

# Subject Pronouns

The subject of a sentence tells who is doing the action. You often use people's names as the subject:

Gregorio escucha música. *Gregory listens to music.*  
 Ana canta y baila. *Ana sings and dances.*

You also use subject pronouns (*I, you, he, she, we, they*) to tell who is doing an action. The subject pronouns replace people's names:

Él escucha música. *He listens to music.*  
 Ella canta y baila. *She sings and dances.*

Here are all the subject pronouns in Spanish:

|             |                |                |              |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| yo          | I              | nosotros       | we           |
|             |                | nosotras       | we           |
| tú          | you (familiar) | vosotros       | you          |
|             |                | vosotras       | you          |
| usted (Ud.) | you (formal)   | ustedes (Uds.) | you (formal) |
| él          | he             | ellos          | they         |
| ella        | she            | ellas          | they         |

*Tú, usted, ustedes, and vosotros(as)* all mean "you."

- Use *tú* with family, friends, people your age or younger, and anyone you call by his or her first name.
- Use *usted* with adults you address with a title, such as *señor, señora, profesor(a)*, etc. *Usted* is usually written as *Ud.*
- In Latin America, use *ustedes* when speaking to two or more people, regardless of age. *Ustedes* is usually written as *Uds.*
- In Spain, use *vosotros(as)* when speaking to two or more people you call *tú* individually: *tú + tú = vosotros(as)*. Use *ustedes* when talking to two or more people you call *usted* individually.

You can combine a subject pronoun and a name to form a subject.

Alejandro y yo = nosotros    Pepe y tú = ustedes  
 Carlos y ella = ellos        Lola y ella = ellas

## Verbs in the Present Tense

### Present tense of regular -ar verbs

#### Hablar - To speak

|         |        |                      |               |          |                                  |
|---------|--------|----------------------|---------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| (yo)    | hablo  | I speak              | (nosotros/as) | hablamos | we speak                         |
| (tú)    | hablas | you (familiar) speak | (vosotros/as) | habláis  | you (all) speak<br>plural, Spain |
| (usted) |        | you (formal) speak   | (ustedes)     |          | you (all) speak                  |
| (él)    | habla  | he speaks            | (ellos)       | hablan   | they (mas.) speak                |
| (ella)  |        | she speaks           | (ellas)       |          | they (fem.) speak                |

### Present tense of regular -er verbs

#### Comer - To eat

|         |       |                    |               |         |                                |
|---------|-------|--------------------|---------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| (yo)    | como  | I eat              | (nosotros/as) | comemos | we eat                         |
| (tú)    | comes | you (familiar) eat | (vosotros/as) | coméis  | you (all) eat<br>plural, Spain |
| (usted) |       | you (formal) eat   | (ustedes)     |         | you (all) eat                  |
| (él)    | come  | he eats            | (ellos)       | comen   | they (mas.) eat                |
| (ella)  |       | she eats           | (ellas)       |         | they (fem.) eat                |

### Present tense of regular -ir verbs

#### Escribir - To write

|         |          |                      |               |            |                                  |
|---------|----------|----------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| (yo)    | escribo  | I write              | (nosotros/as) | escribimos | we write                         |
| (tú)    | escribes | you (familiar) write | (vosotros/as) | escribís   | you (all) write<br>plural, Spain |
| (usted) |          | you (formal) write   | (ustedes)     |            | you (all) write                  |
| (él)    | escribe  | he writes            | (ellos)       | escriben   | they (mas.) write                |
| (ella)  |          | she writes           | (ellas)       |            | they (fem.) write                |

## Vamos a practicar

a. **¿Quién es?** Indicate which pronoun—**yo, tú, usted, ella, él**—you would use with the following people. Each pronoun may be used more than once.

1. your mother, when you are talking to her \_\_\_\_\_
2. your father, when you are talking about him \_\_\_\_\_
3. a male friend you are talking about \_\_\_\_\_
4. a close friend you are talking to \_\_\_\_\_
5. a female friend you are talking about \_\_\_\_\_
6. you, talking about yourself \_\_\_\_\_
7. a teacher you are talking to \_\_\_\_\_
8. your aunt, when you are talking about her \_\_\_\_\_

b. **¿Tú o usted?** Would you use **tú** or **usted** to address the following people?

1. your sister \_\_\_\_\_
2. the principal of your school \_\_\_\_\_
3. your Spanish teacher \_\_\_\_\_
4. your teenage cousin \_\_\_\_\_
5. the classmate who sits behind you \_\_\_\_\_
6. a clerk at the store \_\_\_\_\_
7. your best friend \_\_\_\_\_
8. the guidance counselor \_\_\_\_\_

c. **Amigos y profesores.** Which pronoun would you use to refer to the following people?

