

**NEW 8TH EDITION**

# English Grammar for Students of Spanish

***The Study Guide  
For Those Learning Spanish  
Eighth Edition***

***Emily Spinelli***

SPANISH

# English Grammar for Students of Spanish

*The Study Guide  
for Those Learning Spanish*

*Eighth edition*

*Emily Spinelli*

The Olivia and Hill Press®

# THE **OH** STUDY GUIDES

JACQUELINE MORTON, EDITOR

English Grammar for Students of Spanish  
English Grammar for Students of French  
English Grammar for Students of German  
English Grammar for Students of Italian  
English Grammar for Students of Latin  
English Grammar for Students of Russian  
English Grammar for Students of Japanese  
English Grammar for Students of Arabic  
English Grammar for Students of Chinese  
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The **INFINITIVE** form is the name of the verb. The Spanish equivalent of the infinitive *to study* is **estudiar**.

### IN ENGLISH

The infinitive is composed of two words: **to** + the **DICTIONARY FORM** of the verb (*to speak, to dance*).

Although the infinitive is the most basic form of the verb, it can never be used in a sentence without another verb that is conjugated (see *Verb conjugation*, p. 45).

**To learn** is exciting.

infinitive    conjugated verb

It is important **to be** on time.

conjugated verb    infinitive

Paul and Mary **want to dance** together.

conjugated verb    infinitive

The dictionary form of the verb, rather than the infinitive, is used after such verbs as **let, must, should, and can**.

Mr. Smith let his daughter **drive** his new car.

dictionary form

Paul must **be** home by noon.

dictionary form

### IN SPANISH

The infinitive form is composed of only one word. The word “to” that is part of the English infinitive has no Spanish equivalent. The Spanish infinitive is identified by the last two letters of the verb called **THE ENDING**.

**hablar** *to speak*

**comer** *to eat*

**vivir** *to live*

The infinitive form is important not only because it is the form under which a verb is listed in the dictionary, but also because the ending indicates the pattern that the verb will follow to create its various forms.

- 1st **CONJUGATION** — verbs ending in **-ar** follow one pattern
- 2nd **CONJUGATION** — verbs ending in **-er** follow another pattern
- 3rd **CONJUGATION** — verbs ending in **-ir** follow another pattern

In a sentence the infinitive form is always used for a verb that follows any verb other than **ser** (*to be*), **estar** (*to be*), or **haber** (*to have*).

John and Mary want to dance together.

Juan y María quieren bailar juntos.  
infinitive

I can leave tomorrow.

Puedo salir mañana.  
infinitive

You should study more.

Usted debe estudiar más.  
infinitive

Notice that in the last two examples there is no “to” in the English sentence to alert you that an infinitive must be used in Spanish.

**CAREFUL** — You cannot depend upon the English sentence to alert you to the use of the infinitive in Spanish. Often the word “to” will not be used in the English sentence but the infinitive must be used in Spanish.

## 8.1 CONSULTING THE DICTIONARY

In English it is possible to change the meaning of a verb by placing short words (prepositions or adverbs) after it.

For example, the verb **look** in Column A below changes meaning depending on the word that follows it (*to, after, for, into*). In Spanish it is not possible to change the meaning of a verb by adding a preposition or an adverb as in Column A. An entirely different Spanish verb corresponds to each meaning.

COLUMN A	MEANING	SPANISH
to look <b>at</b> →	to look at <i>I looked at the photo.</i>	<b>mirar</b>
to look <b>for</b> →	to search for <i>I am looking for my book.</i>	<b>buscar</b>
to look <b>after</b> →	to take care of <i>I am looking after the children.</i>	<b>cuidar</b>
to look <b>into</b> →	to study <i>We will look into the problem.</i>	<b>estudiar</b>

When consulting an English–Spanish dictionary, all the examples above under Column A can be found under the dictionary entry *look* (**mirar**); however, you will have to search under that entry for the specific expression *look for* (**buscar**) or *look after* (**cuidar**) to find the correct Spanish equivalent.

Do not select the first entry under look and then add on the Spanish equivalent for *after*, *for*, *into*, etc.; the result will be meaningless in Spanish.

## STUDY TIPS

### VERBS

**Flashcards** (see *Learning Vocabulary*, p. 2)

- 1 Use the digital flashcards that come with your textbook or create flashcards indicating the infinitive form of the Spanish verb on one side and its English equivalent on the other.

aprender    to learn

You might want to select a particular color for verb cards so that later when you add information on the cards you can easily sort them out from the other cards (see *Study Tips – Verb Conjugations*, pp. 52–54; *Tenses*, p. 71; *The Preterite*, pp. 77–78; *The Future Tense*, p. 92).

