

A *verb* is a type of word, a so-called "part of speech". In any language of the world (Spanish included!), verbs make up an important part. They denote an action; something that someone or something is doing, or a condition; something someone or something is. In English, verbs work a little differently from Spanish, and our goal will be to understand these differences. It is important, first, to understand that verbs can be *regular* and *irregular*. Regular verbs follow a pattern that many other verbs in the language repeat. Let's look at the verb "to dance" in English:

I dance

We dance

You dance

He/She/It dances

They dance

As you see, only one thing changes: we add the ending **-s** when the verb matches the pronouns¹ "he/she/it". There are many more verbs like "dance": to play, to kick, to miss. Irregular verbs behave differently. Let's look at the English verb "to be":

I am

We are

You are

He/She/It is

They are

Whoa! For the verb "to be", almost every form is different! We can tell that this verb is irregular, because it does not follow the regular *conjugation* pattern (conjugation is just changing the verb to match each different pronoun). Some other irregular verbs include to have, to do, to go. We will first look at some irregular verbs in Spanish, and then learn how to conjugate regular ones, not only because the regular ones are easier, but also because some of the most commonly used and important verbs in Spanish happen to be irregular.

(1) Your homework is to, first of all, memorize these Spanish pronouns:

Yo (I)

Nosotros ("we" for boys or boys and girls together)

Nosotras ("we" when there are only girls)

Tú (you)

Vosotros (you all; a way to talk to many people)

Vosotras (same deal as for "nosotros")

Él (He), **Ella** (she), **Usted**
(a more polite way to say "you")

Ellos ("they" for boys or boys and girls together)

Ellas ("they" only for girls)

Ustedes (you all, more polite)

¹ Pronouns are words that replace another part of speech (most commonly, a noun); for instance, we could say, "Dasha went to the beach. Dasha had fun." or "**Dasha** went to the beach. **She** had fun." Here "she" is the pronoun replacing "Dasha".

(2) Secondly, look at the two verbs "to be" in Spanish. Yes, there are two! We will discuss why and the differences between them in class on Sunday. For now, just try to get comfortable with the pronouns and with the fact that in Spanish, unlike in English, there is a separate verb form for every pronoun. If you memorize the forms by Sunday, that is also good, but no pressure.

The first verb "to be": **Ser**

Yo **soy**

Nosotros/Nosotras **somos**

Tú **eres**

Vosotros/Vosotras **sois**

Él/Ella/Usted **es**

Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes **son**

The second verb "to be": **Estar**

Yo **estoy**

Nosotros/Nosotras **estamos**

Tú **estás**

Vosotros/Vosotras **estáis**

Él/Ella/Usted **está**

Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes **están**

Good luck!