

SAYING C, H, LL, J, QU

The good thing about Spanish is that it has very simple rules of pronunciation. I'll take you through some of the main ones

The letter 'c' sounds like the 'th' in thanks when it comes before an 'e' or an 'i'

gracias thanks

'H's are totally silent

hola hello

hermana sister

Double 'll' sounds like the English 'y', you can hear it in 'calle'

calle street

Now, listen to how the 'j' sounds in 'embajadores'

embajadores ambassadors

It's like an 'h' in English but harder and stronger, 'embajadores'

The letters 'qu' sound like the English 'k'. The 'u' isn't pronounced at all

aquí here

quinto fifth

QUESTIONS & SAYING NO

To ask a question you just raise the tone of your voice at the end of a sentence. There's no need to change the word order as in English.

¿Eres amigo de Teresa?

Are you Teresa's friend?

No has two uses in Spanish. It means 'no', but also 'not' when it's part of a sentence

- ¿Eres amigo de Teresa?

- Are you Teresa's friend?

- No

- No

No, **no** soy amigo de Teresa

No, I'm not Teresa's friend

Entiendo

I understand

No entiendo

I don't (do not) understand

You can also hear **¿no?** at the end of a sentence, meaning 'isn't it', 'aren't you', etc.

Eres amigo de Teresa, **¿no?**

You're Teresa's friend, aren't you?

SAYING B, V, Z, G, CU, R

Here are some more things you should know about Spanish pronunciation

V's and b's both have the same sound in Spanish. It's like a soft English 'b'

bien, vale

good, ok

'Z' sounds like the 'th' in thanks. It's the same as the 'c' sound in 'cerveza'

cerveza

beer

When 'g' is before 'e' and 'i' it's the same as the 'j' sound, like a stronger English 'h'

urgente, embajadores

urgent, ambassadors

Otherwise, it's a hard 'g' sound

algo

something

When you ask for the bill, 'la cuenta', notice that 'cu' is pronounced as 'cw'

la **cu**enta

the bill

Finally, to sound really Spanish you've got to roll your r's. You always roll them except when a single 'r' falls between two vowels. So, you don't roll

quiero

I want

But you do roll

regalo, terraza

gift, terrace

SAYING 'THE': EL, LA

The Spanish words 'el' and 'la' both mean 'the'

'El' goes with masculine nouns and 'la' with feminine ones. Most words ending in '-o' go with 'el' and most ending in '-a' go with 'la'

.....
el metro	the metro
.....
el billete	the ticket
.....
la cuenta	the bill
.....
la calle	the street

But, there are some exceptions

.....
el mapa	the map
.....
la radio	the radio

When you learn a new noun, it's worth learning it with 'el' or 'la' or 'un' or 'una', the masculine and feminine words for 'a' or 'an'

.....
el cruasán, un cruasán	the croissant, a croissant
.....
la estación, una estación	the station, a station

ACCENTS ON LETTERS

An accent on a letter (ó) shows you where to emphasize a word.

estaci**ó**n (not, estación) station

lí**n**ea (not línea) line

If there isn't an accent, you stress the last but one syllable when the word ends in a vowel, **-s** or **-n**.

sencillo single

vamos let's go

If a word doesn't end in a vowel, **-s** or **-n**, stress the last syllable.

por favor please

Madrid Madrid

A few words that look almost the same have a different sound and meaning depending on the accent.

carne meat

car**n**é ID card

THE ALPHABET

The Spanish alphabet is virtually the same as the English one, although of course, the names of the letters are different

Here are the vowels

.....
a e i o u

.....
a e i o u

A number of letters are similar to their English equivalents

.....
be ce de pe te

.....
b c d p t

The next ones are almost the same but start and end with an 'e'

.....
efe ele eme ene

.....
f l m n

.....
eñe erre ese

.....
ñ r s

Now we come to 'eñe'

This is like the letter 'n', but has a symbol known as a tilde above it which gives it a different sound

In Spanish dictionaries it's a letter in its own right. 'Eñe'

The rest of the letters are quite different

.....
ge hache jota

.....
g h j

.....
ka cu uve

.....
k q v

.....
uve doble equis

.....
w x

.....
i griega zeta

.....
y z

SAYING 'HE, SHE OR IT IS': ES

In Spanish, you use the same word to say 'he, she or it is' - **es**.

