

Chapter 1

Present Tense of Regular Verbs



[1] REGULAR VERBS

- a. The present tense of regular verbs is formed by dropping the infinitive ending (-ar, -er, -ir) and adding the following personal endings:

-o, -as, -a, -amos, -áis, -an for -ar verbs
 -o, -es, -e, -emos, -éis, -en for -er verbs
 -o, -es, -e, -imos, -ís, -en for -ir verbs

	bailar to dance	comer to eat	vivir to live
yo	bailo	como	vivo
tú	bailas	comes	vives
Ud., él, ella	baila	come	vive
nosotros, -as	bailamos	comemos	vivimos
vosotros, -as	bailáis	coméis	vivís
Uds., ellos, ellas	bailan	comen	viven

- b. The present tense has the following meanings in English.

yo como *I eat, I'm eating, I do eat*
 usted baila *you dance, you're dancing, you do dance*
 ellos viven *they live, they're living, they do live*

NOTE:

1. In a negative statement, **no** follows the subject and goes immediately before the verb.

Ellos no comen a las doce. *They don't eat at twelve o'clock.*

2. In a question, the subject usually follows the verb.

¿Comen ellos a las doce? *Do they eat at twelve o'clock?*
¿No comen ellos a las doce? *Don't they eat at twelve o'clock?*

3. Unless required for clarity or for emphasis, subject pronouns are usually omitted.

Colecciono discos. *I collect records.*
¿Colecciona Ud. discos también? *Do you collect records too?*

[2] COMMON -AR VERBS

ayudar to help	coleccionar to collect	desear to want, wish
bajar to go down, descend	comprar to buy	enseñar to teach, show
borrar to erase	contestar to answer	entrar to enter
buscar to look for, seek	cultivar to cultivate	escuchar to listen (to)
caminar to walk	dejar to let, allow, leave	esperar to wait for, await, hope, expect
cantar to sing	descansar to rest	estudiar to study

explicar to explain
 gritar to shout
 hablar to speak, talk
 hallar to find
 invitar to invite
 llenar to fill
 llevar to carry, wear
 mirar to look (at)

necesitar to need
 pagar to pay (for)
 pasar to pass, spend (time)
 patinar to skate
 practicar to practice
 preguntar to ask
 preparar to prepare
 quitar to take away

regresar to return
 sacar to take out; to take (photo)
 tomar to take, eat, drink
 trabajar to work
 usar to use
 viajar to travel
 visitar to visit

EXERCISE A. Alfredo is describing what happens in his classes at school. Express in complete sentences what he says.

EXAMPLE: yo / prestar atención Yo presto atención.

1. la maestra / enseñar la lección _____
2. los alumnos / escuchar a la maestra _____
3. Javier / contestar las preguntas _____
4. yo / buscar las palabras en el diccionario _____
5. tú / preguntar muchas cosas _____
6. Gloria / entrar en la clase tarde _____
7. la clase / preparar la tarea _____
8. nosotros / estudiar mucho _____

EXERCISE B. While talking to your grandmother on the telephone she asks you what everyone in the family is doing at this moment. Tell her.

EXAMPLE: Felipe / mirar la televisión Felipe mira la televisión.

1. mi hermana / pasar la aspiradora _____
2. mamá / preparar la comida _____
3. Luis / trabajar en el jardín _____
4. papá / lavar el carro _____
5. Rosita y yo / escuchar discos _____
6. Adela / tocar el piano _____

EXERCISE C. Use the cues provided to write negative sentences.

EXAMPLE: los niños / coleccionar insectos Los niños **no coleccionan** insectos.

1. las niñas / montar en bicicleta _____
2. los amigos / caminar en el parque _____

- 3. Pierre y yo / nadar en la piscina _____
- 4. Kyoko / comprar un suéter _____
- 5. yo / viajar en autobús _____

EXERCISE D. Write a list of seven things you and your classmates do not do in school. Use the following suggestions or create your own.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| escuchar discos | preparar la tarea | arreglar el monopatín |
| visitar otras clases | gritar en la clase | mirar por la ventana |
| hablar en voz alta | descansar en la clase | |

EXAMPLE: Yo no miro por la ventana.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____

EXERCISE E. Your father is watching his favorite program and isn't paying close attention to what you are telling him. After each statement, he asks a question. Tell what he asks in response to the statements below.

EXAMPLES: Rogelio gana muchos trofeos. Yo colecciono insectos.
 ¿Gana Rogelio muchos trofeos? ¿Coleccionas tú insectos?

- 1. Guy y Lázaro toman muchos refrescos. _____
- 2. Evelyn practica un deporte. _____
- 3. Gustavo escucha música clásica. _____
- 4. Yo patino con monopatines. _____
- 5. Lucy y Sean cantan en el coro. _____
- 6. Marco descansa en una hamaca. _____
- 7. Beto y yo sacamos muchas fotos. _____

[3] COMMON -ER VERBS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------|
| aprender to learn | correr to run | leer to read |
| beber to drink | creer to believe | prometer to promise |
| comer to eat | deber to have to (should, ought); to owe | responder to answer |
| comprender to understand | esconder to hide (something) | vender to sell |