**SABER Y CONOCER**

Spanish has two verbs that mean *to know*: **saber** and **conocer**. They cannot be used interchangeably. Note the irregular **yo** forms.

**Saber** means *to know a fact or piece(s) of information* or *to know how to do something*.

sé sabemos

sabes sabéis

sabe saben.

No sé tu número de teléfono. Mi hermana sabe hablar francés.

**Conocer** means *to know* or *be familiar/ acquainted* with a person, place, or thing.

conozco conocemos

conoces conocéis

conoce conocen.

¿Conoces la ciudad de Nueva York? No conozco a tu amigo Esteban.

When the direct object of **conocer** is a person or pet, the personal **a** is used.

¿Conoces México? ¿Conoces a mi amigo Roberto?

**¡Atención! Parecer**, **ofrecer**, **conducir, traducir, and producer** are conjugated like **conocer**.

**DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS**

A direct object noun receives the action of the verb directly and generally follows the verb. In the example below, the direct object noun answers the question *What are Juan Carlos and Jimena taking?*

*Subject verb direct object noun*

**Juan Carlos y Jimena están tomando fotos.**

When a direct object noun in Spanish is a person or a pet, it is preceded by the word a. This is called the personal a; there is no English equivalent for this construction.

Mariela mira **a** Carlos. Mariela mira televisión.

In the first sentence above, the personal **a** is required because the direct object is a person. In the second sentence, the personal **a** is not required because the direct object is an object, not a person.

Direct object pronouns are words that replace direct object nouns. Like English, Spanish uses a direct object pronoun to avoid repeating a noun already mentioned.

DIRECT OBJECT DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN

Mariela hace **las maletas.** Mariela **las** hace.

DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

**Singular forms Plural forms**

me me nos us

te you (fam.) os all of you

lo him, it (m) you (m. form.) los all of you, them (m.)

la her, it (f), you (f. form.) las all of you, them (f.)

In affirmative sentences, direct object pronouns generally appear before the conjugated verb. In negative sentences, the pronoun is placed between the word **no** and the verb.

Carmen practica **el tenis.** Gabriela no tiene **las llaves.**

Carmen **lo** practica. Gabriela **no las** tiene.

When the verb is an infinitive construction, such as **ir a** + [*infinitive*], the direct object pronoun can be placed before the conjugated form or attached to the infinitive.

Lidia quiere ver **una película.** Lidia **la** quiere ver. / Lidia quiere ver**la**.

When the verb is in the present progressive, the direct object pronoun can be placed before the conjugated form or attached to the present participle. **¡Atención!** When a direct object pronoun is attached to the present participle, an accent mark is added to maintain the proper stress.

Antonio está mirando **un partido.** Antonio **lo** está mirando. / Antonio está mirándo**lo.**

**INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS**

An indirect object receives the action of the verb indirectly. An indirect object is a noun or pronoun that answers the question *to whom* or *for whom* an action is done.

¿A quién le presta Roberto cien dólares? Roberto *le* presta cien dólares *a Luisa.*

**Singular forms Plural forms**

me (to, for) me nos (to, for) us

te (to, for) you (fam.) os (to, for) all of you

le (to, for) him, her, you (form.) les (to, for) all of you, them

**¡Atención!** The forms of indirect object pronouns for the first and second persons (**me**, **te**, **nos**, **os**) are the same as the direct object pronouns. Indirect object pronouns agree in number with the corresponding nouns, but not in gender.

Spanish speakers commonly use both an indirect object pronoun and the noun to which it refers in the same sentence. This is done to emphasize and clarify to whom the pronoun refers.

Ella **le vende** la ropa **a Elena.** Nosotros **les** prestamos el dinero **a Isabel y a Manuel.**

Indirect object pronouns are also used without the indirect object noun when the person for whom the action is being done is known.

Ana **le** presta la falda **a Elena.** También **le** presta unos jeans.

Indirect object pronouns are usually placed before the conjugated form of the verb. In negative sentences **no** is placed before the indirect object pronoun.

Martín **me** compra un regalo a mí. Eva **no me** escribe cartas a mí.

When a conjugated verb is followed by an infinitive or the present progressive, the indirect object pronoun may be placed before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive or present participle. **¡Atención!** When an indirect object pronoun is attached to a present participle, an accent mark is added to maintain the proper stress.

Él no **te** quiere pagar. Él **le** está escribiendo un correo electrónico a ella.

Él no quiere **pagarte.** Él está **escribiéndole** un correo electrónico a ella.

Because the indirect object pronouns **le** and **les** have multiple meanings, Spanish speakers often clarify to whom the pronouns refer with the preposition **a** + [*pronoun*] or **a** + [*noun*].

**UNCLARIFIED STATEMENTS CLARIFIED STATEMENTS**

Yo **le** compro un abrigo. Yo **le** compro un abrigo a **usted/él/ella.**

Él **les** vende unos sombreros. Él **les** vende unos sombreros **a ustedes/ellos/ellas.**

The irregular verbs **dar** (*to give*) and **decir** (*to say; to tell*) are often used with indirect object pronouns.

Voy a **darle** un regalo a mi amiga. No **les digo** mentiras a mis padres.

