

PART II:

Reviewing and Practicing the Verbs

3

The Simple Present Tense

¿Cuánto sabe usted?

How Much Do You Know Already?



1. How do you say *My wife is sleeping* using the present indicative?
2. What is the conjugation of the verb **conocer** in the present indicative?
3. How do you say *I protect and I contribute* in Spanish?
4. What are the six present indicative forms of the verb **ir**?
5. How do you say, *We'll speak tomorrow* using the present indicative?

Regular Verbs

Los verbos regulares

Any Spanish verb has a stem and an ending, which in the infinitive may be **-ar**, **-er**, or **-ir**. The verbs in the present tense tell us that an action takes place now or on a regular basis. To form the simple present (indicative) tense in Spanish regular verbs, the following endings are added to the stems of regular verbs:



	Hablar (to speak)	Comer (to eat)	Escribir (to write)
(yo)	hablo	como	escribo
(tú)	hablas	comes	escribes
(él, ella, Ud.)	habla	come	escribe
(nosotros)	hablamos	comemos	escribimos
(vosotros)	habláis	coméis	escribís
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	hablan	comen	escriben

EJEMPLOS

¿Quién habla?

Comemos a las doce.

No escriben mucho.

Who's speaking?

We eat at twelve o'clock.

They don't write much.

The simple present tense, which is the most common in Spanish and English, is also called *indicative* because it is primarily used to make statements or ask questions. The present tense pattern is easy to follow for all regular **-ar**, **-er**, and **-ir** verbs, with the stem staying the same and the endings always following the same pattern.

TIP

Several well-known words and expressions that refer to time are used with the present tense:

Estudio...	<i>I study ...</i>
con frecuencia	<i>frequently</i>
de vez en cuando	<i>once in a while</i>
generalmente	<i>usually</i>
casi nunca	<i>seldom</i>
nunca	<i>never</i>
siempre	<i>always</i>
todos los días	<i>every day</i>
todo el tiempo	<i>all the time</i>

Regular verbs often refer to everyday actions or events. Here are some examples:

Common -AR Verbs

acabar	to finish	cocinar	to cook
acompañar	to accompany	colocar	to place
aconsejar	to advise	comprar	to buy
adivinar	to guess	contestar	to answer
agarrar	to grab	contratar	to hire
ahorrar	to save	cortar	to cut
alquilar	to rent	cruzar	to cross
amar	to love	dejar	to allow, leave
andar	to go, walk	descansar	to rest
apagar	to turn off	desear	to desire
apreciar	to appreciate	dibujar	to draw
arreglar	to arrange, fix	disfrutar	to enjoy
aumentar	to increase	doblar	to turn, bend
averiguar	to find out	durar	to last
ayudar	to help	echar	to throw
bailar	to dance	empujar	to push
bajar	to lower	enseñar	to show, teach
besar	to kiss	entrar	to enter
borrar	to erase	entregar	to turn in
brincar	to bounce	escuchar	to listen
bromear	to tease	estacionar	to park
buscar	to look for	estudiar	to study
cambiar	to change	evitar	to avoid
caminar	to walk	explicar	to explain
cantar	to sing	felicitar	to congratulate
cargar	to charge	firmar	to sign
charlar	to chat	fumar	to smoke
chocar	to crash	ganar	to earn, win

Common -AR Verbs (continued)

gastar	to spend, waste	pintar	to paint
gritar	to shout	practicar	to practice
hablar	to speak	preguntar	to ask
invitar	to invite	preparar	to prepare
jalar	to pull	presentar	to introduce, present
lavar	to wash	pronunciar	to pronounce
limpiar	to clean	quitar	to remove
llamar	to call	regresar	to return
llegar	to arrive	repasar	to review
llenar	to fill	respirar	to breathe
llevar	to carry	rezar	to pray
llorar	to cry	sacar	to take out
mandar	to send	saludar	to greet
manejar	to drive	secar	to dry
marcar	to dial, mark	terminar	to end
mirar	to look	tirar	to throw
nadar	to swim	tocar	to play a musical instrument, touch
necesitar	to need	tomar	to drink, take
ordenar	to order	trabajar	to work
pagar	to pay	tratar	to try
parar	to stop	usar	to use, wear
pasar	to happen, pass	viajar	to travel
pegar	to hit	visitar	to visit
pelear	to fight		
pescar	to fish		

