

Present tense of -ar verbs

You already know that the infinitive forms of Spanish verbs always end in *-ar*, *-er*, or *-ir*.

The largest group of verbs end in *-ar*. *Hablar* is one of these *-ar* verbs.

You will want to use verbs in ways other than in the infinitive form. To do this, you will drop the *-ar* ending and make changes.

To create the forms of most *-ar* verbs, you first drop the *-ar* from the infinitive, leaving the stem:

hablar → habl-

Then you add the verb endings *-o*, *-as*, *-a*, *-amos*, *-áis*, or *-an* to the stem.

Here are the forms of *hablar*:

(yo) hablo	(nosotros) (nosotras) hablamos
(tú) hablas	(vosotros) (vosotras) habláis
Ud. (él) habla (ella)	Uds. (ellos) hablan (ellas)

In Spanish, the present tense form of a verb can be translated into English in two ways:

Hablo español. *I speak Spanish.*
I am speaking Spanish.

¿Recuerdas?

You already know many *-ar* verbs, such as *cantar* and *bailar*.



The verb endings always indicate who is doing the action. In this case, they tell *who* is speaking. Because of this, you can often use the verb without a subject:

Hablo inglés. ¿Hablas español?

Subject pronouns are often used for emphasis or clarification.

Ella habla inglés pero él habla español.

GramActiva VIDEO

Want more help with verbs that end in *-ar*? Watch the GramActiva video



Pronombres

Yo	Nosotros
Tú	
él, ella ud.	ellos, ellas uds.

I	We
You (fam)	
he, she you (form)	They you all

Rules: for Present Tense:

-ar		-er		-ir	
-o	-amos	-o	-emos	-o	-imos
-as		-es		-es	
-a	-an	-e	-en	-e	-en

Example:

Saltar - to jump

Yo salto	Nosotros saltamos
Tú saltas	
él, ella ud. salta	ellos, ellas uds. saltan

I jump	We jump
You jump	
he, she you jump	They jump you all

beber - to drink

Yo bebo	nosotros bebemos
Tú bebes	
él, ella ud. bebe	ellos, ellas uds. beben