



### Spanish In Mexico Notes: 8-2 Expressing Ability

As we visited San Sebastián, we learned how to conjugate the verb *poder*, which means ‘to be able to.’ Unlike regular ER verbs, *poder* is stem-changing. In the case of *poder*, this means that the ‘o’ in the stem (*pod-*) changes to ‘ue’ in all the present tense conjugations except the *nosotros* form. The five present tense conjugations of *poder* are:

yo	<u>pu</u> edo	nosotros	podemos
tú	<u>pu</u> edes		
él/ella/Ud.	<u>pu</u> ede	ellos/ellas/Uds.	<u>pu</u> eden

Notice again that the stem does not change in the *nosotros* form.

To say that you are able to do something, use the correct conjugation of the verb *poder*, followed by a verb in the infinitive. For example:

Yo puedo cocinar. – I can cook.

Tú puedes nadar. – You can swim.

Él puede comprar pan. – He can buy bread.

Nosotros podemos vender sombreros. – We can sell hats.

Ellos pueden lavar ropa. – They can wash clothes.

#### **Additional Information:**

To ask someone what he or she can do, use the phrase:

¿Qué puedes hacer? – What can you do?

#### **Vocabulary:**

lavar – to wash

ver – to see

ayudar – to help

vender – to sell

comprar – to buy

mirar – to watch

#### **Extended Vocabulary:**

moderno/a – modern

la cultura – culture

iniciar – to initiate, to start

frágil – fragile  
el desarrollo – development  
inclinarse – to lean  
promover – to promote  
el corredor – corridor  
el sombrero – hat  
el turismo – tourism