Es aquí	It's here
Es periodista	She/he's a journalist
Es biólogo	She/he is a biologist

By the way, when you talk about jobs you don't need to use the article – the words for a or an – **un, una**.

All of these statements can be made into questions simply by raising your voice at the end.

¿ Es aquí?	Is it here?
¿ Es periodista?	Is she/he a journalist?

Sometimes you'll hear the words for 'he' or 'she' used for emphasis.

Él es biólogo	He is a biologist
Ella es periodista	She is a journalist

SAYING 'I, YOU, HE, SHE'

The Spanish word for 'I' is 'yo'

Yo quiero I want

Yo soy I am

But you don't often need to use 'yo' except for emphasis

Quiero I want

Soy I am

This is one of the main differences between Spanish and English verbs

The 'I' – the subject is already part of the Spanish verb

It's the same when you're talking about other people

Ella es periodista She is a journalist

Él es biólogo He is a biologist

You can take away the 'ella', she and 'él', he and they still mean the same thing

Es periodista She is a journalist

Es biólogo He is a biologist

But, the 'ella' and 'él' are used if there's any chance of confusing the subject of the sentence or for emphasis

NOUN + DE + NOUN

In Spanish, the order of words is sometimes different to English.

This usually happens when words are linked by **de**, the word for 'of'.

Un vino de la casa, literally translates as 'wine of the house'. In English you would say 'a house wine'.

un vino de la casa	a house wine
---------------------------	--------------

Here are some other examples:

la estación de metro	the metro station
-----------------------------	-------------------

la estación de Atocha	Atocha station
------------------------------	----------------

la Plaza de Oriente	Oriente Square
----------------------------	----------------

un bocadillo de queso	a cheese sandwich
------------------------------	-------------------

un amigo de Teresa	Teresa's friend
---------------------------	-----------------

By the way, in Spanish you always say **amigo, amiga de Teresa** - friend (male, female) of Teresa.

There isn't a shortcut like the English 'Teresa's friend'.

PLURALS

As in English, the general rule for making something plural in Spanish is to add an 's'

un billete, dos billetes	a ticket, two tickets
un kilómetro	a kilometre
dos kilómetros	two kilometres

But, if the word doesn't end in a vowel you have to add 'es'

un collar, dos collares	a necklace, two necklaces
-------------------------	---------------------------

'El' and 'la', the words for 'the' have plural forms in Spanish, 'los' and 'las'.
 'Un' and 'una' become 'unos' and 'unas' which mean some or a few in English

el/un pendiente	the/an earring
los/unos pendientes	the/some earrings
la/una pulsera	the/a bracelet
las/unas pulseras	the/some bracelets

NUMBERS 1 TO 15

There isn't an easy way of learning the numbers 1-10. You just have to memorize them.

uno, dos, tres	one, two, three
cuatro, cinco, seis	four, five, six
siete, ocho, nueve, diez	seven, eight, nine, ten

However, the numbers 11–15 all end in **-ce**:

once, doce, trece	11, 12, 13
catorce, quince	14, 15

Uno, one, changes form depending on what it refers to.

línea uno	line one
un hermano	one brother (or a brother)
una hermana	one sister (or a sister)

Decimals are separated by a comma, not a point, which you'll hear as **con** in prices. The euro symbol goes after the number.

4,05 €	€4.05
--------	-------

TELLING THE TIME

To tell the time in Spanish you need to use 'la' before one and 'las' before other numbers

.....
la una, las ocho	1 o'clock, 8 o'clock
.....
a las diez	at 10 o'clock

To say half-past you add 'y media'

.....
a las diez y media	at half past ten

The words 'de', from, and 'a', to, indicate a period of time

.....
de las ocho a las nueve	from 9 to 8 o'clock

You may also hear

.....
de martes a domingo	from Tuesday to Sunday

The specific parts of the day are...

