

TutorTube: Adjectives and Conjugations

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Introduction

Hello and welcome to TutorTube, where The Learning Center's Lead Tutors help you understand challenging course concepts with easy to understand videos. My name is Darren Churn, Lead Tutor for Spanish. In today's video, we will explore adjectives and conjugations. Let's get started

Adjective Endings

As you may know, nouns in Spanish have a gender that is either masculine or feminine. The door is la puerta and the book is el libro. When using adjectives to describe these nouns, the adjective gender must agree as well. When adjectives end in o, they will change to an a if the noun it is describing is feminine. An example of this is serio. If the sentence is "The man is serious", it would translate to "El hombre es serio" This would still end in an o because man is masculine. If I said "The woman is serious" I would translate that to "La mujer es seria" Here you can see that the ending changed to match the gender. On the other hand, some adjectives end in e such as sociable. In this case, the gender will not change the ending. Sociable will always end in e, no matter what the noun's gender is.

Something important to add is that adjectives change according to the amount of nouns they are describing as well. If there is ever a plurality to the noun being described such as los libros or las puertas, the adjective will need an s added to the end. If I said "The men are serious", I would need to make the adjective plural by adding an s to the end of serio, this created "Los hombres son serios". If the adjective ends in a consonant, es is added or potentially as if the adjective changes gender.

Adjective Placement

Unlike English, Spanish adjectives are placed after the noun they describe. In English you would say, the red house with the adjective red describing the noun house. In Spanish, you would say "La casa roja", with the adjective after casa. An exception to this rule occurs with the adjectives mucho (a lot) poco (few) and varios (several). These adjectives are placed before the noun they describe. There are lots of classes is "Hay muchas clases". This ordering differs from the usual order you see in Spanish and looks more like how you would phrase the sentence in English.

Conjugations: Part I

In English we need both the pronoun and the verb to clarify who is doing the action. In Spanish, conjugations work very different. In Spanish, there is the infinitive form of the verb which would mean to do something for example hablar is to talk. The infinitive form is identified and the ending which will be ar, er, or ir will be dropped. The end is then replaced with a specific Spanish conjugation that gives subject, tense, and the action being done. The pronouns that coordinate with the conjugations are used to help determine which ending should be used. Below is a chart showing each of the pronouns that you would use.

Yo – I	Nosotros (-as) – We
Tú – You (informal)	
Él/Ella/Usted – He/She/You (formal)	Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes – They

AR

As I said before, adjectives will end in ar, er, or ir. Here are some examples of AR verbs. If we look at the infinitive hablar. We know to drop the ar, but what do we replace it with? This chart below will show the corresponding endings for each pronoun. For the yo or I form of the verb, the ending added will be o. So I talk would translate to Hablo. The tú or you form adds an as creating hablas. El/ella/usted or he she and you formal is an a creating habla. The nosotros or we form creates hablamos. And the ellos/ellas/ustedes form or they creates hablan. Each of these endings once added to the verb give subject, tense, and obviously the verb itself. Here are some example sentences. I talk with my mom is Hablo con mi madre. They dance a lot is Bailan mucho.

ER

Now we are going to look at ER verbs. Comer which means to eat is a good example to start with. We will conjugate using the same method we used for hablar, except now we will end the corresponding endings for ER. For the yo or I form of the verb, the ending added will still be o. So I eat would translate to como. The tú or you form adds es creating comes. El/ella/usted or he she and you formal is an e creating come. The nosotros or we form creates comemos. And the ellos/ellas/ustedes form or they creates comen.

IR

The present tense conjugations for IR are almost the exact same as ER except the nosotros form is different. Let's conjugate escribir. We have escribo, escribes, escribe, then escribimos, and escriben.

Stem Changers

Now that we have covered all of the regular verbs for the present tense, let us talk about a couple categories of irregulars called stem changers. Stem changers end the same way as their regular counterparts, but the beginning of the verbs are slightly altered. There are 3 main categories of stem changers: o-ue, e-i, and e-ie.

Let's look at some examples of o-ue. Dormir, which means to sleep, is a stem changing IR verb. All of the endings are the exact same as all regular IR verbs. However, now the o changes to a ue in every form except for the nosotros form we do not change the stem.

