

Regular verbs in the present tense



El Patio ESSENTIALS

Regular verbs are verbs that follow a pattern that other verbs also follow. Once we learn the basic pattern of one verb, we can use this pattern when conjugating other verbs.

verbos regulares en presente

What do they look like?

Most regular verbs in the present tense look like this:

HABLAR	COMER	VIVIR
hablo	como	vivo
hablas	comes	vives
habla	come	vive
hablamos	comemos	vivimos
habláis	coméis	vivís
hablan	comen	viven

Here are the regular endings in a table.

There are patterns going down the table and going across:

AR	ER	IR	AR	ER	IR
-o	-o	-o	-o	-o	-o
-as	-es	-es	-as	-es	-es
-a	-e	-e	-a	-e	-e
-amos	-emos	-imos	-amos	-emos	-imos
-áis	-éis	-ís	-áis	-éis	-ís
-an	-en	-en	-an	-en	-en

ESCOGER CONSTRUIR

escojo	construyo
escoges	construyes
escoge	construye
escogemos	construimos
escogéis	construís
escogen	construyen

With some verbs we need to **change the spelling** to suit the sound or spelling rules.

For example, the first person of the verb ESCOGER is escojo. We change G > J to keep the same sound as the infinitive. Other verbs like this are ELEGIR (elijo) and COGER (cojo).

Another verb that changes in a similar way is CONSTRUIR. We add a 'y' to most verb forms to keep the same sound as the infinitive. All the '-UIR' verbs follow this pattern: INFLUIR, CONCLUIR, DISTRIBUIR ...

How do they sound?

Once we've got a sense of the basic forms of regular verbs in the present tense, the next challenge is how to say each form correctly.

An easy trick is that the **emphasis of all conjugated verb forms falls on the second last syllable**.

The only exception is when the verb form has a written accent. In that case, the strongest syllable will be the one with the written accent.

camino	aprendo	escribo	creo
caminas	aprendes	escribes	crees
camina	aprende	escribe	cree
caminamos	aprendemos	escribimos	creemos
camináis	aprendéis	escribís	creéis
caminan	aprenden	escriben	creen