Common -ER Verbs

aprender	to learn	deber	to owe, be supposed to
barrer	to sweep	leer	to read
beber	to drink	meter	to put inside
caber	to fit	prender	to turn on
comer	to eat	prometer	to promise
comprender	to comprehend	romper	to break
correr	to run	vender	to sell
creer	to believe		

Common -IR Verbs

abrir	to open	insistir	to insist
añadir	to add	ocurrir	to happen
asistir	to attend	permitir	to allow
cubrir	to cover	recibir	to receive
decidir	to decide	subir	to climb
discutir	to argue, discuss	vivir	to live
escribir	to write		



LA PRÁCTICA 1

Supply the correct form of the verb in the present tense:

1. Jaime (comer) mucho. Jaime come mucho.
2. Nosotros (apagar) las luces. _____
3. ¿(fumar) usted? _____
4. Ellos no (beber) café. _____
5. Yo (comprar) la comida hoy. _____
6. ¿Dónde (vivir) tú? _____
7. El señor Lara (vender) carros. _____
8. Nosotros (recibir) mucho correo. _____
9. ¿Cuándo (viajar) ustedes? _____
10. El gato (correr) en el jardín. _____

Use the present tense as you translate:

11. *I work on Saturdays.* Trabajo los sábados.
12. *We leave school at three.* _____
13. *They're studying their lessons.* _____
14. *I read the book today.* _____
15. *Do you (inf. sing.) drive that car?* _____
16. *She cleans her house every Sunday.* _____
17. *I do not attend the classes.* _____
18. *Do you (form. sing.) dance a lot?* _____
19. *The store opens at nine.* _____
20. *What do we review?* _____

Follow the example as you answer in complete sentences:

21. Ellos leen las noticias. ¿Y ella? Sí, ella lee las noticias, también.
22. Yo vivo en Los Angeles. ¿Y tú? _____
23. Él vende zapatos. ¿Y Roberto? _____

24. Recibimos el mensaje. ¿Y él? _____
25. Usa el martillo. ¿Y Uds.? _____
26. Ella asiste a la escuela. ¿Y ellos? _____
27. Elena dibuja bien. ¿Y tú? _____
28. Comemos vegetales. ¿Y Paulo? _____
29. Ellas llegan temprano. ¿Y Uds.? _____
30. Yo aprendo rápido. ¿Y ella? _____

Irregular Verbs

Los verbos irregulares

There are several sets of irregular verbs that can be grouped for easy review. The following have an irregular change in the first person singular only. Notice the letter **g**:

Poner (to put)		
	Singular	Plural
1st person	pongo	ponemos
2nd person	pones	ponéis
3rd person	pone	ponen

Caer (to fall)		Hacer (to do, make)	
caigo	caemos	hago	hacemos
caes	caéis	haces	hacéis
cae	caen	hace	hacen

Salir (to leave)		Traer (to bring)		Valer (to be worth)	
salgo	salimos	traigo	traemos	valgo	valemos
sales	salís	traes	traéis	vales	valéis
sale	salen	trae	traen	vale	valen

EJEMPLOS

Las hojas caen al agua.

¿Cuándo traes la leche?

Ponemos todo en la mesa.

Salgo a las dos de la tarde.

Mi hermano no hace nada.

The leaves fall into the water.

When are you bringing the milk?

We put everything on the table.

I leave at two in the afternoon.

My brother doesn't do anything.

These verbs also make the **g**-change in the first person singular, but they have a variety of other irregular forms:

Tener (to have)		Venir (to come)	
tengo	tenemos	vengo	venimos
tienes	tenéis	vienes	venís
tiene	tienen	viene	vienen
Decir (to say, tell)		Oír (to hear)	
digo	decimos	oigo	oímos
dices	decís	oyes	oís
dice	dicen	oye	oyen

EJEMPLOS

¿Qué dice el profesor?

Tenemos una cama grande.

¿A qué hora vienes?

What's the teacher saying?

We have a big bed.

What time are you coming?

The following two verbs have similar conjugations and are also irregular in the first person singular only:

Saber (to know something)		Caber (to fit)	
sé	sabemos	quepo	cabemos
sabes	sabéis	cabes	cabéis
sabe	saben	cabe	caben

The verb **ir** is very irregular, and has similar conjugations to another irregular verb, **dar**:

Ir (to go)		Dar (to give)	
voy	vamos	doy	damos
vas	vais	das	dais
va	van	da	dan

The verb **ver** is irregular in the first person singular as well, and like **ir** and **dar** there is no accent on the **vosotros** form because it is only one syllable:

Ver (to see)	
veo	vemos
ves	veis
ve	ven

TIP

Present tense forms of the verbs **hacer**, **tener**, and **ir** are actually parts of everyday expressions and comments:

¿Qué tiempo hace? What's the weather like?
Tengo hambre. I'm hungry.
¡Vamos! Let's go!

