

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs



**ANTE TODO** In order to talk about activities, you need to use verbs. Verbs express actions or states of being. In English and Spanish, the infinitive is the base form of the verb. In English, the infinitive is preceded by the word *to*: *to study*, *to be*. The infinitive in Spanish is a one-word form and can be recognized by its endings: **-ar**, **-er**, or **-ir**.

**-ar verb**

estudiar | *to study*

**-er verb**

comer | *to eat*

**-ir verb**

escribir | *to write*

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- ▶ In this lesson, you will learn the forms of regular **-ar** verbs.

### The verb *estudiar* (to study)

SINGULAR  
FORMS

yo	estudio	<i>I study</i>
tú	estudias	<i>you (fam.) study</i>
Ud./él/ella	estudia	<i>you (form.) study; he/she studies</i>

PLURAL  
FORMS

nosotros/as	estudiamos	<i>we study</i>
vosotros/as	estudiáis	<i>you (fam.) study</i>
Uds./ellos/ellas	estudian	<i>you study; they study</i>

**2.1** Present tense of -ar verbs

Juan Carlos estudia  
ciencias ambientales.

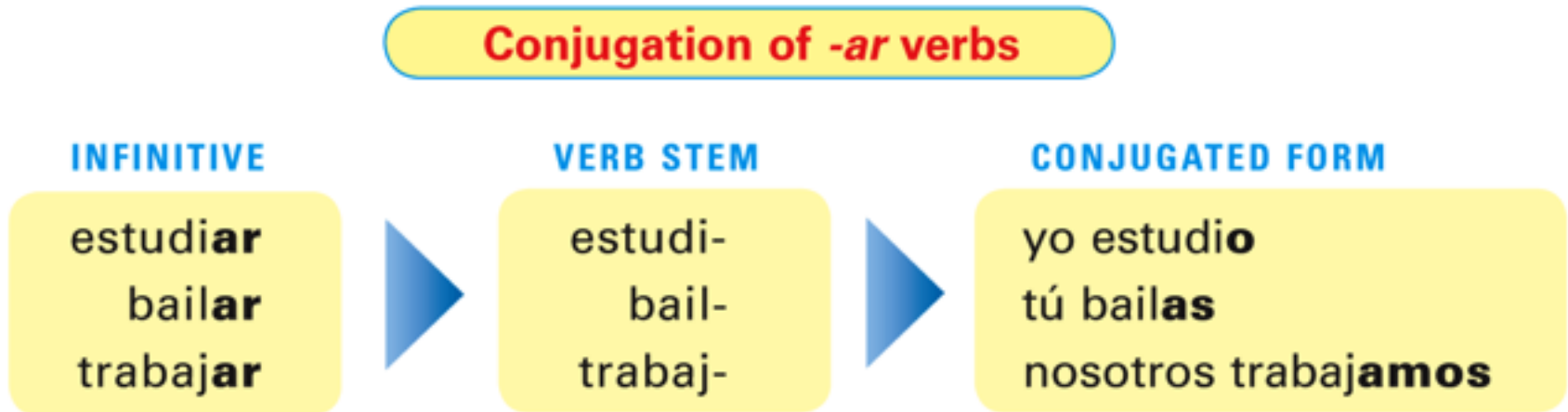


Y tú, ¿qué estudias,  
Miguel?



## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs

- ▶ To create the forms of most regular verbs in Spanish, drop the infinitive endings (**-ar**, **-er**, **-ir**). You then add to the stem the endings that correspond to the different subject pronouns. This diagram will help you visualize verb conjugation.



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## Common -ar verbs

<b>bailar</b>	<i>to dance</i>	<b>estudiar</b>	<i>to study</i>
<b>buscar</b>	<i>to look for</i>	<b>explicar</b>	<i>to explain</i>
<b>caminar</b>	<i>to walk</i>	<b>hablar</b>	<i>to talk; to speak</i>
<b>cantar</b>	<i>to sing</i>	<b>llegar</b>	<i>to arrive</i>
<b>cenar</b>	<i>to have dinner</i>	<b>llevar</b>	<i>to carry</i>
<b>comprar</b>	<i>to buy</i>	<b>mirar</b>	<i>to look (at); to watch</i>
<b>contestar</b>	<i>to answer</i>	<b>necesitar (+ inf.)</b>	<i>to need</i>
<b>conversar</b>	<i>to converse, to chat</i>	<b>practicar</b>	<i>to practice</i>
<b>desayunar</b>	<i>to have breakfast</i>	<b>preguntar</b>	<i>to ask (a question)</i>
<b>descansar</b>	<i>to rest</i>	<b>preparar</b>	<i>to prepare</i>
<b>desear (+ inf.)</b>	<i>to desire; to wish</i>	<b>regresar</b>	<i>to return</i>
<b>dibujar</b>	<i>to draw</i>	<b>terminar</b>	<i>to end; to finish</i>
<b>enseñar</b>	<i>to teach</i>	<b>tomar</b>	<i>to take; to drink</i>
<b>escuchar</b>	<i>to listen (to)</i>	<b>trabajar</b>	<i>to work</i>
<b>esperar (+ inf.)</b>	<i>to wait (for); to hope</i>	<b>viajar</b>	<i>to travel</i>

