

KS3, KS4

# Mastering grammar: verbs and tenses

TEACHING  
PACK

- Resources for years 9–11, suitable for a wide range of abilities
- Grammar games, PowerPoints and assessment tasks
- Can be used with any topic for any exam board



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# Introduction

This pack is designed to teach and review the key verb forms and tenses required by the GCSE curriculum at both Foundation tier and Higher tier. It is suitable for use with key stage 3 and key stage 4 students and is not specific to a particular exam board.

The examples used for each tense cover a variety of topics so that they can be integrated into your teaching at any point in the course. The vocabulary has deliberately been kept very simple so that students can focus on understanding and practising the grammar. There is particular focus on negatives and questions as examiners' reports indicate that candidates often struggle with these.

The units are not intended as schemes of work but rather as a bank of ideas from which you can pick one activity or a series of activities at a level appropriate for your class.

## Differentiation

There is a range of learning activities for each tense / verb form, progressing from receptive to productive tasks and from lower to higher cognitive load. This progression also serves as differentiation, with the closely scaffolded activities being suitable for Foundation students and the freer speaking activities being more appropriate for Higher tier learners.

In each unit except unit 9 (tense review), there are between three and eight activities for each of the following:

- recognising the tense (receptive knowledge and raising awareness of forms)
- practising the tense (ranging from receptive knowledge through structured production to freer practice)
- assessing students' receptive and productive knowledge.

## Approach

The aim of this pack is to make the grammar appear logical and accessible by drawing students' attention to patterns through activities that are communicative and fun. It is informed by aspects of Gianfranco Conti's EPI approach. The activities correspond mainly to the modelling, awareness raising, structured production and expansion phases of his MARS EARS sequence, with some autonomous recall and some more spontaneous production.

## Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to our contributing writers, Vicki Brownlee and Alberto Leva.

Vicki has been teaching languages for over 20 years and in the past few years has moved to an EPI approach, which has been very successful. She is Head of Department and teaches French, German and Spanish at a rural secondary school. She is particularly interested in SEN teaching.





Spiral text: regular and irregular verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are in the 'Student activities' section below.

► Answers:

Soy bastante deportista y me gusta el tenis: es genial. Me gusta jugar al tenis con mis amigos, pero en el instituto me encanta jugar al tenis de mesa. A menudo, juego también al rugby. Por la noche, a veces veo películas o descargo música: es gratuito y práctico. Odio salir con mis padres porque me parecen aburridos. Prefiero a mis amigos porque son simpáticos, pero mi hermana es mala y tonta.

Subject	Verb	Adverb	Adjective
Yo	soy	bastante	deportista
Es	Es		genial
Ellos	son	gratuito y práctico	simpáticos
Mi hermana	es		mala y tonta

Adverb of time	Subject	Verb	Noun / Preposition + noun
A menudo, Por la noche,	yo	juego	al rugby
		veo	películas
		descargo	música
		prefiero	a mis amigos

Subject	Verb	Infinitive	Noun / Preposition + noun
Yo	odio	salir	con mis padres

Indirect object pronoun	Verb	Subject / Infinitive + object
Me	gusta	el tenis
	encanta	jugar al tenis (de mesa)

Indirect object pronoun	Verb	Adjective
Me	parecen	aburridos

## Practising the tense

Dice game: regular verbs and stem-changing verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are in the 'Student activities' section below.

Mind reader: speaking – regular verbs and stem-changing verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are on slide 1 of the activities PowerPoint. The answers to the translation task are on slide 2.

Mind reader: writing – irregular verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are on slide 3 of the activities PowerPoint. The answers to the translation task are on slide 4.

Write your own sentences: irregular verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are in the 'Student activities' section below.

Mime: spot the error

The activity, student instructions and answers are on slide 1 of the activities PowerPoint.

Mime the following activities:

1. You are swimming.
2. You are eating an ice cream.
3. You are playing tennis de mesa.
4. You are making a cake.
5. You are writing a book.
6. You are listening to music.

Mime: team game

The student instructions are on slide 2 of the activities PowerPoint. The activity is in the separate 'Cut-out activities' document.

You could display or print off the list of sentences on slide 3 as a scaffold for less confident students.

