



Spanish In Mexico Notes: 3-1 Conjugating –AR Verbs

After watching the trio sing “Sabor a Mí,” we learned how to conjugate **ar** verbs in the present tense. When conjugating these verbs, the stem remains the same. The end of the verb changes depending on the tense, and whether the subject is singular or plural.

The following verbs are in their **infinitive** form. Infinitives in English usually include the word *to*: *to dance, to swim, to walk, etc.* Spanish infinitives end with **ar, er** or **ir**. The verbs we learned in this class were all regular **ar** verbs.

INFINITIVO	INFINITIVE	STEM
Bailar	To Dance	Bail-
Nadar	To Swim	Nad-
Caminar	To Walk	Camin-
Hablar	To Speak	Habl-
Trabajar	To Work	Trabaj-
Pescar	To Fish	Pesc-
Cocinar	To Cook	Cocin-

The five present-tense conjugations of bailar are:

yo	bailo	nosotros	bailamos
tú	bailas		
él/ella/Ud	baila	ellos/ellas/Uds.	bailan

Yo bailo – I dance

Tú bailas – You dance

Él/Ella/Ud. baila – He dances, she dances, you dance

Nosotros bailamos – We dance

Ellos/Uds. bailan – They dance, you all dance

By replacing the stem, we can conjugate any regular **ar** verb in the same way. For example:

yo	hablo	nosotros	hablamos
tú	hablas		
él/ella/Ud	habla	ellos/ellas/Uds.	hablan

Yo hablo – I speak

Tú hablas – You speak

Él/Ella/Ud. habla – He speaks, she speaks, you speak

Nosotros hablamos – We speak

Ellos/Ellas/Uds. hablan – They speak, you all speak

Additional Information:

In Spanish, it is common to leave out subject pronouns if they are not necessary. This occurs at times when the conjugation indicates the subject or when it is already clear who/what the subject is. For example:

The direct translation of “I swim in the ocean” is: “Yo nada en el mar.”

However, since the ending of the conjugated verb already tells us that it is first person and singular, one can simply say: “Nado en el mar.” In many cases, the subject pronoun ‘yo’ is only added for emphasis.

In the following two sentences, the subject remains the same. Therefore, no subject (or subject pronoun) is necessary in the second sentence. The conjugation (third person, singular) shows that the subject (in this case, Pedro) is still the same.

En la mañana, Pedro nada en el mar. En la tarde, trabaja.

In the morning, Pedro swims in the ocean. In the afternoon, he works.

Vocabulary:

bailar – to dance

nadar – to swim

hablar – to speak

caminar – to walk

trabajar – to work

pescar – to fish

Extended Vocabulary:

la plaza – plaza

la calle – street

el tiempo – time

el amor – love

el alma – soul

nada – nothing

la boca – mouth

mil – thousand

el año – year

la gente – people

tocar la guitarra – to play guitar

cocinar – to cook