EJEMPLOS

¿Por qué no vemos una película?
La bicicleta no cabe en el carro.
No van a la playa mucho.
Yo sé el número.
Siempre le da dinero.

Why don't we see a movie?
The bike doesn't fit in the car.
They don't go to the beach much.
I know the number.
She's always giving him money.

In most verbs that end in a vowel plus **-cer** or **-cir**, the **c** changes to **zc** before **o** and **a**. Most verbs ending in **-ecer** and **-ucir** have the **-zco** ending in the **yo** form only:

Conducir (to drive)	
conduzco	conducimos
conduces	conducís
conduce	conducen

Conocer (to know personally)		Obedecer (to obey)	
conozco	conocemos	obedezco	obedecemos
conoces	conocéis	obedeces	obedecéis
conoce	conocen	obedece	obedecen

Other **-er** verbs conjugated in the same way include **adormecer** (to go numb), **agradecer** (to be thankful), **aparecer** (to appear), **complacer** (to please), **crecer** (to grow), **desaparecer** (to disappear), **establecer** (to establish), **merecer** (to deserve), **ofrecer** (to offer), **parecer** (to seem), **permanecer** (to remain), **pertenecer** (to belong to), **lucir** (to shine), **producir** (to produce), **reducir** (to reduce), **traducir** (to translate).

EJEMPLOS

No la conoces.
¿Quién conduce?
Lo traduzco para mañana.

You don't know her.
Who's driving?
I'm translating it for tomorrow.

The verb **haber**, *to have*, is often used as an auxiliary with past participles to form the compound tenses of verbs. These are its irregular forms:

haber (<i>to have</i>)	
he	hemos
has	habéis
ha	han

However, when **haber** is used as the main verb, the third person singular form varies slightly to become the word **hay**, which means *there is* or *there are*:

**Hay un hombre en la sala
y hay dos más en la
cocina.**

*There is one man in the
living room and there are
two more in the kitchen.*



LA PRÁCTICA 2

Answer these questions using the first person singular form:

- ¿Quién hace la comida?
- ¿Quién trae el pelota?
- ¿Quién va a la tienda?
- ¿Quién dice la verdad?
- ¿Quién obedece la ley?
- ¿Quién sale temprano?
- ¿Quién tiene una sonrisa?
- ¿Quién sabe hablar español?
- ¿Quién merece un regalo?
- ¿Quién pone la música?

TIP

All verbs with the embedded word **poner**, like **suponer** (*to assume, to suppose*) are conjugated the same as **poner**: **supongo, suponemos**, etc. The same rule holds true for verbs with the embedded word **traer**, like **distraer** (*to distract*): **distraigo, distraemos**, etc., and the word **conocer**, like **desconocer** (*to be ignorant of*), **reconocer** (*to recognize*), etc.

TIP

Although both **saber** and **conocer** mean *to know*, **conocer** implies that one is acquainted with, or *knows* someone or something with familiarity. **Saber**, on the other hand, means *to know* something as a result of mental effort, study, or training:

Yo le conozco. *I know him.*

Yo sé leer español. *I know how to read in Spanish.*

Yo hago la comida.

Follow the example and practice the present tense:

11. Jaime / ir / a Chicago.

Jaime va a Chicago.

12. Yo / ver / las películas nuevas.

13. Sara y Daniel / decir / muchos chistes.

14. Nosotros / hacer / la tarea.

15. Tú / venir / conmigo al supermercado.

16. Yo / dar / una fiesta en mi casa.

17. Ellos / conocer / al alcalde.

18. Dra. Laura / conducir / un Mercedes.

19. Uds. no / oír / el ruido afuera.

20. El metro / salir / a las cinco y media.

Two Verbs To Be **Ser y estar**

The irregular verbs **ser** and **estar** both mean *to be* in Spanish, and are irregular in the present tense:



Ser (to be)		Estar (to be)	
soy	somos	estoy	estamos
eres	sois	estás	estáis
es	son	está	están