Gap-fill

The activity and student instructions are in the 'Student activities' section below.

1. Estoy **haciendo** la compra en el supermercado.
2. ¿Qué instrumento está **tocando** Javier?

3. El gato está **durmiendo** en el sofá.
4. ¿Qué novela estás **leyendo** ahora?
5. En este momento estoy **yendo** a trabajar.
6. Sigo **estudiando** para mi examen de matemáticas.
7. La clase sigue **escuchando** a la profesora.
8. ¿Sigues **comiendo** comida sana?
9. Lleváis diez minutos **esperando** por el menú.
10. Usted lleva cuatro años **aprendiendo** italiano.

### Assessment tasks

#### Gap fill: regular verbs and stem-changing verbs – present simple

The activity and student instructions are in the ‘Assessment tasks’ section below.

► Answers:

1. Yo como pizza. **I eat pizza.**
2. Ella juega al fútbol. **She plays football.**
3. Tú pides ayuda. **You ask for help.**
4. Nosotros conocemos a tu hermano. **We know your brother.**
5. Yo pienso antes de escribir. **I think before writing.**
6. Tú juegas al tenis de mesa. **You play table tennis.**
7. Usted toca el piano. **You play the piano.**
8. Ellas comen en la cafetería. **They eat in the café.**
9. Ellos juegan al bádminton. **They play badminton.**
10. Vosotros habláis mucho. **You talk a lot.**

#### Fill in the grid: irregular verbs – present simple

The activity and student instructions are in the ‘Assessment tasks’ section below.

#### Crossword: regular, stem-changing and irregular verbs – present simple

The activity and student instructions are in the ‘Assessment tasks’ section below.

► Answers:

#### ACROSS

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. we have                                   | tenemos |
| 2. you (singular informal) think             | piensas |
| 3. I go                                      | voy     |
| 4. he/she hates / you (singular formal) hate | odia    |
| 5. you (singular informal) have              | tienes  |
| 6. they wear / you (plural formal) wear      | llevan  |

7. we eat	comemos
8. I listen	escucho
9. I drink	bebo
10. he/she is / you (singular formal) are	es
11. he/she eats / you (singular formal) eat	come
12. they work / you (plural formal) work	trabajan
13. he/she goes / you (singular formal) go	va
14. we wear	llevamos

**DOWN**

1. we find	encontramos
2. they are / you (plural formal) are	son
3. we go	vamos
4. he/she has / you (singular formal) have	tiene
5. I work	trabajo
7. I think/believe	creo
8. I find	encuentro
9. I speak	hablo
10. he/she makes/does / you (singular formal) make/do / the weather is	hace
11. he/she finds / you (singular formal) find	encuentra
12. they go / you (plural formal) go	van

Gap-fill: gerund / present participle – present continuous

The activity and student instructions are in the 'Assessment tasks' section below.

1. José está **jugando** al fútbol en el estadio.
2. Mis padres están **viendo** una película de James Bond.
3. Mi prima está **bailando** salsa con su novio.
4. El alumno está **escribiendo** en la pizarra.
5. Están **construyendo** un edificio de 25 pisos en mi barrio.
6. Seguimos **estudiando** español.
7. Mi padre sigue **trabajando** en una compañía de aviación.
8. Llevo cinco meses **viviendo** en Toledo.
9. Manuel lleva un año **aprendiendo** a conducir.
10. Llevamos tres horas **esperando** el avión.

Describe the photo: first person / third person – present simple and continuous

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are in the 'Assessment tasks' section below.

For a more open writing activity, you could ask students to write about their friends and/or family.

# Present simple tense

Mastering verbs  
and tenses

Like English, Spanish has two present tenses. They are used:

to say what is **happening now**

- I **am playing** football.

for habitual (**repeated**) actions

- I often **play** football.
- I **like** to play football.

This is the **present continuous**.

This is the **present simple**.

