

What is Spanish Grammar

What is Grammar?

Grammar is the set rules that we need to follow if we are going to write correctly and speak correctly in whatever language we are learning.

Learning the rules of Spanish grammar gives us a greater understanding of Spanish and how the language works. If we are to understand what we read or hear in Spanish, we need to have a good grasp of the rules of grammar.

Many Spanish grammar rules are the same as English and grammar terminology is the same.

However, there are a lot of differences too. What might be correct in English may not be correct in Spanish.

We need to learn the differences so that our Spanish is accurate. We also need to be able to understand and describe grammatical terms so we can learn how language works.

Some Main Differences

Gender every Spanish noun has a gender either - masculine or feminine. Nouns preceded by *la* or *una* are feminine. Nouns preceded by *el* or *un* are masculine. Gender can affect other words in a sentence.

Word order in Spanish is similar to English: subject → verb → object.

However, there are differences that you need to know about. Adjectives usually come after the noun they are describing and need to agree in number and gender with the noun.

Object and reflexive pronouns are usually placed before the verb: *ej. Te lo voy a dar.*

Negative constructions occur before the verb. *E.j. Nunca juega al fútbol los lunes.*

Conjugation: In Spanish, verbs change according to who is doing the action and the context. They change in English too but not nearly as much, for example we add an 's' on the verb when we are talking about he/she/it or we add an 'ed' to put it in the past.

In Spanish, **verb endings change** for almost every subject pronoun and tense. We need to learn these endings. Some verbs (regular verbs) follow a predictable pattern which makes them easier to learn. Some (irregular verbs) don't follow a pattern at all and we need to learn these off by heart as they are often the verbs we use the most.

What is a noun?

A noun is simply a thing. It can be a place, a person, an idea, or any other thing. the school – **el instituto**, the boy – **el chico**, thirst, **la sed**.

It can be a real thing you can touch (concrete noun) or a thing that you can't touch (abstract noun).

Proper nouns are people's names or the name of a place such as a country or a town.

In Spanish, capital letters for certain nouns are slightly different to how we use them in English.

What is tense?

Tense is the form of a verb which tells us when something happens.

Present tense:

I play - **juego**, I have - **tengo**, I sing - **canto**

Past tense (preterite):

I played – **jugué**, I lived - **viví**, I sang - **canté**

Future tense:

I will play – **jugaré**, I will live – **viviré**, I will sing - **cantaré**

What is gender?

In Spanish, all nouns have a **gender**. They are either masculine or feminine. This means that there are different ways of saying 'the' in Spanish.

the chair – **la silla (feminine)**

the tree – **el árbol (masculine)**

If there is more than one (plural), we use 'los' or 'las'

The chairs – **las sillas (feminine plural)**

The trees – **los árboles (masculine plural)**

What is an article?

An article tells us whether the noun we are talking about is specific or unspecific.

Unspecific / indefinite

A table – **una mesa**

A cup – **una taza** the cup – **la taza**

A mobile 'phone – **un móvil**

Specific / definite

the table – **la mesa**

the mobile 'phone – **el móvil**

What is an adjective?

An adjective is a word which give us some information about the noun, It describes the noun.

the blue car – **el coche azul**

the tall man – **el hombre alto**

the nice friend – **el amigo amable**

the delicious food – **la comida sabrosa**

the empty house – **la casa vacía**

the red shoes – **los zapatos rojos**

What is a verb?

A verb is a grammar term for the word in a sentence which describes or indicates **an action**:

to play - **jugar**, to eat - **comer**, to live, **vivir**, to hear - **escuchar**

These forms here are **infinitives** - they do not yet tell us **when** the action is happening or **who** is doing the action.

In Spanish, you need to know the verb endings as these change depending on who is doing the action.

Spanish

KS3 Spine Grammar Terms and Examples in Spanish

What is a preposition?

A preposition tells us about the relationship between a noun and another word in the sentence. It tells us **where** things are.

My bag is on the chair – **mi bolso está en la silla**

The cinema is opposite the library – **el cine está enfrente de la biblioteca**

The dog is in the garden – **el perro está en el jardín**

Her brother is under the table – **su hermano está debajo de la mesa**

What is an adverb?

An adverb is a word which gives us some more information about the verb in a sentence. It describes **how** the verb is being performed.

he reads slowly – **lee lentamente**

she drives quickly – **conduce rápidamente**

I sometimes do my homework – **hago mis deberes de vez en cuando**

I never eat fruit – **nunca como fruta**