

Present Tense of **-AR** Verbs

◆ 1 ◆ Regular **-AR** Verbs

- The present tense of regular *-ar* verbs is formed by dropping the infinitive ending *-ar* and adding the personal endings *-o*, *-as*, *-a*, *-amos*, *-áis*, *-an*.
- The present tense has the following meanings in English:

usted canta *you sing, you're singing, you do sing*

él canta *he sings, he's singing, he does sing*

cantar <i>to sing</i> (<i>I sing, I'm singing, I do sing</i>)			
yo	canto	nosotros, -as	cantamos
tú	cantas	vosotros, -as	cantáis
usted	} canta	ustedes	} cantan
él		ellos	
ella		ellas	

NOTE:

- The subject pronouns *usted* (*Ud.*) and *ustedes* (*Uds.*) are usually expressed in Spanish. The other subject pronouns (*yo*, *tú*, *él*, *ella*, *nosotros*, *vosotros*, *ellos*, *ellas*) are usually omitted, unless they are required for clarity or emphasis.

Canto bien.

I sing well.

Cantan bien.

They sing well.

BUT

Ud. canta bien.

You sing well.

Ella canta bien pero **él canta** mal.

She sings well but he sings badly.

Ella y yo cantamos bien.

She and I sing well.

- The feminine forms of *nosotros* and *vosotros* are *nosotras* and *vosotras*.
- Tú* and *vosotros* (the familiar forms) are used when addressing close relatives, intimate friends, or small children. In many Spanish-American countries, the *ustedes* form is used instead of the *vosotros* form.

◆ 2 ◆ Common -AR Verbs

admirar	to admire	ganar	to win
arreglar	to arrange, fix	gritar	to shout
ayudar	to help	hablar	to speak
buscar	to look for	invitar	to invite
cambiar	to change	lavar	to wash
bailar	to dance	llamar	to call
bajar	to go down, descend; to lower	llegar	to arrive
borrar	to erase	llevar	to carry, take; wear
buscar	to look for	mirar	to look at
cambiar	to change	montar	to ride (a horse, bicycle)
caminar	to walk	nadar	to swim
cantar	to sing	necesitar	to need
celebrar	to celebrate	pagar	to pay (for)
cocinar	to cook	pasar	to pass; to spend (time)
comprar	to buy	patinar	to skate
contestar	to answer	practicar	to practice
cortar	to cut	preguntar	to ask
dar	to give	preparar	to prepare
decorar	to decorate	regresar	to return
descansar	to rest	sacar	to take out; to take (photo)
desear	to wish, want	terminar	to finish, end
dibujar	to draw	tocar	to touch; to play (a musical instrument)
enseñar	to teach	tomar	to take; to drink
entrar (en)	to enter (into)	trabajar	to work
escuchar	to listen (to)	usar	to use; to wear
esperar	to wait; to hope	viajar	to travel
estudiar	to study	visitar	to visit
explicar	to explain		

EXERCISE A

Enrique is telling his cousin what they and their friends are going to do after school. Express in complete sentences what he says.

EXAMPLE: Alfredo / montar en bicicleta
Alfredo **monta** en bicicleta.

1. Sarita / tocar la guitarra
2. Lewis / trabajar en el supermercado

3. Carol y Gloria / bailar el flamenco
4. tú / practicar el piano
5. Uds. / mirar la televisión
6. yo / visitar a mis amigos
7. Roberto y yo / escuchar discos compactos
8. nosotros / pasar un buen rato en la biblioteca

EXERCISE B

Saturday is a day of chores at the Ortegas. Gloria is explaining what each family member does. Tell what she says.

EXAMPLE: Carlos / lavar el carro
Carlos **lava** el carro.

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. mi mamá / comprar la comida | 4. Eduardo y Clara / arreglar la casa |
| 2. yo / usar la aspiradora | 5. mis hermanitos / sacar al perro |
| 3. mi papá / trabajar en el jardín | 6. mi abuela / cocinar la cena |

EXERCISE C

You and some friends are planning a party. Mario wants to know who's doing what. Tell him.

EXAMPLE: comprar el pastel (Iggy)
Iggy **compra** el pastel.

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. decorar el salón (Gunther y Paco) | 5. preparar la comida (Estela y yo) |
| 2. comprar los refrescos (tú) | 6. ayudar con los preparativos (todos) |
| 3. buscar los discos compactos (yo) | 7. cortar las flores (Silvia e Inés) |
| 4. tocar la guitarra (Marta) | |

EXERCISE D

You received a note from a friend who's taking a cruise in the Caribbean. Complete the note with the present tense of the verbs in parentheses.

Querida Lucy:

¡Saludos de la República Dominicana! Nosotros _____ ratos agradables aquí: yo

1. (pasar)

_____ en el mar Caribe; mis hermanos y yo _____ en motocicleta

2. (nadar)

3. (montar)