



Reading and introducing yourself

Pronunciation, personal pronouns, reflexive verbs and the verb ESTAR — the first lesson on one page.

THE 5 BASICS

1

It reads exactly as it's written

Spanish is pronounced just as it is spelled — that's what makes it approachable. The exceptions are few and quickly memorized (see the table below).

2

Pronouns carry gender

Nosotros/Nosotras, Vosotros/Vosotras, Ellos/Ellas: the form depends on who's in the group. All female → -as; male or mixed → -os.

3

Usted is not a second person

Usted (formal 'you', one person) takes the third person singular, Ustedes (several) the third person plural. Vosotros is the informal plural 'you'.

4

The reflexive particle goes BEFORE

Unlike English "my name is", Spanish places the particle before the conjugated verb — and it changes with each person: me, te, se, nos, os, se.

5

ESTAR = temporary state

¿Cómo estás? — Estoy bien. ESTAR expresses a passing state or a mood. For permanent things, Spanish uses SER (sheet 02).

Introducing yourself in three sentences

— ¿Cómo te llamas? — Me llamo Pablo. (What's your name? — My name is Pablo.)

— ¿Qué tal estás? — Muy bien, gracias. ¿Y tú? (How are you? — Very well, thanks. And you?)

— ¡Hola! ¿Qué tal? — Fenomenal. / Fatal. (Hi, how's it going? — Great. / Awful.)

Note the inverted ¿ and ¡ — they open every question and exclamation.

The pronunciation exceptions

RR → rolled R (perro) · LL → "y" (ella, paella) · Ñ → "ny" (España) · CH → "ch" (chico)

J → guttural "h", the jota (Jorge) · G → hard g, but jota before E and I · H → silent (hola) · Z → "s" · V → between B and V

Conjugation: ME llamo · TE llamas · SE llama · NOS llamamos · OS llamáis · SE llaman