In general, **ser** is used to express a natural, inherent characteristic or situation, and one that is more of a lasting or permanent nature. It is often used before adjectives that indicate qualities such as age, personality, appearance, nationality, origin, ownership, occupation, material, and religion. **Ser** is also used to express time and dates, and when combined with past participles, it is used to form the passive voice:

Somos estudiantes.	<i>We're students.</i>
Tú eres la más alta.	<i>You're the tallest.</i>
Él no es de Francia.	<i>He's not from France.</i>
Son las ocho.	<i>It's eight o'clock.</i>
Neruda es leído por muchos.	<i>Neruda is read by many.</i>

Estar, however, is generally used to express some temporary or accidental situation or condition, as well as the location or position of something or someone. It is often used before adjectives to express a brief change from a normal state. It is also used with a past participle to express the result of an action, and with present participles to express continuous action in the present progressive tense (**estar** + gerund):

La puerta está abierta.	<i>The door is open.</i>
Estoy muy enfermo.	<i>I'm very sick.</i>
¿Dónde están las niñas?	<i>Where are the girls?</i>
Toda la casa está pintada.	<i>The entire house is painted.</i>
No estás tomando la cerveza.	<i>You aren't drinking the beer.</i>

Additional Characteristics of **Ser** and **Estar**

- **Ser** is often combined with the preposition **de** to indicate possession, origin, or material from which something is made:

Es de Antonio.	Es de China.	Es de madera.
<i>It's Antonio's.</i>	<i>It's from China.</i>	<i>It's made of wood.</i>

- Forms of **ser** often link nouns and pronouns:

Ellos son los dueños.	<i>They are the owners.</i>
La manzana es una fruta.	<i>The apple is a fruit.</i>

- When **estar** is used to express location, it can be either permanent or temporary:

San Diego está en California.	<i>San Diego is in California.</i>
Mi papá está en el baño.	<i>My dad is in the bathroom.</i>

- **Estar** and **ser** differ in meaning when they refer to food:

El pescado <u>es</u> malo.	<i>Fish is bad for you.</i>
El pescado <u>está</u> malo.	<i>The fish tastes bad.</i>

- **Ser** and **estar** cannot be used interchangeably. Certain adjectives change their meaning when used with these verbs:

<u>Están</u> listos.	<i>They're ready.</i>
<u>Son</u> listos.	<i>They're clever.</i>

Mi desayuno está bueno.

My breakfast tastes good.

Mi hijo es bueno.

My son is a good boy.

¿Está seguro?

Are you sure?

¿Es seguro?

Is it safe?

TIP

Both **ser** and **estar** are used in several common expressions in Spanish:

¿De quién es?	Whose is it?
¿Cómo está Ud.?	How are you?
¿De dónde es Ud.?	Where are you from?
Es posible.	It's possible.
¿Qué hora es?	What time is it?
Estoy de acuerdo.	I agree.

Las chicas están aburridas.

The girls are bored.

Las chicas son aburridas.

The girls are boring.

El niño está vivo.

The child is alive.

El niño es vivo.

The child is bright.

Alfredo es pálido.

Alfredo is light-complexioned.

Alfredo está pálido.

Alfredo looks pale.



LA PRÁCTICA 3

Fill in the blank with the appropriate form of either **ser** or **estar**:

1. Paulo _____ médico. **Paulo es médico.**
2. El agua en la tina no _____ caliente.
3. Ellas _____ las hijas de la señora.
4. Nosotros _____ de Cuba.
5. ¿Dónde _____ la policía?
6. Yo _____ un buen estudiante.
7. ¿Cómo _____ tú hoy día?
8. Los hombres _____ en la cocina.
9. Yo _____ listo para salir.
10. ¿Qué hora _____?

If it is correct, write **C (Correcto)**, and **I (Incorrecto)** if it is not:

11. ¡Eres loco, amigo! **I**
12. Me dijeron que están enamorados.
13. No está recomendable tomar ese medicamento.