- 2 If the verb is a reflexive verb, indicate “**se**” at the end of the infinitive (see *Reflexive Pronouns and Verbs*, p. 183). If the verb can be used as a reflexive verb and as a non-reflexive verb, write both forms with examples.

poner	to put
Juan <b>pone</b> los libros en su mochila.	John <b>puts</b> the books in his backpack.

ponerse	to put on
Juan <b>se pone</b> los zapatos.	John <b>puts on</b> his shoes.

- 3 If the verb is followed by a preposition such as “**de**” or can be part of a special construction, indicate it on the card with an example.

salir <b>de</b>	to leave
<b>Salimos de</b> la casa a las ocho.	<b>We leave</b> the house at eight.

tener ( <b>que</b> + infinitive)	to have to + do something
<b>Tenemos que</b> estudiar mucho.	<b>We have to</b> study a lot.

### Practice

To learn the Spanish equivalent of English verbs follow the *Learning Vocabulary*, p. 2. The real practice will come when you have learned to conjugate the verb and to use the conjugated forms in a sentence.

---

**REVIEW ACTIVITY**

---

Circle the words that you would replace with an infinitive in Spanish.

- a. Mary has nothing more to do today.
  - b. You must study your lesson.
  - c. Jeff wants to learn Spanish.
  - d. They cannot leave on Tuesday.
  - e. We hope to travel through Spain this summer.
-

A **DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN** is used in place of a direct object noun. It receives the action of the verb directly, without a preposition between the verb and the object. It answers the question *whom?* or *what?* asked after the verb (see *Pronoun*, p. 34 and *Objects*, p. 157).

Paul saw **her**.

Paul saw *whom*? Answer: **Her**.

**Her** is the direct object of the verb *saw*.

### IN ENGLISH

The direct object pronouns are different from the subject pronouns.

	SUBJECT PRONOUNS	DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS
<b>SINGULAR</b>		
1st person	I	me
2nd person	you	you
3rd person	he	him
	she	her
	it	it
<b>PLURAL</b>		
1st person	we	us
2nd person	you	you
3rd person	they	them

Let us look at a few examples.

They saw me.

subject      direct object  
pronoun      pronoun

She is watching us.

subject              direct object  
pronoun              pronoun

As you can see, the direct object pronoun is always placed after the verb.

### IN SPANISH

As in English, the pronouns used as direct objects are different from the ones used as subjects. Unlike English, however, the form of the object pronoun often changes depending on whether it is a direct or an indirect object.

To choose the correct form here are the steps to follow:

1. Establish if the Spanish verb takes a direct or indirect object (see *Relationship of a verb to its object*, pp. 161–162).
  - If the Spanish verb takes a direct object, continue with this chapter.
  - If the Spanish verb takes an indirect object, go to the following chapter to learn the forms of indirect object pronouns (see *Indirect object pronouns*, p. 170).
2. Depending on the pronoun, follow the steps outlined under the examples below. Since the pattern of the Spanish direct object pronouns for *me, you, him, her, us* is different from the pattern for *it, them, you*, we have divided them into these two categories.

Unlike English where the direct object pronouns are placed after the verb, Spanish direct object pronouns are usually placed before the verb. Consult your textbook to learn more about the placement of direct object pronouns in Spanish.

Below are some examples with the verb **ver** *to see* (both the Spanish and the English verbs take an direct object).

### 40.1 ME, YOU (**tú** and **vosotros** forms), HIM, HER, US

The direct object pronouns corresponding to *me, you, him, her, and us* have a word-for-word Spanish equivalent. Just select the form you need from the chart below.

DIRECT OBJECTS	
<i>me</i>	<b>me</b>
<i>you (tú form)</i>	<b>te</b>
<i>you (vosotros form)</i>	<b>os</b>
<i>him</i>	<b>lo</b>
<i>her</i>	<b>la</b>
<i>us</i>	<b>nos</b>

John sees **me**.

1. Identify the verb: *to see* (**ver**)
2. Function of the object: direct object
3. Identify the pronoun: **me**
4. Selection: **me**

Juan **me** ve.

John sees **you**.

Juan **te** ve. [tú form]

Juan **os** ve. [vosotros form]

Do you see John? Yes, I see **him**.

¿Ves a Juan? Sí, **lo** veo.

Do you see Mary? Yes, I see **her**.

¿Ves a María? Sí, **la** veo.

John sees **us**.

Juan **nos** ve.

## 40.2 IT, THEM, YOU (*usted and ustedes forms*)

The direct object pronouns equivalent to *it, them, you* change depending on the gender of the **ANTECEDENT**; that is, the noun which they are replacing.