.....
la mañana	the morning
.....
la tarde	the afternoon, evening
.....
la noche	the evening, night

GREETINGS

You'll often hear **hola**, hello, followed by other greetings. However, in Spanish, the parts of the day don't exactly match those in English.

Any time before lunchtime use:

¡Buenos días!

Good morning, afternoon!

Note that it's **buenos**, not **buenas**, as **día** is a masculine word.

el día

the day

From lunchtime until sunset use:

¡Buenas tardes!

Good afternoon, evening!

Once it's dark, and whether you're saying hello or goodbye, this is the greeting:

¡Buenas noches!

Good evening, night!

You may also hear any of them shortened:

¡Buenas!

Morning! Afternoon! ...

NUMBERS 16 - 99

Here are some tips for getting to grips with the numbers from 16 onwards

All of the numbers from 16 to 19 start with 'diez', ten

diez, dieciséis	ten, sixteen
diecisiete , dieciocho diecinueve	seventeen, eighteen, nineteen

In the numbers 21 to 29 the final 'e' of 'veinte', 20 changes to 'i'

veinte, veintiuno	twenty, twenty-one,
veintidós, veintitrés	twenty-two, twenty-three

They're written as single words

The numbers 30, 40, 50 and so on all end in the same way

treinta, cuarenta, cincuenta, sesenta,	thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty,
setenta, ochenta, noventa	ninety

For the intervening numbers you use 'y', and, but you run them together

treinta y uno, cuarenta y dos,	thirty-one, forty-two, fifty-three
cincuenta y tres	

USING PARA & A

Para usually means 'for'.

Un regalo **para** ti A present for you

It's also used to state your destination.

Un billete **para** Murcia A ticket for Murcia

To say where you're going, you usually use **a**.

Voy **a** Madrid I'm going to Madrid
Voy **a** casa de mi amigo ... my friend's house

A also means 'at' when you're talking about time.

Llega **a** las 7:30 He/she/it arrives at 7:30

A can also mean 'on', with directions for example.

a la derecha, izquierda on the right, left

When **a** comes before **el**, the two words merge to become **al**.

al teléfono on the phone

ASKING 'IS/ARE THERE...?'

In a question 'hay' means both 'is there' and 'are there'

Perdón, ¿**hay** un banco por aquí?

Excuse me, is there a bank nearby?

Otherwise, 'hay' means 'there is' and 'there are'

Hay un hostel en esta calle

There is a guest house in this street

'No hay' means there isn't or there aren't

No **hay** habitaciones libres

There aren't any rooms free

To ask where something is say:

¿Dónde está el hotel?

Where is the hotel?

You may hear

cerca, lejos

nearby, far away

Está cerca/lejos de aquí

It's near/far from here

SAYING 'IS': ES, ESTÁ

Spanish has two words to say 'is'.

To talk about permanent things and to say what somebody does for a living, use **es**:

.....
Es un museo

.....
It's a museum

.....
Es martes

.....
It's Tuesday

.....
Es periodista

.....
She/he is a journalist

To say where something is or to describe a temporary state use **está**:

.....
Está muy cerca

.....
It's very close

.....
Está cerrado

.....
It's closed

The same thing happens with 'I am', which can be **soy** or **estoy**, and 'you are', **eres** or **estás**.

INTRODUCTION TO VERBS

Spanish verbs, action or doing words, change according to who they refer to

trabajo, trabajas I work, you work

Most Spanish verbs have endings that follow regular patterns

The infinitive, the form you see in the dictionary, is the starting point for working out what the pattern is

trabajar	to work
trabajo	I work
trabajas	you work
trabaja	he/she works

Verbs ending in '-ar' change their endings to '-o', '-as' and '-a'

There are two more groups of verbs ending in '-er' and '-ir'

IRREGULAR VERB: SER

This is how teacher Esther would introduce herself and her students to somebody called John:

Yo **soy** Esther, tú **eres** John, ella **es** Deborah, él **es** Drew. I'm Esther, you're John, she's Deborah, he's Drew

Soy, eres, es are all forms of the verb **ser**. It's known as an irregular verb because it doesn't follow the pattern of regular verbs.

Yo soy	I am
Tú eres John	You are John
Ella es Deborah	She is Deborah
Él es John	He is John

Although the teacher used the words for 'I', 'you', 'she' and 'he' - **yo, tú, ella** and **él**, you don't need to use them.

They are there for clarity and emphasis. **Soy, eres** and **es** mean 'I am', 'you are' and 'he', 'she' or 'it is' on their own.

SAYING 'YOU': TÚ, USTED

'Tú' and 'usted' are both ways of saying 'you' when talking to one person

'Tú' is used mostly with friends, family or by adults when they speak to children

tú	you (informal)
¿Tú dónde vives?	Where do you live? (informal)

'Usted' is formal. It's used with elderly people, people you don't know very well and often in business relationships

usted	you (formal)
¿Usted dónde vive?	Where do you live? (formal)

The verb endings for 'usted' are the same as the ones for 'tú' but without the final 's'

¿Dónde vives (tú)?	Where do you live? (informal)
¿Dónde vive (usted)?	Where do you live? (formal)
¿Cómo estás (tú)?	How are you? (informal)
¿Cómo está (usted)?	How are you? (formal)

More often than not, Spanish people don't actually say 'usted' or 'tú'

They rely on these verb endings to convey the difference

SAYING 'THIS'

Éste and **ésta** mean 'this'. You use them when showing something to somebody or introducing someone.

.....
Éste es tu dormitorio This is your bedroom

.....
Éste es mi hermano This is my brother

.....
Éste is used with masculine nouns and **ésta** with feminine ones.

.....
Éste es mi padre This is my father

.....
Ésta es mi madre This is my mother

.....
For the plurals, you use **éstos** and **éestas**.

.....
Éstos son mis padres These are my parents

.....
Notice that if you're talking about both masculine and feminine nouns (as in the case of parents), you always use **éstos**.

ASKING 'HAVE YOU GOT...?'

To ask if they have something in a shop use the verb 'tener', 'to have'

When asking one person use '¿tienes...?' if you're asking in the casual way or '¿tiene...?' if you want to be more formal

tener: ¿tienes? ¿tiene? to have: do you have? (formal, informal)

¿Tienes manzanas? Have you got any apples, pears?
¿Tiene peras? (informal, formal)

The answer may be:

Sí, **tengo** Yes, I have
No, **no tengo** No, I don't have any

'¿Tienen...?' is the formal way of asking more than one person

¿Tienen champú? Have you any shampoo?

Let's do a quick recap:

tengo, tienes I have, you have
tiene, tienen he/she/it has, they have

'Tener' is used in lots of different expressions in Spanish, some of which don't translate literally into English

Tengo hambre. Tengo frío I'm hungry. I'm cold

ASKING 'CAN I HAVE...?'

Use **me pones** (informal) or **me pone** (formal) to ask for something (usually food and drink) when you're out shopping.

¿ Me pones melocotones?	Can I have some peaches? (formal,
¿ Me pone melocotones?	informal)

If you're asked **¿cuánto?** or **¿cuánto quiere?** you might want:

un kilo de...	one kilo of...
medio kilo de...	half a kilo of...
un kilo y medio de...	a kilo and a half of...

Here are some other useful phrases to express quantity:

cien gramos de...	100 grams of...
un trozo de...	a piece of...
una botella de...	a bottle of...
un litro de...	a litre of...

REGULAR VERBS: -ER, -IR

Spanish verbs change according to who they refer to

Most verbs are regular which means that only their endings change and these all follow the same pattern

You can tell what the pattern is if you know the dictionary form of the verb the infinitive, which ends in '-ar, -er, -ir'

'Comer' is a typical example of a regular verb ending in -er

comer	to eat
como	I eat
comes, come	you eat (informal, formal)
come	he, she, it eats

Regular verbs ending in -ir also follow the same pattern

vivir	to live
vivo	I live
vives, vive	you live (informal, formal)
vive	he, she, it lives

We look at the group of verbs ending in -ar in episode 10

SAYING 'WE...'

To talk about something you and other people do together, use the form of the verb ending in **-mos**.

¿Pedimos una botella de vino? Shall we get a bottle of wine?

It goes with **nosotros, nosotras**, the word for 'we' which you may hear but don't always have to use.

nosotros, nosotras we

The endings for regular verbs are:

preguntar: preguntamos to ask: we ask

comer: comemos carne to eat: we eat meat

vivir: vivimos en Inglaterra to live: we live in England

And some common irregular ones:

ser: soy, somos to be: I am, we are

querer: quiero, queremos to want: I want, we want

ir: voy, vamos to go: I go, we go

SAYING 'I LIKE IT': ME GUSTA

'Me gusta' means I like it. Literally, it pleases me.

.....
 Me gusta I like it

You can use it on its own or add the thing you like: 'Me gusta el vino', I like wine. In Spanish you need to include 'el' or 'la'. 'Me gusta la chaqueta', I like the jacket

If you are talking about more than one thing use 'me gustan'. Literally, they please me: 'Me gustan los vinos espumosos', I like sparkling wines. In this case, you use 'los' or 'las'

.....
 Me gustan I like them

'Me gusta mucho' means I like it a lot

.....
 Me gusta mucho I like it a lot

If you don't like something just add 'no' to the beginning of the sentence: 'No me gusta el vino tinto', I don't like red wine

.....
 No me gusta I don't like it

You may be asked if you like something:

.....
 ¿Te gusta? Do you like it?
 ¿Le gusta? (informal, formal)

For more than one thing you'll hear:

.....
 ¿Te gustan? Do you like them?
 ¿Le gustan? (informal, formal)

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives describe people or things and in Spanish they usually come after what they're describing

la botella **grande** the large bottle

el vaso **pequeño** the small glass

la chica **alta** the tall girl

el hombre **fuerte** the strong man

A few can be used before nouns and some of these are shortened.

el piso **primero** the first floor

el **primer** piso

un hombre **grande** a big man

un **gran** hombre a great man

Words like **muy** and **bastante** qualify the meanings of adjectives.

Es **muy** pequeña She's really small

una casa **bastante** grande quite a big house

Adjectives change their endings to match what they describe. See eps 17.

QUESTION WORDS

Some common question words are

¿Dónde?	Where?
¿Cuándo?	When?
¿Cuánto?	How much?

'¿Dónde vives?' Where do you live?, '¿Cuándo es la próxima salida?' When is the next departure?, '¿Cuánto es un billete?' How much is a ticket?

In its plural form, 'cuántos' or 'cuántas', means how many: '¿Cuántos billetes quiere?' How many tickets would you like?

¿Cuántos? ¿Cuántas?	How many?
---------------------	-----------

¿Qué? ¿Quién? ¿Cómo?	What? Who? How?
----------------------	-----------------

'¿Qué pasa?' What's going on?, '¿Quién eres?' Who are you?, '¿Cómo estás?' How are you?

You often hear '¿no?' and '¿verdad?' at the end of a sentence: 'Es un sitio precioso, ¿verdad?', 'It's a lovely place, isn't it?'

..., ¿no? ..., ¿verdad?	..., isn't it? ..., doesn't it?
-------------------------	---------------------------------

The other way of asking questions is to raise the tone of your voice at the end of a sentence:

Estás aquí	You're here.
¿Estás aquí?	Are you here?

HOW ARE YOU ALL?

You already know two ways of asking how are you.

¿Cómo **está**?

How are you (formal)?

¿Cómo **estás**?

How are you (informal)?

There are also two ways of asking more than one person. In parts of Southern Spain, the Canaries and Latin America, you'll hear:

¿Cómo **están (ustedes)**?