14. Es un pueblo muy triste. _____
 15. Las revistas son pasadas de moda. _____
 16. Somos contentos con el cambio de clima. _____
 17. Los niños son entretenidos con sus juguetes. _____
 18. Yo estoy seguro de que se lo dije. _____
 19. ¿Cuántos estudiantes están enfermos hoy? _____
 20. Ud. es libre de hacer lo que quiera. _____
-

Stem-changing Verbs

Verbos con cambios de raíz

Stem-changing verbs that end in **-ar** or **-er** change the stressed **e** to **ie** and the stressed **o** to **ue** in the present tense:

• E → ie

	Entender (to understand)	Querer (to want)
(yo)	entiendo	quiero
(tú)	entiendes	quieres
(él, ella, Ud.)	entiende	quiere
(nosotros)	entendemos	queremos
(vosotros)	entendéis	queréis
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	entienden	quieren

• O → ue

	Recordar (to remember)	Poder (to be able to)
(yo)	recuerdo	puedo
(tú)	recuerdas	puedes
(él, ella, Ud.)	recuerda	puede
(nosotros)	recordamos	podemos
(vosotros)	recordáis	podéis
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	recuerdan	pueden

Other Similar Stem-changing Verbs

• E → ie

apretar (to tighten), **ascender** (to climb), **atravesar** (to cross), **calentar** (to heat), **cerrar** (to close), **comenzar** (to begin), **confesar** (to confess), **defender** (to defend), **despertar** (to wake up), **empezar** (to begin), **encender** (to ignite), **enterrar** (to bury), **gobernar** (to govern), **negar** (to deny), **pensar** (to think), **perder** (to lose), **recomendar** (to recommend), **regar** (to water), **reventar** (to burst), **sembrar** (to sow), **sentarse** (to sit), **temblar** (to tremble), **tropezar** (to trip).

• O → ue

acordarse (to remember), **acostarse** (to lie down), **almorzar** (to have lunch), **apostar** (to bet), **aprobar** (to approve), **avergonzar** (to shame), **colgar** (to hang), **contar** (to count), **costar** (to cost), **doler** (to hurt), **demostrar** (to demonstrate), **forzar** (to force), **morder** (to bite), **mostrar** (to show), **mover** (to move), **probar** (to prove), **resolver** (to resolve), **soltar** (to loosen), **soñar** (to dream), **torcer** (to twist), **volar** (to fly), **volver** (to return).

EJEMPLOS

¿Puedes tocar la guitarra?
La conferencia empieza más tarde.
No colgamos la ropa aquí.
Quiero hablar con el jefe.
El perro no muerde.

Can you play the guitar?
The meeting will begin later.
We don't hang the clothes here.
I want to speak with the boss.
The dog doesn't bite.

There are two major types of stem-changing verbs that end in **-ir**:

- Those that change their stressed **e** → **ie** or **o** → **ue**.
- Those that change their stressed **e** → **i**.

e → ie		o → ue	
Mentir (to lie)		Dormir (to sleep)	
miento	mentimos	duermo	dormimos
mientes	mentís	duermes	dormís
miente	mienten	duerme	duermen

e → i	
Servir (to serve)	
sirvo	servimos
sirves	servís
sirve	sirven

Other Similar Stem-changing Verbs

• e → ie

convertir (to transform), **digerir** (to digest), **divertirse** (to have fun), **herir** (to hurt), **hervir** (to boil), **preferir** (to prefer), **referirse** (to refer to), **sentir** (to feel), **sugerir** (to suggest).

• o → ue

morirse (to die).

• e → i

competir (to compete), **corregir** (to correct), **despedir** (to say good-bye), **elegir** (to choose), **freír** (to fry), **medir** (to measure), **pedir** (to ask for), **reírse** (to laugh), **repetir** (to repeat), **seguir** (to follow), **sonreír** (to smile), **teñir** (to dye), **vestirse** (to get dressed).

TIP

Notice how the stem-changing alterations occur in all but the **nosotros** and **vosotros** forms in the present tense.

These two stem-changing verbs also have unique forms in the present tense:

Jugar (to play)		Oler (to smell)	
juego	jugamos	huelo	olemos
juegas	jugáis	huelas	oléis
juega	juegan	huele	huelen

These two verbs have only one form in the present tense due to their unique meanings:

Llover (to rain)	Nevar (to snow)
Llueve It rains.	Nieva It snows.



TIP

Remember that reflexive verbs in Spanish include both regular and irregular forms in the present tense:

Se casan mañana.

They're getting married tomorrow.

Él **se acuerda de** ella.

He remembers her.

Yo **me opongo a** las drogas.

I'm against drugs.

