

BENEDICT'S SPANISH-GRAMMAR QUICKGUIDE

NOUNS: *Nouns are words used to refer to people, places, or things and can be the subject or the object of a verb.*

How are they different in Spanish?

- All Spanish nouns have gender (masculine or feminine) in addition to being singular or plural. You must learn the gender with each noun, but most nouns ending in -o are masculine and most nouns ending in -a are feminine.

ARTICLES: *Articles are used with nouns to restrict or specify their meaning. (the/a/an)*

How are they different in Spanish?

- There are four forms of **the** and four forms of **a/an** in Spanish that correspond with the gender of the noun.

Definite Articles (the)		Indefinite Articles (a/an)	
el	masculine singular	un	masculine singular
la	feminine singular	una	feminine singular
los	masculine plural	unos	masculine plural
las	feminine plural	unas	feminine plural

- They are generally used as they are in English with two major exceptions:
 - ✍ The Spanish word for **the** is used when speaking about something in general. In English, no article is used.
 - ✍ After the verb **ser** the Spanish words for **a/an** are never used with nationalities, professions, religions, etc unless they are modified with an adjective.

PRONOUNS: *A pronoun is a word that substitutes a noun or noun phrase. They can be the subject or the object of a verb.*

How are they different in Spanish?

- There are four main types of pronouns in Spanish:

SUBJECT PRONOUNS		DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS		INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS		REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS	
yo	<i>I</i>	me	<i>me</i>	me	<i>to/for me</i>	me	<i>myself</i>
tú	<i>you (friendly)</i>	te	<i>you (friendly)</i>	te	<i>to/for you (friendly)</i>	te	<i>yourself</i>
él	<i>he</i>	lo	<i>him/it</i>	le	<i>to/for him/it</i>	se	<i>himself</i>
ella	<i>she</i>	la	<i>her/it</i>	le	<i>to/for her/it</i>	se	<i>herself</i>
usted (Ud.)	<i>you (formal)</i>	lo/la	<i>you (formal)</i>	le	<i>to/for you (friendly)</i>	se	<i>yourself</i>
nosotros/as	<i>we</i>	nos	<i>us</i>	nos	<i>to/for us</i>	nos	<i>ourselves</i>
ellos	<i>they (masc.)</i>	los	<i>them (masc.)</i>	les	<i>to/for them (masc.)</i>	se	<i>themselves</i>
ellas	<i>they (fem.)</i>	las	<i>them (fem.)</i>	les	<i>to/for them (fem.)</i>	se	<i>themselves</i>
ustedes (Uds.)	<i>you guys</i>	los/las	<i>you guys</i>	les	<i>to/for you guys</i>	se	<i>your-guys' selves</i>

- In statements, pronouns usually come before the verb in the following order: **subject**, **indirect/reflexive**, then **direct**. If both indirect and direct object pronouns start with an L, then the indirect must change to **se**.
- In questions, the **subject pronoun** usually comes after the verb.
- **Subject pronouns** are often omitted in Spanish because the ending makes the subject clear; however may be required if the subject is unclear.

SUBJECTS: *The subject of a sentence is the noun, pronoun or noun phrase that governs the main verb.*

How are they different in Spanish?

- In statements, subjects generally precede the verb in Spanish.
- In questions, subjects generally follow the verb in Spanish.
- Because the Spanish verb endings usually give a clue to the subject, subject pronouns are usually omitted unless needed for clarity.

DIRECT OBJECTS: *The direct object of a verb is created, affected or altered by the action of a verb, or appreciated or sensed by the subject of the verb.*

How are they different in Spanish?

- If the direct object is a noun, it follows the verb.
- If the direct object is a pronoun, it generally precedes the verb or may be attached to the end of an infinitive, present participle, or affirmative command.
- If the direct object is a person/pet and follows the noun, it is preceded by the letter **a** (personal a).
- If there is both a direct and indirect object pronoun, the indirect comes first.

INDIRECT OBJECTS: *The indirect object of a verb is not directly affected by the action, but can either receive the direct object or have the action done for them.*

How are they different in Spanish?