Now let's look at an e-ie stem changer. A commonly used verb with this irregularity is preferir which means to prefer. This is a stem changing IR verb. You can see the endings are exactly the same except for the e has changed to ie in all forms except the nosotros.

An example of e-i that does this change is repetir, which means to repeat. You can see the changes that this verb holds the same as the other changers.

Conjugations: Part II

Unfortunately, not all verbs end exactly the same despite their endings. Some verbs are irregular.

Gustar

The verb gustar is not conjugated the same way as a typical ar verb. In order to specify who is doing the talking. The end of gustar only changes based on the number of things you are talking about. Instead of the end of gustar being change, me te le nos or les are added to the beginning to clarify who is doing the liking. If I want to say I like something singular I would say me gusta but if what I am liking is plural, I would say me gustan. The tú form would be te gusta/gustan. The el ella usted form is le gusta/n. We nos gusta/n. And they les gusta/n.

Tener

Tener, which means to have, is another common irregular that is part stem changer part yo irregular. If we look at the yo form, a normal er verb would simply end in o. For tener, we change the whole ending to form tengo. Then the rest of the conjugations act like a normal e-ie stem changer. Tú is tienes. El ella usted is tiene. Nosotros tenemos. And ellos ellas ustedes tienen.

Tener is an irregular verb that is frequently used. Sometimes when it is used, it is used very literally. Tener means to have, and the expressions above are also used with it even though you would not necessarily say it that way in English. For example, tener años literally would translate to English as to have so many years but in reality it means to be how every many years old.

Ir/Ir+A+Infinitive

Another important irregular is ir which means to go. This irregular changes a lot. As you can see, the conjugations are voy, vas, va, vamos, and van. Something important about this verb is that it can be used to say I go with voy. Or it can be used to form the present progressive. The present progressive is the “I am going to do something” form in English. This is formed by ir plus a plus an infinitive. The verb ir is conjugated to specify who is doing the action then the actual action itself is left in the infinitive form after an a. If I were to say “I am going to eat” I would conjugate ir to voy then add the a and then leave comer in its infinitive form. Creating Voy a comer.

Ser vs Estar

Our last two irregulars are ser vs estar. These both mean to be. In English you would say I am, you are, he is etc. no matter what the context and not need to differentiate. In Spanish, there are certain situations where you use ser vs estar. First we will look at the conjugations since they are irregular. Ser is conjugated to soy, eres, es, somos, and son. Estar is conjugated similar to an ar for the most part but has some slight differences. It is conjugated as estoy, estás, está, estamos, and están. You can see that there are accents on some of the forms except the nosotros and the yo for has a y at the end.

Now that we have seen the conjugations for these verbs we need to determine when we should use them. The simplest way to think of it is a saying I was taught. “For how you feel and where you are always use the verb estar”. This is because emotions, and current location both fall under estar. Anything other than that would fall under ser. Ser is most commonly used for more permanent things such as occupation, character traits, and origin. A common example of the difference are the questions are “Where are you?” vs “Where are you from?” You would

use *estar* to describe where you are currently. Your origin or where you are from would require the verb *ser*.

Review

Now with all of the information you have heard today, here is a short review of important things we covered.

Adjectives must agree with the gender and the plurality of the thing they are describing. Adding an *s* to the end of the adjective makes it plural and certain adjectives require a change from the masculine *o* to the feminine *a*. Adjectives in Spanish are generally placed after the nouns they describe except for *mucho*, *poco*, and *varios*.

When conjugating verbs in Spanish, you take the infinitive form and drop the *ar*, *er*, or *ir*. Then you replace the endings with the corresponding form. The AR endings are *o*, *as*, *a*, *amos*, *an*. The ER endings are *o*, *es*, *e*, *emos*, *en*. The IR endings are *o*, *es*, *e*, *imos*, *en*.

There are 3 common types of stem changers, *o-ue*, *e-i*, and *e-ie*. These verb changes occur in all forms except the *nosotros*.

And don't forget: For how you feel and where you are, always use the verb *estar*.

Outro

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