

Spanish Sentence Structure

Master the building blocks of Spanish sentences

1. The SVO Pattern - Just Like English!

Good News: Spanish follows Subject + Verb + Object order!

Same pattern as English - but with exciting Spanish flexibility



Subject (Sujeto)

María

(Maria)

Who or what does the action?



Verb (Verbo)

come

(eats)

What action happens?



Object (Objeto)

manzanas

(apples)

What receives the action?

Complete Sentence:

María come manzanas

(Maria eats apples)

2. Spanish Flexibility - More Options Than English!

Unlike English, Spanish allows flexible word order for emphasis and style. All these sentences are correct:

Yo hablo español

(I speak Spanish)

Standard order with subject pronoun

Hablo español

(I speak Spanish)

Subject pronoun dropped - most common!

Español hablo yo

(Spanish I speak)

Object first for emphasis

3. Dropping Subject Pronouns - Spanish's Secret Weapon



Key Insight:

Spanish verb endings show WHO is doing the action!

como

(I eat)

-o ending = I

come

(He/She eats)

-e ending = he/she

coméis

(You all eat)

-éis ending = you all

comes

(You eat)

-es ending = you

comemos

(We eat)

-emos ending = we

comen

(They eat)

-en ending = they

4. Real-Life Examples

Daily Activities (with subject pronouns):

María bebe café (Maria drinks coffee)

Los niños juegan fútbol (The children play soccer)

Nosotros vemos televisión (We watch television)

Without Subject Pronouns (more natural):

Hablo inglés (I speak English)

The "-o" ending shows it's "I"

Comes demasiado (You eat too much)

The "-es" ending shows it's "you"

Escriben cartas (They write letters)

The "-en" ending shows it's "they"

5. Common Mistakes to Avoid

✗ **Yo siempre como**

Don't overuse subject pronouns



Siempre como

✗ **Él comer pizza**

Verbs must agree with subjects



Él come pizza

✗ **Perro come carne**

Don't forget articles



El perro come carne

6. Quick Test / Mini Quiz

Test your understanding of Spanish sentence structure! These questions cover the key concepts from this guide.



1. Word order puzzle! What's the correct order for 'María reads books'?

- a) Libros lee María
- b) María libros lee
- c) María lee libros
- d) Lee María libros



2. Subject identification! In 'El gato come pescado', what's the subject?

- a) El
- b) gato
- c) El gato
- d) come



3. Verb spotting! In 'Los estudiantes estudian español', which word is the verb?

- a) Los
- b) estudiantes
- c) estudian
- d) español



4. Object hunting! In 'Nosotros compramos una casa', what's the object?

- a) Nosotros
- b) compramos
- c) una casa
- d) una



5. Spanish flexibility! Which sentence is also correct for 'I speak Spanish'?

- a) Yo español hablo
- b) Español yo hablo
- c) Hablo español
- d) All of the above

Visit spanishgrammar.co.uk/basic-sentence-structure#quiz for answers and explanations