- If the indirect object is a noun, it follows the verb.
- If the indirect object is a pronoun, it generally precedes the verb or may be attached to the end of an infinitive, present participle, or affirmative command.
- If the indirect object follows the verb, it is usually preceded by the preposition **a**.
- If there is both a direct and indirect object pronoun, the indirect comes first and if it is **le/les** it is replaced by **se**.

ADJECTIVES: An adjective modifies a noun. It describes the quality, state or action that a noun refers to.

How are they different in Spanish?

- Adjectives that describe nouns generally **FOLLOW** the noun in Spanish.
- Adjectives **MUST** always agree (match) the noun they modify in both gender and in number in Spanish.
- Most adjectives ending in **-o** have four forms corresponding to *masculine singular & plural* and *feminine singular & plural*.

el libro pequeño la casa pequeña	los libros pequeños las casas pequeñas
-------------------------------------	---

- Most adjectives ending in **-e** or a consonant only have two forms: singular and plural.

el libro grande la casa grande	los libros grandes las casas grandes
el libro marrón la casa marrón	los libros marrones las casas marrones

- Possessive adjectives also must agree with their noun, but have only singular and plural forms except for **nuestro**.

mi/mis tu/tus su/sus	my your (friendly) his/her/your (formal)	nuestro/a/nuestros/as su/sus	our their/your guys
----------------------------	--	---------------------------------	------------------------

- Demonstrative adjectives work similarly to English (they both have singular and plural forms), but also have masculine and feminine forms as well. Spanish also has one more than English: **aquel**.

este/esta ese/esa aquel/aquella	this that that over there	estos/estas esos/esas aquellos/aquellas	these those those over there
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------	---	------------------------------------

ADVERBS: An adverb is a word that modifies the meaning of a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

How are they different in Spanish?

- Adverbs that modify verbs generally come after the verb they modify.
- Adverbs that modify adjectives or adverbs, generally come before the adjective/adverb.
- Adverbs of time usually follow the verb.
- Adverbs of place can come before or after the verb.
- **-mente** is equivalent to the English **-ly**.

PREPOSITIONS: A preposition is a word that links a noun, pronoun or gerund to other words.

How are they different in Spanish?

- If a verb follows a preposition in Spanish, it **MUST** be in the infinitive form.
- After a preposition **yo** & **me** change to **mí**, and **tú** and **te** change to **ti**.
- Some common Spanish prepositions:

a	to/at	desde	since/from	hacia	towards
antes de	before	después de	after	hasta	until
bajo	under	detrás de	behind	para	for/in order to
cerca de	near	durante	during	por	for/by
con	with	en	in/on	según	according to
contra	against	encima de	on top of	sin	without
de	of/from	enfrente de	in front of	sobre	over/about
delante de	in front of	entre	between	tras	after/behind
dentro de	inside	fuera de	outside of		

VERBS: Verbs refer to an action or a state of being and must be included in every sentence.

How are they different in Spanish?

- All Spanish infinitives end in either **-ar**, **-er**, or **-ir** and may also have **se** at the end if the infinitive is reflexive.
- Spanish verbs consist of two parts: the stem and the ending. In an infinitive, the stem is what's left when you remove the **-ar**, **-er**, or **-ir**.
- Unlike English, all Spanish verbs have endings that determine both the subject and the tense of the verb. These endings are generally added to the stem of the verb, but in the case of the future and conditional tenses, the endings are added to the infinitive.

Subjects	Present Tense			Past Tense				Future Tense
	<u>-AR</u>	<u>-ER</u>	<u>-IR</u>	Preterite		Imperfect		
yo	-o	-o	-o	<u>-AR</u>	<u>-ER/-IR</u>	<u>-AR</u>	<u>-ER/-IR</u>	<u>-AR/-ER/-IR</u>
tú	-as	-es	-es	-é	-í	-aba	-ía	-é
él/ella/Ud.	-a	-e	-e	-aste	-iste	-abas	-ías	-ás
ellos/as/Uds.	-amos	-emos	-imos	-ó	-ió	-aba	-ía	-á
	-amos	-emos	-imos	-amos	-imos	-ábamos	-íamos	-emos
	-an	-en	-en	-aron	-ieron	-aban	-ían	-án