DIRECT OBJECTS		
	Masculine	Feminine
<i>it</i>	<b>lo</b>	<b>la</b>
you ( <b>usted</b> form)	<b>lo</b>	<b>la</b>
<i>them</i>	<b>los</b>	<b>las</b>
you ( <b>ustedes</b> form)	<b>los</b>	<b>las</b>

Does John see the book? Yes, John sees **it**.

1. Identify the verb: to see (**ver**)
2. Function of the object: direct object
3. Identify the pronoun: **it**
4. Antecedent: **el libro** (book)
5. Gender of antecedent: masculine
6. Selection: **lo**

¿Ve Juan el libro? Sí, Juan **lo** ve.

Does John see the table? Yes, John sees **it**.

1. Antecedent: **la mesa** (table)
2. Gender of antecedent: feminine
3. Selection: **la**

¿Ve Juan la mesa? Sí, Juan **la** ve.

Does John see the cars? Yes, John sees **them**.

1. Antecedent: **los coches** (cars)
2. Gender of antecedent: masculine
3. Selection: **los**

¿Ve Juan los coches? Sí, Juan **los** ve.

The pronoun *you* (formal) changes not only according to the gender of the person or persons you are addressing, but also according to whether you are addressing one or more persons.

Whom does John see? John sees **you**. [a male]

1. Identify the verb: *to see* (**ver**)
2. Function of the object: direct object
3. Identify the pronoun: **you**
4. Number & gender of *you*: masculine singular
5. Selection: **lo**

¿A quién ve Juan? Juan **lo** ve.

Whom does John see? John sees **you**. [a female]

1. Number & gender of *you*: feminine singular
2. Selection: **la**

¿A quién ve Juan? Juan **la** ve.

Whom does John see? John sees **you**. [males or a mixed group]

1. Number & gender of *you*: masculine plural
2. Selection: **los**

¿A quién ve Juan? Juan **los** ve.

Whom does John see? John sees **you**. [females]

1. Number & gender of *you*: feminine plural
2. Selection: **las**

¿A quién ve Juan? Juan **las** ve.



## STUDY TIPS

### DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

**Pattern** (see *Tips for Learning Word Forms*, p. 4)

- 1 Look for similarities between direct object pronouns and other parts of speech.

What similarities can you think of?

- 1st pers. sing. & pl. and 2nd pers. sing. (**me, te, nos**): initial letters **m-**, **t-**, **n-** are the same as possessive adjectives (**mi, tu, nuestro**)
- 3rd pers. fem. sing. & pl. and 3rd pers. masc. pl. (**la, las, los**): same as definite articles (**la, las, los**)

### Flashcards

On the subject pronoun flashcards, add sentences illustrating the pronoun's form as direct object.

ella	<i>she</i> (subject)
<b>La</b> veo.	<i>I see <b>her</b>.</i> (direct object)
ellos	<i>they</i> (subject, males or mixed group)
<b>Los</b> veo.	<i>I see <b>them</b>.</i> (direct object)

### Practice

- 1 Since function determines a pronoun's form, it is important to learn direct object pronouns in a sentence.
- 2 Write a series of short Spanish sentences with masculine and feminine singular and plural nouns as direct objects. Rewrite the sentences replacing the direct object noun with the appropriate direct object pronoun.

Juan ve a Susana.	<i>John sees Susana.</i>
Juan <b>la</b> ve.	<i>John sees <b>her</b>.</i>

---

**REVIEW ACTIVITY**


---

- Underline the direct object pronoun in the sentences below.
- Identify the antecedent.
- Indicate if the antecedent is singular (S) or plural (P).

a. Mary bought a book and then she read it.

Antecedent in English: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of antecedent in Spanish:                    S        P

Gender of antecedent in Spanish: masculine

María compró un libro y después \_\_\_\_\_ leyó.

b. Juan bought some magazines and then he read them.

Antecedent in English: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of antecedent in Spanish:                    S        P

Gender of antecedent in Spanish: feminine

Juan compró algunas revistas y después \_\_\_\_\_ leyó.

c. Ana bought a salad and then she ate it.

Antecedent in English: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of antecedent in Spanish:                    S        P

Gender of antecedent in Spanish: feminine

Ana compró una ensalada y después \_\_\_\_\_ comió.

d. Ana bought two sandwiches and then she ate them.

Antecedent in English: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of antecedent in Spanish:                    S        P

Gender of antecedent in Spanish: masculine

Ana compró dos sándwiches y después \_\_\_\_\_ comió.

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