

Spanish In Mexico Notes: 7-3 Beverages

As we spoke with the bartenders in Puerto Vallarta, we learned about the verbs *tomar* and *beber*, which both mean ‘to drink.’ *Tomar* is a regular –ar verb, and *beber* is a regular –er verb.

The five present tense conjugations of the verb *tomar* are:

yo	tomo	nosotros	tomamos
tú	tomas		
él/ella/Ud.	toma	ellos/ellas/Uds.	toman

The five present tense conjugations of the verb *beber* are:

yo	bebo	nosotros	bebemos
tú	bebes		
él/ella/Ud.	bebe	ellos/ellas/Uds.	beben

The two verbs are interchangeable and are both commonly used and understood. For example:

Yo tomo el vino. – I drink wine.
Tú bebes el té. – You drink tea.
Ella bebe el agua. – She drinks the water.
Nosotros tomamos el café. – We drink coffee.
Ellos beben el jugo. – They drink the juice.

To ask someone what he or she likes to drink, use the question:

¿Te gusta tomar la leche? – Do you like to drink milk?
¿Te gusta beber el jugo? – Do you like to drink juice?

Additional Information:

The verb *tomar* has many meanings in Spanish. The most common translation of *tomar* is “to take.” Some common examples:

tomar el bus – to take the bus
tomar medicina – to take medicine
tomar una foto – to take a picture

When combined with a beverage, or if the subject of beverages is implied by the setting or topic of discussion, *tomar* means ‘to drink.’

Vocabulary:

el agua – water
el jugo – juice
la leche – milk
el café – coffee
el té – tea
el vino – wine
la cerveza - beer

Extended Vocabulary:

la bebida – beverage
el clima – climate
la copa – cup
la sal – salt
el hielo – ice
el limón – lemon
el jarabe – syrup
el refresco – soda
el azúcar – sugar
el ron – rum
el desayuno – breakfast
amable – friendly
dar – to give