Remember in Spanish: Recordar vs Acordarse (+ Examples)

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Quick answer: The two most common ways to say "remember" in Spanish are **recordar** and **acordarse de**. *Recuerdo tu nombre* and *Me acuerdo de tu nombre* both mean "I remember your name." **Recordar** takes a direct object (no "de"), while **acordarse** is reflexive and always needs **de** before the thing you remember.

Both verbs are everywhere in everyday Spanish, and they're easy to mix up. This guide covers what each one means, how to conjugate it, how to say "remind" and "I

don't remember," and the mistakes learners make most often. There's a short quiz at the end.

Remember in Spanish: the short version

English	Spanish	Example
to remember (something)	**recordar** + thing	*Recuerdo la dirección.* – I remember the address.
to remember (something)	**acordarse de** + thing	*Me acuerdo de la dirección.* – I remember the address.
to remind (someone)	**recordarle** algo a alguien	*Te recuerdo que hay clase mañana.* – I'm reminding you there's class tomorrow.
to remind (someone) of (someone)	**recordar a** alguien	*Me recuerdas a tu madre.* – You remind me of your mother.
I don't remember	**No recuerdo / No me acuerdo**	*No me acuerdo de su número.* – I don't remember his number.
Remember! (command)	**¡Recuerda! / ¡Acuérdate!**	*Acuérdate de llamar a tu abuela.* – Remember to call your grandma.

Recordar: meaning and conjugation

Recordar means "to remember" or "to recall." It works like the English verb: what you remember goes straight after it, with no preposition.

Recuerdo mi primer día de clase. – I remember my first day of class.
¿*Recuerdas* dónde dejaste las llaves? – Do you remember where you left the keys?

Recordar in the present tense (stem change o → ue)

Recordar is a stem-changing verb: the **o** becomes **ue** in every form except nosotros and vosotros.

Pronoun	Present	Preterite (past)
yo	recuerdo	recordé
tú	recuerdas	recordaste
él / ella / usted	recuerda	recordó
nosotros	recordamos	recordamos
vosotros	recordáis	recordasteis
ellos / ustedes	recuerdan	recordaron

For every tense and practice exercises, see our full recordar conjugation guide.

Examples with recordar

- *No recuerdo su apellido.* – I don't remember his last name.
- *¿Recordaste comprar pan?* – Did you remember to buy bread?
- *Siempre recordaremos ese viaje.* – We'll always remember that trip.

Acordarse de: meaning and conjugation

Acordarse also means "to remember," and in casual conversation it's probably even more common than recordar. Two things make it different:

1. It's **reflexive**, so it always comes with a reflexive pronoun (me, te, se, nos, os, se).

2. It always takes **de** before the thing you remember.

¿Te acuerdas de mí? – Do you remember me?
Nos acordamos de todo. – We remember everything.

Acordarse in the present and preterite

Pronoun	Present	Preterite (past)
yo	me acuerdo	me acordé
tú	te acuerdas	te acordaste
él / ella / usted	se acuerda	se acordó
nosotros	nos acordamos	nos acordamos
vosotros	os acordáis	os acordasteis
ellos / ustedes	se acuerdan	se acordaron

In Argentina and Uruguay you'll hear the voseo form *vos te acordás* instead of *tú te acuerdas*.

New to reflexive verbs? They work just like **despertarse** and **vestirse**.

Careful: acordar (without "se") means "to agree"

Leave out the reflexive pronoun and the meaning changes completely: *Acordamos vernos el lunes* means "We agreed to meet on Monday," not "we remembered."

Recordar vs acordarse: which one should you use?

When you mean “remember,” they’re usually interchangeable. Just get the grammar right:

	Recordar	**Acordarse de**
Grammar	Direct object, no preposition	Reflexive pronoun + **de**
Tone	Neutral, slightly more formal; common in writing	Very common in everyday speech
Can mean “remind”?	Yes	No
Example	*Recuerdo esa canción.*	*Me acuerdo de esa canción.*

A simple rule: if you’re going to say **de**, use **acordarse**. If there’s no **de**, use **recordar**.

How to say “remind” in Spanish

For “remind,” use **recordar**, never acordarse.

- **Remind someone of something / to do something:** *recordarle (algo) a alguien*.
  Recuérdame que llame al médico. – Remind me to call the doctor.
- **Remind someone of someone:** *recordar a alguien*.
  Este lugar me recuerda a mi pueblo. – This place reminds me of my hometown.
- **A reminder** (noun) is *un recordatorio*.

“I don’t remember” and other useful phrases

- **No me acuerdo. / No recuerdo.** – I don’t remember.
- **Si mal no recuerdo…** – If I remember correctly…

- **Me suena.** – That rings a bell.
- **Hacer memoria** – to try to remember (*Haz memoria: ¿dónde lo pusiste?*)
- **Que no se te olvide.** – Don't forget.
- **Recuerdos a tu familia.** – Give my regards to your family.
- **Un recuerdo** – a memory, or a souvenir
- **Memorizar / aprender de memoria** – to memorize / to learn by heart

"Remember!" as a command

	Recordar	Acordarse
tú	¡Recuerda!	¡Acuérdate!
usted	¡Recuerde!	¡Acuérdese!
ustedes	¡Recuerden!	¡Acuérdense!
tú (negative)	¡No recuerdes!	¡No te acuerdes!

Common mistakes

- **× Recuerdo de mi infancia → ✓ Recuerdo mi infancia** (or *Me acuerdo de mi infancia*). Recordar doesn't take **de**.
- **× Me acuerdo mi infancia → ✓ Me acuerdo de mi infancia.** Acordarse needs **de**.
- **× Me recuerdo de… → ✓ Me acuerdo de… / Recuerdo…** You'll hear "me recuerdo de" in some regions, but it isn't considered standard.
- **× Acordamos el cumpleaños (meaning "we remembered") → ✓ Nos acordamos del cumpleaños.** Without "se," acordar means "to agree."

- **× Recordo / recordas → ✓ Recuerdo / recuerdas.** Don't forget the o → ue stem change.

Quick quiz: recordar or acordarse?

Fill in the blank with the correct form.

1. ¿Tú _____ (acordarse) de mi cumpleaños?
2. Yo no _____ (recordar) dónde estacioné el carro.
3. Ella siempre me _____ (recordar) que haga la tarea.
4. Nosotros _____ (acordarse) de ti todos los días.
5. Ayer no _____ (yo, acordarse) de llamar a mi jefe.

▶ **Show answers**

Keep practicing

Want more verb pairs that confuse English speakers? Read saber vs conocer, ver vs mirar and acabar vs terminar.

Frequently asked questions

What is the most common way to say "remember" in Spanish?

In conversation, acordarse de (me acuerdo , ¿te acuerdas?) is extremely common. Recordar is just as correct and shows up a lot in writing. Native speakers use both every day.

How do you say "do you remember me?" in Spanish?

¿Te acuerdas de mí? (informal) or ¿Se acuerda de mí? (formal). You can also say ¿Me recuerdas?

Is recordar regular or irregular?

Recordar is a stem-changing verb (o → ue): recuerdo, recuerdas, recuerda, recuerdan . Its endings follow the regular -ar pattern. See the 200 most common Spanish verbs for more stem-changers.

What's the difference between "recuerdo" and "recuerdos"?

Recuerdo is "I remember," but it's also the noun "a memory" or "a souvenir." Recuerdos means "memories," and ¡Recuerdos a todos! means "Say hi to everyone for me!"

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