Reír (to laugh) and **sonreír** (to smile) have **i** as the stem vowel in the following forms:

Reír (to laugh)		Sonreír (to smile)	
río	reímos	sonríó	sonreímos
ries	reís	sonríes	sonreís
rie	ríen	sonríe	sonríen



LA PRÁCTICA 4

Write the first person singular form for each of the following verbs:

1. recomendar recomiendo
2. apostar _____
3. recordar _____
4. sonreír _____
5. despedir _____
6. demostrar _____
7. servir _____
8. negar _____
9. contar _____
10. tropezar _____

Verbs Ending in -uir, -iar, and -uar

Verbos con terminaciones en -uir, -iar e -uar

Verbs ending in **-uir** (not **-guir**) add **y** after the **u** in all but the **nosotros** and **vosotros** forms in the present tense:

Incluir (to include)	
inclu y o	incluímos
inclu y es	incluís
inclu y e	inclu y en

Other similar verbs are **atribuir** (to attribute), **concluir** (to conclude), **construir** (to construct), **contribuir** (to contribute), **destruir** (to destroy), **distribuir** (to distribute), **huir** (to flee), **influir** (to influence), **sustituir** (to substitute).

Verbs that end in **-iar** or **-uar** generally stress the **i** (**í**) or the **u** (**ú**) in all but the **nosotros** and **vosotros** forms in the present tense.

Enviar (to send)		Continuar (to continue)	
envío	enviamos	continúo	continuamos
envías	enviáis	continúas	continuáis
envía	envían	continúa	continúan

Other Similar -ar and -uar Verbs

• -i (í)

guiar (to guide), **confiar** (to confide), **espiar** (to spy), **resfriarse** (to catch cold), **variar** (to alter).

• -u (ú)

actuar (to act), **descontinuar** (to discontinue), **evacuar** (to evacuate), **graduarse** (to graduate), **insinuar** (to insinuate).

TIP

Verbs ending in **-guir** do not add the **y** after the **u** in the present tense (e.g., **seguir**: **sigo**, **sigue**, etc.). And, verbs ending in **-guar** do not take the accent on the **u** in the present tense (e.g., **averiguar**: **averiguo**, **averigua**, etc.).

EJEMPLOS

El precio no incluye la comida.
Ellas continúan con la lección.
Confío en nuestros líderes.

The price doesn't include the meal.
They're continuing with the lesson.
I trust in our leaders.



LA PRÁCTICA 5

If the verb is correct, put **C**. If it is not, put **I**:

1. *It includes* = incluye

C

2. *We distribute* = distribuimos

3. *They spy* = espían

4. *I contribute* = contribuyo

5. *He builds* = construye

6. *You continue* = continúas

7. *They act* = actuían

8. *We find out* = averiguamos

9. *I flee* = huyo

10. *We confide* = confiamos

Verbs with Spelling Changes

Verbos con cambios de deletreo

For verbs ending in **-ger** and **-gir**, the final **g** of the stem changes to **j** in the first person singular of the present tense, in order to retain the soft sound of **g**:



Recoger (to gather, pick up)

reco jo	recogemos
recoges	recogéis
recoge	recogen

Dirigir (to direct)

diri jo	dirigimos
diriges	dirigéis
dirige	dirigen

Other similar verbs include **escoger** (to choose), **encoger** (to shrink), **exigir** (to demand), **fingir** (to pretend), **proteger** (to protect).

For verbs ending in **-guir**, the **gu** changes to **g** before **o** and **a** in order to retain the hard sound of **g**:

Distinguir (to distinguish)

distin go	distinguimos
distingues	distinguís
distingue	distinguen

TIP

Verbs like **seguir**, **perseguir**, and **conseguir** are conjugated like **distinguir**, but they include the stem change **e → i** (e.g., **sigo**, **sigues**, etc.).

And, verbs like **torcer**, **contorcer**, and **destorcer** follow the same pattern as **vencer**, but require the **o → ue** stem change (e.g., **tuerzo**, **tuerces**, etc.).

Other similar verbs are **conseguir** (to obtain), **perseguir** (to chase), **seguir** (to follow).

Verbs ending in **-cer** or **-cir** in the present tense change the **c** to **z** before **o** and **a** in order to remove the hard **c** sound:

Vencer (to conquer)	
venzo	vencemos
vences	vencéis
vence	vencen

Other such verbs include **convencer** (to convince), **esparcir** (to spread), **ejercer** (to exercise), **fruncir** (to frown), **torcer** (to twist).

EJEMPLOS

A veces recojo los libros.
Usualmente sigo la ley.
Nunca convenzo a nadie.

Sometimes I collect the books.
I usually obey the law.
I never convince anyone.



