

Overview and Forms of Verbs

by Sophia Tutorial



WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will learn about the different forms of verbs in Spanish and how to use them. Specifically, this lesson will cover:

1. Los Verbos (Verbs)
 - a. Los Infinitivos (Infinitives)
 - b. La Primera Persona Singular (First Person Singular)
 - c. La Tercera Persona Singular (Third Person Singular)

1. Los Verbos (Verbs)

Pronouns, such as "he," tell you how to form your verbs.

➞ **EXAMPLE** You wouldn't say, "I walks to work." The word "walks" is the form that you would use with "he" or "she." You also wouldn't say, "I to walk to work." In that sentence, the verb has not even been conjugated (changed) at all. It is in its infinitive or pure form.

To make the verb agree with the subject, you must conjugate, or change, it into a form that does agree with the subject. Therefore, the correct sentence is "I walk to work."

Infinitive	Conjugated Forms
to walk	I walk, you walk, he/she walks

1a. Los Infinitivos (Infinitives)

Spanish has different endings for the different verb forms just like English does. All Spanish infinitives end in one of the following combinations of letters:

- ar
- er
- ir

Those endings are the equivalent of saying "to" in English.

Infinitive	English Translation

hablar	to speak
comer	to eat
vivir	to live

1b. La Primera Persona Singular (First Person Singular)

We must also learn the form of each verb that we can use with the pronoun "yo" (I). This is called the first person singular form of the verb. The verb forms that agree with "yo" almost always end in the letter "o." Simply take off the "ar," "er," or "ir," and attach an "o."

First Person Singular	English Translation
yo hablo	I speak
yo como	I eat
yo vivo	I live

You can also leave off the pronoun "yo" and the meaning will remain the same (as if the pronoun were there). This is because the verb endings imply the pronouns with which they match; the pronoun is implied in the verb ending. It is still important to know which pronoun you're using so that you choose the correct verb form.

1c. La Tercera Persona Singular (Third Person Singular)

Finally, we need to learn the third person singular form of the verb. This form is extremely important to learn because it is used with all of the following pronouns:

- usted (you)
- él (he)
- ella (she)

It is also used when the subject of a sentence is any other singular noun (not a person). In English, we would use the pronoun "it" to refer to such singular nouns. However, in Spanish, every noun has gender (masculine/feminine). Therefore, in Spanish there is no such single pronoun (e.g., "it") to refer to objects. However, you can use this form of the verb to talk about singular objects.

To create the third person singular verb form, simply take off the "ar" and add an "a," or take off the "er" or "ir" and add an "e." See the examples below, which use the same verbs with different pronouns.

Third Person Singular	English Translation
él habla	he speaks
ella habla	she speaks
usted habla	you speak
él come	he eats
ella come	she eats
usted come	you eat
él vive	he lives
ella vive	she lives

This is also the verb form that you would use when talking about a single person when using his or her name instead of the pronouns "él" and "ella" (he and she).



SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned about **verbs** in the Spanish language. **The infinitive** form of verbs all end in "ar," "er," or "ir". To create the **first person singular** form of a verb, you simply need to replace the verb ending with an "o." To create the **third person singular** form of a verb that ends in "ar," you will replace the verb ending with "a;" if the verb ends in "er" or "ir," you will replace the verb ending with "e."

¡Buena suerte!

Support

If you are struggling with a concept or terminology in the course, you may contact **SpanishforNursesSupport@capella.edu** for assistance.

If you are having technical issues, please contact **learningcoach@sophia.org**.

Source: This content has been adapted from "Spanish for Nurses" by Stephanie Langston.