Present: regular -ER/-IR verbs

Spanish · British English › Spanish

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The Present Tense (Presente) - Regular -ER and -IR Verbs

Hello there! Today we're going to learn how to conjugate regular Spanish verbs ending in **-ER** and **-IR** in the present tense (Presente). This is super useful for talking about daily activities, habits, and general facts.

Conjugating regular verbs is quite straightforward. All you need to do is remove the **-ER** or **-IR** ending and add the correct ending for each person.

Subject + **Verb Stem** + **Ending**

Let's take a look at the verb **comer** (to eat). The verb stem is **com-**.

Pronoun	Ending (-ER)	COMER (to eat)
yo	-o	como
tú	-es	comes
él/ella/usted	-e	come
nosotros/nosotras	-emos	comemos
vosotros/vosotras	-éis	coméis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-en	comen

Yo como pan cada día.
I eat bread every day.

Now, let's move on to verbs ending in **-IR**. For example, **vivir** (to live/reside). The stem is **viv-**.

Pronoun	Ending (-IR)	VIVIR (to live/reside)
yo	-o	vivo
tú	-es	vives
él/ella/usted	-e	vive
nosotros/nosotras	-imos	vivimos
vosotros/vosotras	-ís	vivís
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-en	viven

Notice that the endings for **-IR** verbs are very similar to those for **-ER**, with one key difference for **nosotros/nosotras** and **vosotros/vosotras**!

Ella vive en un piso bonito.
She lives in a nice flat.

Top Tip! Remember that the ending for **yo** is always **-o** for all regular verbs (-AR, -ER, -IR)! It's a great starting point to remember!

Watch out! A common mistake is to mix up the endings for **nosotros/nosotras** and **vosotros/vosotras** between -ER and -IR verbs. For -ER, you have **-emos/-éis**, but for -IR, it's **-imos/-ís**. Pay attention to that vowel!

- We use the Presente to talk about **habits and routines**: *Yo como fruta cada día.* (I eat fruit every day.)
- To describe **facts and general truths**: *El agua hierve a cien grados.* (Water boils at a hundred degrees.)
- To express **actions happening right now**: *Ella escribe un email ahora.* (She is writing an email now.)

Brilliant work! You're now ready to practise these verbs and start using them in your daily conversations. ¡Vamos!

Part 1 — Choose the correct word

Circle the option that correctly fills each gap.

1. Yo _____ en una casa pequeña.
   I live in a small house.
   A) vive B) vivo C) vives D) viven

2. Nosotros _____ el pastel.
   We split the cake.
   A) partimos B) partís C) parte D) parten

3. Usted _____ a las preguntas.
   You answer the questions.
   A) respondo B) responden C) responde D) respondes

4. Ellos _____ café por la mañana.
   They drink coffee in the morning.
   A) bebe B) beben C) bebéis D) bebemos

5. Él _____ las escaleras.
   He is going up the stairs.
   A) suben B) subo C) subes D) sube

6. Yo _____ en el parque por la tarde.
   I run in the park in the afternoon.
   A) corro B) corren C) corres D) corre

7. Nosotros _____ nuevas palabras.
   We are learning new words.
   A) aprende B) aprendéis C) aprendemos D) aprenden

8. Vosotras _____ ropa bonita.
   You sell nice clothes.
   A) vendemos B) vendéis C) vende D) venden

Part 2 — Fill in the gap

Write the missing word or phrase on the line.

1. Tú _____ tu futuro.
   You are deciding your future.

2. Nosotros _____ dos piezas.

We join two pieces.

3. Nosotros _____ un regalo.
   We are receiving a present.

4. Él _____ estudiar mucho.
   He has to study a lot.

5. Ustedes _____ la puerta.
   You are opening the door.

6. Tú _____ muy bien la lección.
   You understand the lesson very well.

Part 3 — Translate

Write each word in Spanish on the line.

1. to write › _____
2. to read › _____
3. to split › _____
4. to decide › _____
5. to allow › _____
6. to drink › _____

Part 4 — Match the pairs

Write the letter of the matching translation next to each term.

	Term		Translation
1.	comer	A	to read
2.	permitir	B	to eat
3.	creer	C	to write
4.	asistir	D	to attend
5.	escribir	E	to believe
6.	leer	F	to allow
7.	deber	G	to run
8.	correr	H	must

Answer Key

Part 1 — Choose the correct word

1. B) vivo
2. A) partimos
3. C) responde
4. B) beben
5. D) sube
6. A) corro
7. C) aprendemos
8. B) vendéis

Part 2 — Fill in the gap

1. decides
2. unimos
3. recibimos
4. debe
5. abren
6. comprendes

Part 3 — Translate

1. escribir
2. leer
3. partir
4. decidir
5. permitir
6. beber

Part 4 — Match the pairs

1. B (to eat)
2. F (to allow)
3. E (to believe)
4. D (to attend)
5. C (to write)
6. A (to read)
7. H (must)
8. G (to run)