LA PRÁCTICA 6

Supply the correct present tense form of the verb:

1. Los niños siempre (destruir) las flores en el jardín. destruyen
2. Yo (recoger) mi correo a las cinco. _____
3. ¿Cuándo (enviar) tú el paquete? _____
4. Nosotros (seguir) las instrucciones en el examen. _____
5. Yo (proteger) a mi familia. _____
6. El vendedor no me (convencer). _____
7. Los chicos (graduarse) en junio. _____
8. ¿Tú (contribuir) mucho a las obras de caridad? _____
9. Casi siempre yo (confiar) en mis amigos. _____
10. Mi esposa y yo (escoger) la mejor fruta. _____

Using the Present Indicative Tense

Basic Structure and Usage

Estructura y empleo básicos

The present indicative tense in Spanish may express an action that is taking place regularly or universally at the present time, or an action that is actually in progress at this moment:

TIP

An inverted question mark always precedes any interrogation in Spanish, and the auxiliary words *do* and *does* are not translated.

Juan Carlos come mucho.

Juan Carlos eats a lot.

Juan Carlos is eating a lot.

To form the negative in the present tense, as with all tenses, requires the adverb **no** in front of the verb:

Juan Carlos no come mucho.

Juan Carlos doesn't eat much.

To form a question, either the subject is placed after the verb, or there is a change in intonation:

¿Come mucho Juan Carlos?

¿Juan Carlos come mucho?

Does Juan Carlos eat a lot?

Other Uses of the Present Indicative

Otros usos del presente de indicativo

As a general rule, the present tense in Spanish can either be viewed graphically as a current repeated event X - X - X - X - X or as an event in progress NOW →→→→→ :

X - X - X - X - X

Trabajo en el
banco.

*I work at the
bank.*

→→→→→

Trabajo en el
banco.

*I'm working at the
bank.*



However, the present indicative may sometimes be used to convey an order or a request:

Me hace el favor de manejar despacio. *Please drive slowly.*
¿Terminamos más tarde? *Shall we finish later?*

The present indicative can also refer to a future event if there is another reference to the future in the sentence.

Ellos salen el sábado. *They leave on Saturday.*

The present tense is often used after **si** (if) to refer to future time:

Si viajan, iré con ustedes. *If you travel, I'll go with you guys.*

By using the following two constructions, the present indicative can be used to designate actions that began in the past and continue into the present:

Hace _____ que _____
Hace años que estudio inglés. *I've been studying English for years.*
Hace semanas que no veo a Tomás. *I haven't seen Tomás for weeks.*

_____ desde hace _____
No fumo desde hace un mes. *I haven't smoked for a month.*
Trabajo aquí desde hace dos días. *I've been working here for two days.*

The idiomatic expression **acabar de**, when used in the present tense, actually implies activity in the past:

Acabo de comer. *I just finished eating.*
Acaban de salir. *They just left.*



LA PRÁCTICA 7

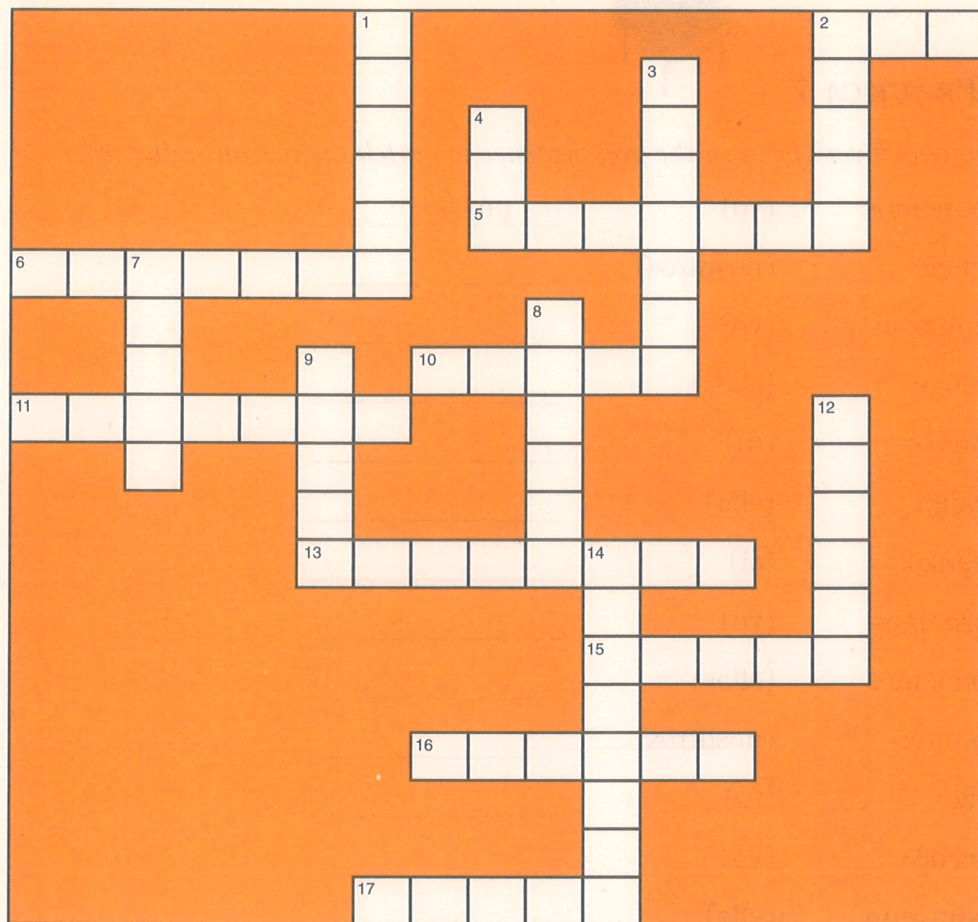
Change each verb form in the present tense to match the person indicated:

