Spanish Verbs List: 120 Common Verbs by Topic

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Quick answer: Below is a **Spanish verbs list** of 120 essential verbs grouped by topic, each with its English meaning and a note on whether it's regular, stem-changing or irregular. Learn these and you'll cover most of everyday Spanish. You can download the whole list as a **PDF** with the button on this page.

Key: **(R)** regular · **(S)** stem-changing · **(I)** irregular. For full conjugation tables of the 200 most-used verbs, see our 200 most common Spanish verbs with conjugations.

The 20 most important Spanish verbs

Spanish	English	Type
ser	to be (identity, traits)	I
estar	to be (location, states)	I
tener	to have	I
haber	to have (auxiliary); there is/are	I
hacer	to do, to make	I
ir	to go	I
poder	can, to be able to	S/I
decir	to say, to tell	I
querer	to want, to love	S/I
ver	to see	I
dar	to give	I
saber	to know (facts)	I
conocer	to know (people, places)	I
poner	to put	I
venir	to come	I
hablar	to speak, to talk	R
llegar	to arrive	R

Spanish	English	Type
pasar	to pass, to happen, to spend (time)	R
deber	should, must; to owe	R
creer	to believe, to think	R

Everyday actions

Spanish	English	Type
comer	to eat	R
beber / tomar	to drink	R
dormir	to sleep	S
vivir	to live	R
trabajar	to work	R
estudiar	to study	R
comprar	to buy	R
pagar	to pay	R
cocinar	to cook	R
limpiar	to clean	R
lavar	to wash	R
abrir	to open	R (irregular participle: abierto)

Spanish	English	Type
cerrar	to close	S
usar	to use	R
necesitar	to need	R
buscar	to look for	R
encontrar	to find	S
perder	to lose	S
ganar	to win, to earn	R
jugar	to play (games, sports)	S

Movement and travel

Spanish	English	Type
volver / regresar	to return, to come back	S / R
salir	to leave, to go out	I
entrar	to enter	R
caminar / andar	to walk	R / I
correr	to run	R
viajar	to travel	R
manejar / conducir	to drive	R / I

Spanish	English	Type
subir	to go up, to get on	R
bajar	to go down, to get off	R
caer	to fall	I
traer	to bring	I
llevar	to take, to carry, to wear	R
seguir	to follow, to continue	S
quedarse	to stay	R

Confused by traer and llevar? Read bring in Spanish: traer vs llevar.

Communication

Spanish	English	Type
preguntar	to ask (a question)	R
pedir	to ask for, to order	S
contestar / responder	to answer	R
llamar	to call	R
escribir	to write	R (participle: escrito)
leer	to read	R (spelling change: leyó)
escuchar	to listen	R

Spanish	English	Type
oír	to hear	I
explicar	to explain	R
contar	to count, to tell (a story)	S
repetir	to repeat	S
recomendar	to recommend	S
negar	to deny	S
mentir	to lie	S

Thinking and feelings

Spanish	English	Type
pensar	to think	S
entender / comprender	to understand	S / R
recordar	to remember	S
olvidar	to forget	R
aprender	to learn	R
gustar	to like (to be pleasing)	R
amar	to love	R
odiar	to hate	R

Spanish	English	Type
sentir	to feel	S
esperar	to wait, to hope	R
preferir	to prefer	S
elegir	to choose	S
decidir	to decide	R
parecer	to seem	I (parezco)
doler	to hurt	S

Two verbs for “remember”? See recordar vs acordarse.

Starting and finishing

Spanish	English	Type
empezar / comenzar	to start, to begin	S
terminar / acabar	to finish, to end	R
conseguir	to get, to achieve	S
intentar / tratar de	to try	R
ayudar	to help	R
cambiar	to change	R
servir	to serve, to be useful	S

Spanish	English	Type
costar	to cost	S
caber	to fit	I
competir	to compete	S

Reflexive verbs for your daily routine

Spanish	English	Type
despertarse	to wake up	S
levantarse	to get up	R
ducharse / bañarse	to shower / to bathe	R
vestirse	to get dressed	S
ponerse	to put on; to become	I
acostarse	to go to bed	S
sentarse	to sit down	S
llamarse	to be called (named)	R
irse	to leave, to go away	I
acordarse (de)	to remember	S

How to use them: ponerse vs vestirse vs poner.

How to learn this list faster

1. **Learn the patterns first:** regular verbs follow three models. See AR, ER, IR verbs and the top 50 regular verbs.
2. **Study 10 verbs a day** in topic groups, like the tables above.
3. **Make sentences about your own life** with each verb.
4. **Use them in conversation** within 24 hours. That's when they stick.

Frequently asked questions

What are the most common Spanish verbs?

Ser, estar, tener, haber, hacer, ir, poder, decir, querer and ver are among the most used verbs in Spanish.

How many Spanish verbs do I need to know?

About 100–150 common verbs will let you handle most daily conversations. Our 1000 words in 100 days plan builds from there.

Is there a Spanish verbs list PDF?

Yes. Click "Download as PDF" on this page to save or print the complete list.

What is the hardest Spanish verb?

Learners often struggle most with ser vs estar , and with fully irregular verbs like ir and haber .

PRACTICE WITH A TUTOR

Put this into practice in a real conversation

Our native Spanish tutors start at $13 an hour, and you can book your first lesson today.