

## 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*

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs

- ▶ 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 (form.) study; they study</i>

**2.1** Present tense of -ar verbs

*¿Tomas muchas  
clases este  
semestre?*



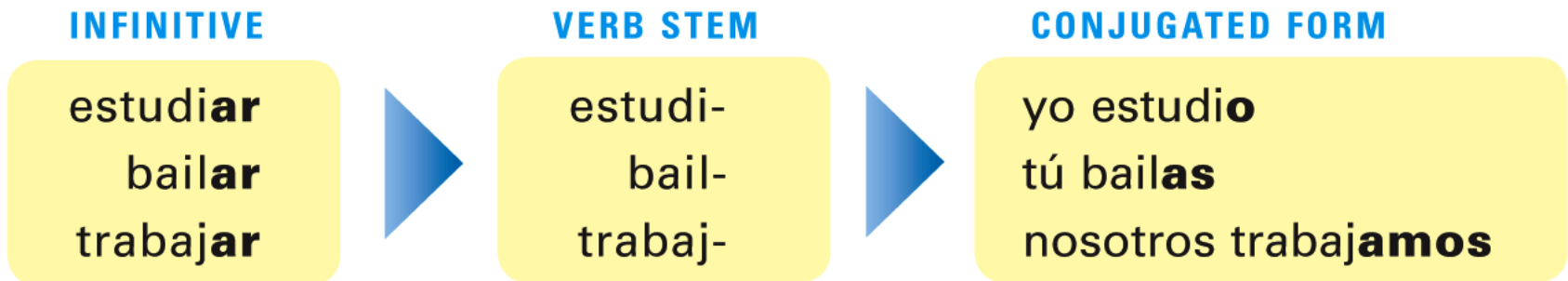
*Sí, tomo tres.*



## 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 the process by which verb forms are created.

### Conjugation of **-ar** verbs



## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs

### 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!** 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 & 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 don Francisco.  
*I want to speak with Don Francisco.*

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.

### Clarification/Contrast

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

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

### Emphasis

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

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

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs

### The verb gustar

- ▶ To express your own likes and dislikes, use the expression **me gusta** + [*singular noun*] or **me gustan** + [*plural noun*]. Never use a subject pronoun (such as **yo**) with this structure.

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

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

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs

- ▶ To express what you like to do, use the expression **me gusta** + [*infinitive(s)*].

**Me gusta viajar.**

*I like to travel.*

**Me gusta cantar y bailar.**

*I like to sing and dance.*

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs

- ▶ To use the verb **gustar** with reference to another person, use the expressions **te gusta(n) (tú)** or **a + [name/pronoun] le gusta(n) (usted, él, ella)**. To say that someone does not like something, insert the word **no** before the expression.

**Te gusta la geografía.**

*You like geography.*

**A Javier no le gustan las computadoras.**

*Javier doesn't like computers.*

## 2.1 Present tense of -ar verbs

- ▶ To use the verb **gustar** with reference to more than one person, use **nos gusta(n) (nosotros)** or **a + [name/pronoun] les gusta(n) (ustedes, ellos, ellas)**.



**Nos gusta dibujar.**  
*We like to draw.*



**No les gustan los exámenes.**  
*They don't like tests.*

**2.1** Present tense of **-ar** verbs  ¡INTÉNTALO!

Provide the present tense forms of these verbs.  
The first items have been done for you.

**hablar**

1. Yo **hablo** español.
2. Ellos \_\_\_\_\_ español.
3. Inés \_\_\_\_\_ español.
4. Nosotras \_\_\_\_\_ español.
5. Tú \_\_\_\_\_ español.

**gustar**

1. **Me gusta** el café. (yo)
2. ¿ \_\_\_\_\_ las clases? (tú)
3. No \_\_\_\_\_ el café. (usted)
4. No \_\_\_\_\_ las clases. (ella)
5. No \_\_\_\_\_ el café. (nosotros)