MODELO *Pablo es mi amigo.*

*Él es mi amigo.*

1. *Diana es mi amiga.* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *La Srta. Montero es mi profesora.* \_\_\_\_\_
3. *El Sr. Whitaker es mi profesor de historia.* \_\_\_\_\_
4. *Alicia es mi amiga.* \_\_\_\_\_
5. *Juan es mi amigo.* \_\_\_\_\_
6. *El Sr. Pérez es el director de la escuela.* \_\_\_\_\_
7. *La Sra. Ramos es mi profesora de matemáticas.* \_\_\_\_\_
8. *José es mi amigo.* \_\_\_\_\_

ch. **Fotos.** A Mexican friend, Pilar, is showing you some photos she took at school. You are curious to know who the people in the photographs are. What would you ask her?

MODELO Tú: **¿Quién es él?**  
Pilar: Es mi amigo Pablo.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Tú: ¿...? _____<br>Pilar: Es mi profesora de español. | 5. Tú: ¿...? _____<br>Pilar: Es el profesor de matemáticas. |
| 2. Tú: ¿...? _____<br>Pilar: Es el Sr. Morales.          | 6. Tú: ¿...? _____<br>Pilar: Es mi amigo Samuel.            |
| 3. Tú: ¿...? _____<br>Pilar: Es mi amigo Rafael.         | 7. Tú: ¿...? _____<br>Pilar: Es Luisa, mi buena amiga.      |
| 4. Tú: ¿...? _____<br>Pilar: Es mi amiga Teresa.         | 8. Tú: ¿...? _____<br>Pilar: ¡Caramba! ¡Soy yo!             |

**Vamos a practicar** \_\_\_\_\_

a. **¿Quiénes?** What subject pronouns would you use to talk about the following people?

MODELO Carlos y yo  
nosotros

- |                    |                          |              |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Carlota y María | 4. tú y tú               | 7. tú y Juan |
| 2. mi amiga y yo   | 5. ustedes y el profesor | 8. tú y yo   |
| 3. Manuel y Andrés | 6. usted y yo            | 9. tú y ella |

b. **¿Uno o más?** Make the singular pronouns plural and the plural pronouns singular.

MODELO ustedes  
usted

- |             |          |             |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| 1. yo       | 4. él    | 7. ustedes  |
| 2. nosotros | 5. usted | 8. ellos    |
| 3. tú       | 6. ellas | 9. nosotras |

**PRACTICE THE SUBJECT PRONOUNS**

- Which pronoun is always capitalized in English but not in Spanish? \_\_\_\_\_
- The pronoun *we* has two possible words in Spanish: \_\_\_\_\_
- Vosotros* is the plural of \_\_\_\_\_ in Spain, but it is not used in Latin America. In its place, Latin Americans use \_\_\_\_\_.
- Which one is more familiar, *tú* or *usted*? \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nosotras* is used when all the speakers are \_\_\_\_\_, but *nosotros* can be all males or a combination of males and \_\_\_\_\_.
- If Mr. Pérez is talking for himself and his wife, will he say *nosotros* or *nosotras*? \_\_\_\_\_.
- The use of *tú* versus *usted* varies from country to country. A student would address his teacher as \_\_\_\_\_, and the teacher would reply with \_\_\_\_\_.
- The mark (´) on a vowel in Spanish is called *acento*, and later you will learn the rules for its use. Which are the two pronouns with *acento*? \_\_\_\_\_.
- He* is always a person (or animal) as subject of a sentence; the Spanish word is \_\_\_\_\_. The pronoun for *she* is \_\_\_\_\_. The pronoun for *it* is \_\_\_\_\_.

10. If we talk to Mary and Jane, we refer to them as *they*; the Spanish word is \_\_\_\_\_ . If we talk about the boy and girl, we refer to them as *they*; the Spanish word is \_\_\_\_\_ .
11. If we talk about the tables, we refer to them as *they* if the word is the subject of the sentence. Would you translate *they* (tables) in this case? \_\_\_\_\_ .
12. One easy way to tell *tú* from *usted* is to compare with English. When you call a person by his or her first name (John, Mary, etc), you would use *tú*. When you use last names (Mr. Martínez), you would use \_\_\_\_\_ in Spanish.
13. *Usted* is abbreviated into \_\_\_\_\_ , and *ustedes* \_\_\_\_\_ .

Llena el cuadro con los pronombres personales en español.

|                         | SINGULAR | PLURAL |
|-------------------------|----------|--------|
| 1 <sup>ra</sup> persona |          |        |
| 2 <sup>da</sup> persona |          |        |
| 3 <sup>ra</sup> persona |          |        |