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs



- ▶ **¡Atención!** Unless referring to a person, the Spanish verbs **buscar**, **escuchar**, **esperar**, and **mirar** do not need to be followed by prepositions as they do in English.

**Busco** la tarea.

*I'm looking for the homework.*

**Espero** el autobús.

*I'm waiting for the bus.*

**Escucho** la música.

*I'm listening to the music.*

**Miro** la pizarra.

*I'm looking at the blackboard.*

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs



## COMPARE &amp; CONTRAST

English uses three sets of forms to talk about the present: (1) the simple present (*Paco works*), (2) the present progressive (*Paco is working*), and (3) the emphatic present (*Paco does work*). In Spanish, the simple present can be used in all three cases.

- Paco **trabaja** en la cafetería.
- 1. Paco **works** in the cafeteria.
  - 2. Paco **is working** in the cafeteria.
  - 3. Paco **does work** in the cafeteria.

In Spanish and English, the present tense is also sometimes used to express future action.

- Marina **viaja** a Madrid mañana.
- 1. Marina **travels** to Madrid tomorrow.
  - 2. Marina **will travel** to Madrid tomorrow.
  - 3. Marina **is traveling** to Madrid tomorrow.



## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs



- ▶ When two verbs are used together with no change of subject, the second verb is generally in the infinitive. To make a sentence negative in Spanish, the word **no** is placed before the conjugated verb. In this case, **no** means *not*.

**Deseo hablar** con el señor Díaz.  
*I want to speak with Mr. Díaz.*

Alicia **no** desea bailar ahora.  
*Alicia doesn't want to dance now.*



## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs



- ▶ Spanish speakers often omit subject pronouns because the verb endings indicate who the subject is. In Spanish, subject pronouns are used for emphasis, clarification, or contrast.

—¿Qué enseñan?  
*What do they teach?*

—¿Quién desea trabajar hoy?  
*Who wants to work today?*

—**Ella** enseña arte y **él** enseña física.  
*She teaches art, and he teaches physics.*

—**Yo** no deseo trabajar hoy.  
*I don't want to work today.*

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs



### The verb *gustar*

- ▶ **Gustar** is different from other **-ar** verbs. To express your likes and dislikes, use the expression **(no) me gusta + el/la + [singular noun]** or **(no) me gustan + los/las + [plural noun]**. Note: You may use the phrase **a mí** for emphasis, but never the subject pronoun **yo**.

**Me gusta la música** clásica.  
*I like classical music.*

**A mí me gustan las artes.**  
*I like the arts.*

**Me gustan las clases** de español y biología.  
*I like Spanish and biology classes.*

**A mí no me gusta el programa.**  
*I don't like the program.*

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs



- ▶ To talk about what you like and don't like to do, use **(no) me gusta** + [*infinitive(s)*]. Note that the singular **gusta** is always used, even with more than one infinitive.

**No me gusta viajar** en autobús.  
*I don't like to travel by bus.*

**Me gusta cantar y bailar.**  
*I like to sing and dance.*

**2.1** Present tense of **-ar** verbs

- ▶ To ask a friend about likes and dislikes, use the pronoun **te** instead of **me**. Note: You may use **a ti** for emphasis, but never the subject pronoun **tú**.

—¿Te gusta la geografía?  
*Do you like geography?*

—Sí, me gusta. Y a ti, ¿te gusta el inglés?  
*Yes, I like it. And you, do you like English?*

**2.1** Present tense of -ar verbs

- ▶ You can use this same structure to talk about other people by using the pronouns **nos**, **le**, and **les**. Unless your instructor tells you otherwise, only the **me** and **te** forms will appear on test materials until **Lección 7**.

**Nos gusta dibujar. (nosotros)**

*We like to draw.*

**No le gusta trabajar.**

**(usted, él, ella)**

*You don't like to work.*

*He/She doesn't like to work.*

**Nos gustan las clases de español e inglés. (nosotros)**

*We like Spanish class and English class.*

**Les gusta el arte.**

**(ustedes, ellos, ellas)**

*You like art.*

*They like art.*