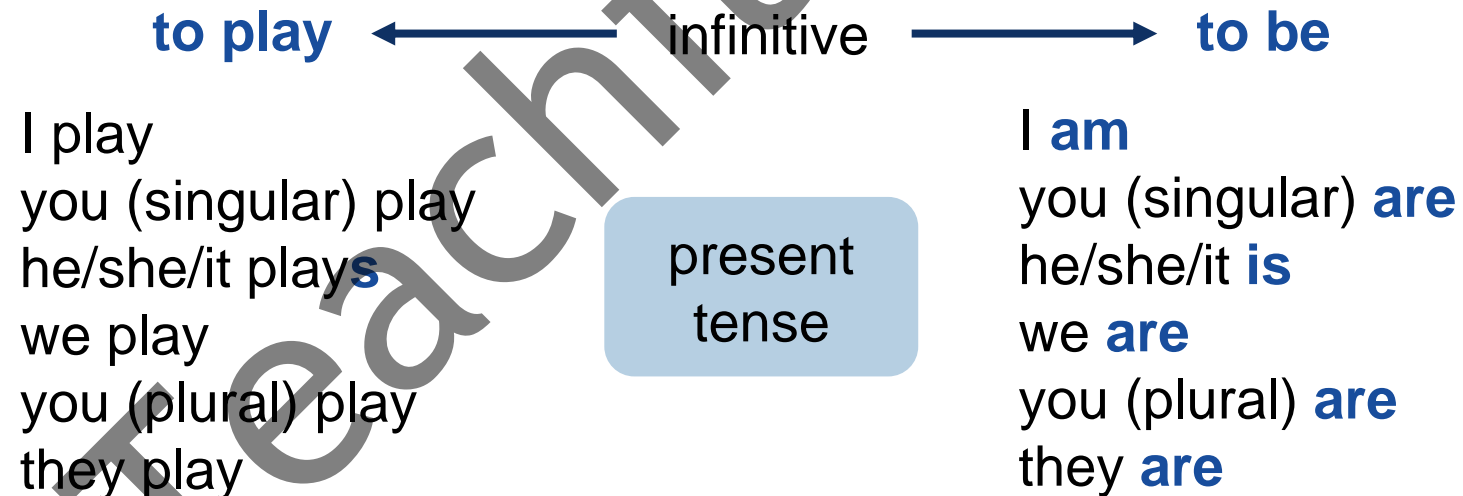
Which are the present tense verbs in the English sentences?

# Present simple tense

Mastering verbs  
and tenses

How do you form the present simple tense in Spanish?

Verbs change from their infinitive (the full form that you find in the dictionary) according to their pronoun (the subject/person doing the action).



# Present simple tense

Mastering verbs  
and tenses

How do you conjugate a verb in Spanish?

Here are the Spanish pronouns:

Spanish verbs fall into three groups: ending with 'ar', 'er' or 'ir' in the infinitive.

yo	I	
tú	you	(singular informal)
él/ella	he/she	
usted	you	(singular formal)
nosotros/nosotras	we	(masculine/mixed / feminine)
vosotros/vosotras	you	(plural informal: m./mixed / feminine)
ellos/ellas	they	(masculine/mixed / feminine)
ustedes	you	(plural formal)

# Present simple tense

Mastering verbs  
and tenses

'ar' verbs

Verbs such as **hablar** – to speak, **amar** – to like, **cantar** – to sing

**hablar** – to speak

yo hablo

I speak

tú hablas

you (singular informal) speak

él/ella habla

he/she speaks

usted habla

you (singular formal) speak

nosotros/as hablamos

we speak

vosotros/as habláis

you (plural informal) speak

ellos/ellas hablan

they speak

ustedes hablan

you (plural formal) speak

Note that in Spanish you don't need to use the pronoun if the person is obvious.

For example, to say 'I speak', you can just say 'hablo'.

# Present simple tense

Mastering verbs  
and tenses

'er' verbs

Verbs such as **comer** – to eat, **beber** – to drink, **comprender** – to understand

**comer** – to eat

yo como

I eat

tú comes

you (singular informal) eat

él/ella come

he/she eats

usted come

you (singular formal) eat

nosotros/as comemos

we eat

vosotros/as coméis

you (plural informal) eat

ellos/ellas comen

they eat

ustedes comen

you (plural formal) eat

Note that in Spanish you don't need to use the pronoun if the person is obvious.

For example, to say 'we eat', you can just say 'comemos'.