

Hablar - To Talk / To Speak

How to Use 'Hablar'

I talk/speak

In Spanish, you can use the structure *hablar conjugated + language* to mention the languages you speak. However, the structure *hablar conjugated + con* allows you to explain who are you talking to.

Yo **hablo**

-	
You talk/speak	Tú hablas
He/She/It talks/speaks	Él/Ella/Usted habla
We talk/speak	Nosotros hablamos
You talk/speak	Vosotros habláis
They talk/speak	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes hablan
Decir - To Tell	
How to Use 'Decir'	
As the equivalent of 'to tell' or 'to say', you can u	se 'decir' to express what other people say
To repeat what someone says, you use decir conj	ugated + que + verb conjugated.
I tell	Yo digo
You tell	Tú dices
He/She/It tells	Él/Ella/Usted dice
We tell	Nosotros decimos
You tell	Vosotros decís
They tell	Fllos/Fllas/Ustadas dican

Tomar - To Take

How to Use 'Tomar'

As the equivalent of 'to take', *tomar* can be used in different contexts. However, you do need to mention the thing that you're taking, which can be an object or a drink. You can do this by using this structure:

[Tomar conjugated] + [determiner] + [noun]

l take	Yo tomo
You take	Tú tomas
He/She/It takes	Él/Ella/Usted toma
We take	Nosotros tomamos
You take	Vosotros tomáis
They take	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes toman

Dar - To Give

How to Use 'Dar'

Dar requires different elements to build coherente sentences. In other words, you need to mention what you're giving away and to whom. So, you'll use the formula:

[Indirect object pronoun] + [dar conjugated] + [determiner] + [noun]

l give	Yo doy
You give	Tú das
He/She/It gives	Él/Ella/Usted da
We give	Nosotros damos
You give	Vosotros dáis
They give	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes dan
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Entender - To Understand	
How to Use 'Entender'	
To use 'entender' correctly, you may need to men (or don't understand). Entender + determiner + to omit it.	
l understand	Yo entiendo
You understand	Tú entiendes
He/She/It understands	Él/Ella/Usted entiende
We understand	Nosotros entendemos
You understand	Vosotros entendéis
They understand	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes entienden

Comer - To Eat

How to Use 'Comer'

To write sentences with 'comer' in Spanish, you only need to add a noun that relates to food. For example, *ella come pay de manzana*.

Yo como
Tú comes
Él/Ella/Usted come
Nosotros comemos
Vosotros coméis
Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes comen

Beber - To Drink

How to Use 'Beber'

'Beber' communicates that a person drinks something. To do this, you only need to add the name of a drink after the conjugated verb. For instance, *ellos beben café*.

i drink	YO DEDO
You drink	Tú bebes
He/She/It drinks	Él/Ella/Usted bebe
We drink	Nosotros bebemos
You drink	Vosotros bebéis
They drink	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes beben

Ver - To See / To Watch

How to Use 'Ver'

l see _____

You can use 'ver' in Spanish to talk about movies, people or things. However, if you're referring to people, you need to use the structure *ver a*. To talk about other things, you should use *ver + determiner + noun*.

Yo **veo** _____

You see	Tú ves
He/She/It sees	Él/Ella/Usted ve
We see	Nosotros vemos
You see	Vosotros veis
They see	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes ven
Sentirse - To Feel	
	escribe how you feel physically and mentally. To share or adverb after the conjugated verb. For example, me
feel	Yo me siento
You feel	Tú te sientes
He/She/It feels	Él/Ella/Usted se siente
We feel	Nosotros nos sentimos
You feel	Vosotros os sentís
They feel	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes se sienten

Escuchar - To Listen / To Hear

How to Use 'Escuchar'

When using *escuchar*, you can refer to people or things you listen to. *Escuchar a* is the structure you must use if you're talking about listening to someone. However, you can simply use *escuchar + (determiner) + [noun]* if you're talking about recordings, music, songs, or similar things.

l listen	Yo escucho
You listen	Tú escuchas
He/She/It listens	Él/Ella/Usted escucha
We listen	Nosotros escuchamos
You listen	Vosotros escucháis
They listen	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes escuchan