

In Spanish, regular verbs are grouped into three categories: **-ar**, **-er** and **-ir**. To know which group the verb belongs to, look at the ending of its infinitive.

### 1. Dictionary skills

Use a dictionary to find the following verbs in Spanish. The form the dictionary will give you is called an infinitive.

To sing =	To choose =	To sell =
To finish =	To eat =	To live =

Now underline the **-ar**, **-er** and **-ir** ending of each infinitive. This will show you which group they belong to. Write them down in the correct column below.

<b>-ar</b>	<b>-er</b>	<b>-ir</b>

### 2. How to conjugate a verb

Conjugating a verb means changing the form of the verb to show who is doing the action and when.

Beber = to drink (the infinitive)

(Yo) bebo = I drink (first person pronoun and present tense)

#### Step 1

To conjugate a verb, you need to remove the **-ar**, **-er** and **-ir** ending which leaves you with the verb stem. Find the stem for the following verbs:

Bailar =	Terminar =	Describir =
Cumplir =	Perder =	Entender =

### Step 2

Now write down the subject pronouns in order. Verbs are always learnt in this order so it is important to remember it but in Spanish the subject pronoun does not always appear next to the verb. It's the ending of the verb that gives you a clue as to who is doing the action.

I ..... We .....

You (singular) ..... You (plural) .....

He ..... They (masculine) .....

She ..... They (feminine) .....

Polite form (singular) ..... Polite form (plural) .....

### Step 3

Finally you need to add the correct endings to the stem.

Regular verbs - present tense endings			
	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
I	-o	-o	-o
you	-as	-es	-es
he/she/it	-a	-e	-e
we	-amos	-emos	-imos
you (pl)	-áis	-éis	-ís
they	-an	-en	-en

**3. Conjugation practice**

Conjugate the following verbs following the three steps above and using the table of verb endings for help.

**-ar verbs**

- a. I watch (mirar) .....
- b. She washes (lavar) .....
- c. You (singular) study (estudiar) .....
- d. They (masculine) speak (hablar) .....
- e. You (plural) listen (escuchar) .....
- f. We visit (visitar) .....

**-er verbs**

- a. He drinks (beber) .....
- b. We eat (comer) .....
- c. I read (leer) .....
- d. You (singular) sell (vender) .....
- e. They (feminine) learn (aprender) .....
- f. You (plural) cough (tosar) .....

**-ir verbs**

- a. We choose (elegir) .....
- b. He lives (vivir) .....
- c. They (masculine) write (escribir) .....
- d. I open (abrir) .....
- e. You (plural) insist (insistir) .....
- f. You (singular) define (definir) .....

Score /18

**4. Review**

Can you rewrite the endings and Spanish subject pronouns from memory in the table?

Regular verbs - present tense endings			
Subject pronouns	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs

Score /18

## Answers

1.

- Cantar
- Elegir
- Vender
- Terminar
- Comer
- Vivir

2.

- Bail-
- Termin-
- Describ-
- Cumpl-
- Perd-
- Entend-

3.

**-ar verbs**

- a. Miro
- b. Lava
- c. Estudias
- d. Hablan
- e. Escucháis
- f. Visitamos

**-er verbs**

- a. Bebe
- b. Comemos
- c. Leo
- d. Vendes
- e. Aprenden
- f. Toséis

**-ir verbs**

- a. Elegimos
- b. Vive
- c. Escriben
- d. Abro
- e. Insistís
- f. Defines

4.

### Regular verbs - present tense endings

Subject pronouns	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
yo	-o	-o	-o
tu	-as	-es	-es
él/ella/usted	-a	-e	-e
nosotros	-amos	-emos	-imos
vosotro	-áis	-éis	-ís
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-an	-en	-en