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ponemos | (yo) | <u>pongo</u> |
| 2. viene | (nosotros) | _____ |
| 3. conocen | (yo) | _____ |
| 4. tengo | (ellos) | _____ |
| 5. oímos | (tú) | _____ |
| 6. caigo | (ella) | _____ |
| 7. venzo | (él) | _____ |
| 8. sabemos | (yo) | _____ |
| 9. podemos | (ellas) | _____ |
| 10. repiten | (nosotros) | _____ |
| 11. sigo | (tú) | _____ |
| 12. recoge | (yo) | _____ |
| 13. continúo | (ella) | _____ |
| 14. incluís | (ellos) | _____ |
| 15. se ríe | (nosotros) | _____ |

Translate these sentences into Spanish using only the present tense:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 16. What are you looking for? | <u>¿Qué buscas?</u> |
| 17. I haven't seen Ana María for a month. | _____ |
| 18. I don't know him. | _____ |
| 19. They're coming tomorrow. | _____ |
| 20. It always rains a lot. | _____ |
| 21. Does she tell the truth? | _____ |
| 22. Sometimes they do the work. | _____ |
| 23. Shall we finish later? | _____ |
| 24. He wants to work tonight. | _____ |
| 25. I'm picking up the mail. | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

CROSSWORD 2



Translate these into Spanish:

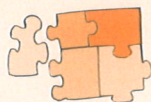
Across

- 2. to see
- 5. to pick up
- 6. to smile
- 10. to put
- 11. to chat
- 13. to remember
- 15. to leave
- 16. to follow
- 17. to have

Down

- 1. to rain
- 2. to come
- 3. to know someone
- 4. to be
- 7. to deny
- 8. to send
- 9. to fit
- 12. to lie
- 14. to argue

EL REPASO



1. Explain the difference between a dependent and an independent clause.
2. Explain how to pronounce a Spanish word that has no written accent.
3. Name the three basic kinds of sentences in Spanish.
4. Name five regular **-er** verbs. ____
5. Use the present indicative tense to refer to an action in the future.
6. Identify one Spanish verb that is only irregular in the first person singular.
7. What are two differences between the uses of **ser** and **estar**?
8. Conjugate the verb **sonreír** in the present indicative tense.
9. Name one stem-changing verb in Spanish.
10. What is unique about the phrase **acabar de** in the present tense?

4

The Past Tense

¿Cuánto sabe usted?

How Much Do You Know Already?



1. Change the verb in bold from the present indicative to the preterit:
No lo **veo**.
2. Give two ways to translate the word **fuleron**.
3. What's the difference in meaning between **él comió** and **él comía**?
4. How do you say *I used to read magazines* in Spanish?
5. Conjugate the verb **beber** in the imperfect tense.

The Preterit

Regular Verbs

Verbos regulares

Spanish has two basic past tenses—the preterit and the imperfect. The preterit is a bit more common, because it refers to actions that were completed in past time. To form the preterit, the following endings are added to the stem of regular verbs: