

Verbs: what we know.

All of the verbs in Spanish can be separated into two categories: REGULAR verbs and IRREGULAR verbs.

So far, we've worked on IRREGULAR verbs (such as ser, estar, tener, etc.). They are called irregular because the way they change¹ to match each pronoun is completely random, there are no rules that they follow.

REGULAR verbs make up a bigger part of Spanish. They are further divided into three categories: -AR, -ER and -IR verbs. You can always tell which category the verb belongs to by looking at its ending: andar is an -AR verb, decidir is an -IR verb, and so on.

Each category of REGULAR verbs has its own set of endings that you will be glueing to verbs in order to match them to the pronouns (conjugate). Let me explain better by giving you the steps to conjugation.

	AR	ER	IR
Yo	-o	-o	-o
Tú	-as	-es	-es
Él/Ella/Usted	-a	-e	-e
Nosotros(as)	-amos	-emos	-imos
Vosotros(as)	-áis	-éis	-ís
Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes	-an	-en	-en

1) Chop off the ending. Whether it's -AR, -ER or -IR, it's coming off. Let's take the verb "cantar" (to sing) as an example. We chop off "-ar", and we're left with "cant".

"cant" is the stem, "ar" is the ending.

2) Write out all of the pronouns and write the stem next to each one.

3) Now we look at our chart and find the "-AR" endings. We have to glue them to our stems. The "yo" ending is "-o", so we do this:

cant + o = canto

Yo canto

cant + as = cantas

Tú cantas

¹ Remember that this is the process called **conjugation**. Conjugation is when the verb changes to match a pronoun. For example, we have the verb "ser"; it has to become "soy" to match the pronoun "yo". Saying "yo ser" sounds ridiculous, and would be like saying "I be" in English. When you say "I am" in English, you conjugate the verb "to be".

And so on.

Here's my chart for "cantar":

Yo canto	Nosotros(as) cantamos
Tu cantas	Vosotros(as) cantáis
Él/Ella/Usted canta	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes cantan

Now it's your turn. Remember, you choose the set of endings based on the type of verb you have; the way you tell what type you've got is by looking at the ending!

I know this may seem repetitive, but I want to make sure you understand.

Fill out the following tables.

Hablar

Comer

Decidir

Good luck!