**PRETERITE TENSE OF REGULAR VERBS**

In order to talk about events in the past, Spanish uses two simple tenses: the preterite and the imperfect. In this lesson, you will learn how to form the preterite tense, which is used to express actions or states completed in the past.

AR VERBS ER/IR VERBS

é amos í imos

aste asteis iste isteis

ó aron ió ieron

comprar vender escribir

compré compramos vendí vendimos escribí escribimos

compraste comprasteis vendiste vendisteis escribiste escribisteis

compró compraron vendió vendieron escribió escribieron

AR and ER verbs that have a stem change in the present tense are **REGULAR** in the preterite. **THEY DO NOT HAVE A STEM CHANGE.**

PRESENT PRETERITE

cerrar (e-ie) La tienda c**ie**rra a las seis. La tienda c**e**rró a las seis.

volver (o-ue) Carlos v**ue**lve tarde. Carlos v**o**lvió tarde.

jugar (u-ue) Él j**ue**ga fútbol. Él j**u**gó fútbol.

Verbs that end in **-car**, **-gar**, and **-zar** have a spelling change in the first person singular (**yo** form) in the preterite.

bus**car** bus**c**- **qu**- yo bus**qu**é

lle**gar** lle**g**- **gu**- yo lle**gu**ée

empe**zar** empe**z**- **c**- yo empe**c**é

Except for the **yo** form, all other forms of **-car**, **-gar**, and **-zar** verbs are regular in the preterite.

Four other verbs—**caer, creer**, **leer**, and **oír**—have spelling changes in the preterite. The **i** of the verb endings of **creer**, **leer**, and **oír** carries an accent in the **yo**, **tú**, **nosotros/as**, and **vosotros/as** forms, and changes to **y** in the **usted/él/ella** and **Uds./ellos/ellas** forms.

caer ca- ca**í**, ca**í**ste, ca**y**ó, ca**í**mos, ca**í**steis, ca**y**eron

creer cre- cre**í**, cre**í**ste, cre**y**ó, cre**í**mos, cre**í**steis, cre**y**eron

leer le- le**í**, le**í**ste, le**y**ó, le**í**mos, le**í**steis, le**y**eron

oír o- o**í**, o**í**ste, o**y**ó, o**í**mos, o**í**steis, o**y**eron

**Ver** is regular in the preterite, but none of its forms has an accent. **ve**r: vi, viste, vio, vimos, visteis, vieron

Words commonly used with the preterite.

anoche *last night* pasado/a *last; past*

anteayer *the day before yesterday* el año pasado *last year*

ayer *yesterday* la semana pasada *last week*

de repente *suddenly* una vez *once, one time*

desde... hasta *from… until…* dos veces *twice, two times*

ya *already*

**Acabar de** + [*infinitive*] is used to say that something has just occurred. Note that **acabar** is in the present tense in this construction.

**Acabo de comprar** una falda. **Acabas de ir** de compras.

*I just b*ought a skirt. *You just went shopping.*

**DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES**

In Spanish, as in English, demonstrative adjectives are words that “demonstrate” or “point out” nouns. Demonstrative adjectives precede the nouns they modify and, like other Spanish adjectives you have studied, agree with them in gender and number. Observe these examples and then study the chart below.

**esta** camisa **ese** vendedor **aquellos** zapatos

*This shirt that salesman those shoes (over there)*

Singular Plural

MASCULINE FEMININE MASCULINE FEMININE

**este esta estos estas** *this, these*

**ese esa esos esas** *that, those*

**aquel aquella aquellos aquellas** *that, those (over there)*

There are three sets of demonstrative adjectives. To determine which one to use, you must establish the relationship between the speaker and the noun(s) being pointed out.

The demonstrative adjectives **este**, **esta**, **estos**, and **estas** are used to point out nouns that are close to the speaker and the listener.

The demonstrative adjectives **ese**, **esa**, **esos**, and **esas** are used to point out nouns that are not close in space and time to the speaker. They may, however, be close to the listener.

The demonstrative adjectives **aquel**, **aquella**, **aquellos**, and **aquellas** are used to point out nouns that are far away from the speaker and the listener.

**DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS**

Demonstrative pronouns are identical to their corresponding demonstrative adjectives, with the exception that they carry an accent mark on the stressed vowel.

Singular Plural

MASCULINE FEMININE MASCULINE FEMININE

**éste ésta éstos éstas** *this, these*

**ése ésa ésos ésas** *that, those*

**aquél aquélla aquéllos aquéllas** *that, those (over there)*

¿Quieres comprar **este suéter**? No, no quiero **éste.** Quiero **ése.**

*Do you want to buy this sweater? No, I don’t want this one. I want that one.*

**¡Atención!** Like demonstrative adjectives, demonstrative pronouns agree in gender and number with the corresponding noun.

**Este libro** es de Pablito. **Éstos** son de Juana.

There are three neuter demonstrative pronouns: **esto**, **eso**, and **aquello**. These forms refer to unidentified or unspecified nouns, situations, ideas, and concepts. They do not change in gender or number and never carry an accent mark.

¿Qué es **esto? Eso** es interesante. **Aquello** es bonito.

*What’s this? That’s interesting. That’s pretty.*