How are you? (plural)

The verb ending is like the one for **usted**, but with an **-n** at the end, and **ustedes** is the word for 'you'.

However, elsewhere in Spain, **ustedes** is formal. The informal word for 'you' is **vosotros** and the verb ending is different.

¿Cómo **estáis (vosotros)**?

How are you? (plural)

Here are some more examples, formal and informal:

ser: son, sois

to be: you are

querer: quieren, queréis

to want: you want

ir: van, vais

to go: you go

SAYING 'MY, YOUR, HIS/HER...'

'Mi' and 'su' are words that show possession: 'Éste es mi coche' This is my car, '¿Cómo se escribe su apellido?' How do you spell your surname?

mi	my
su	your, his, her, its, their

'Su' is the formal way of saying your. A receptionist in a hotel would use this to address a guest. 'Su' can also mean his, her, its or even their: 'Su agenda', his or her diary

'Tu' is the informal way of saying your: 'Aquí está tu llave'. Here's your key

tu	your (informal)
----	-----------------

If you're talking about more than one thing you need to use the plural forms: 'Voy a casa de mis padres' I'm going to my parent's house, 'Aquí están tus pilas' Here are your batteries, 'Aquí están sus llaves' Here are your keys, formal.

mis, tus, sus	my, your (plural)
---------------	-------------------

You'll also hear 'nuestro', our - and 'vuestro', your when talking to more than one person informally, children for instance

nuestro, nuestra	our
nuestros, nuestras	
vuestro, vuestra	your
vuestros, vuestras	

These can end in '-o' or '-a' depending on whether they refer to masculine or feminine words: 'nuestro coche', 'nuestras llaves', 'vuestra casa', 'vuestros padres'

SAYING C, Z, S

In parts of Southern Spain, the Canaries and Latin America you hear people pronounce some letters differently.

One difference is the **c** sound.

It isn't pronounced 'th', but the same as an **s**.

.....
Estás de vacaciones, ¿no?

You're on holiday, aren't you?
.....

The same thing happens with the letter **z**.

.....
El Sur es la **z**ona turística

The South is the tourist area
.....

You may also hear the **s** after vowels aspirated. For example, 'estás':

.....
¿Dónde estás?

Where are you?
.....

SAYING 'MAY I? YOU CAN'

Essential conversational words are 'puedo', 'puedes' and 'puede'

They come from the verb 'poder', to be able to, and are usually translated as 'can' or 'may'

.....
 poder to be able to

In a shop, for instance: '¿Le puedo ayudar?' May I help you? Or as a recommendation: 'Puedes ver la ciudad'. You can see the city.

Let's run through the different forms of 'poder'.

.....
 puedo I can

 puedes you (informal) can

 puede you (formal), he/she/it can

'Puede', he, she or it can and the formal way of saying 'you can': '¿Puede firmar aquí?' Can you sign here?

.....
 podemos we can

'Podemos ir al Sur'. We can go to the South.

.....
 podéis you can (informal, plural)

 pueden you (formal), they can

'Podéis tomar el ascensor' You can take the lift (informal). 'Pueden tomar el ascensor' You can take the lift (formal). Or they can take the lift

ADJECTIVES: AGREEMENT

Some adjectives change their endings to match what they describe: **-o** for masculine nouns and **-a** for feminine ones.

.....
el bañador negro the black swimsuit
la camiseta negra the black t-shirt
.....

Adjectives ending in **-e** don't alter in the singular.

.....
el vestido verde the green dress
la falda verde the green skirt
.....

A few others (those using fruit or flower names) don't change either.

.....
el top naranja the orange top
la camisa naranja the orange shirt
.....

To describe more than one thing add **-s** or **-es**.

.....
los pantalones blancos the white trousers
los pantalones azules the blue trousers
.....

By the way, **tinto** is only used for wine. The colour red is **rojo**.

.....
un vino **tinto** a red wine
una falda **roja** a red skirt
.....

For more on adjectives see ep 14.

INSTRUCTIONS & DIRECTIONS

When someone gives you a direction or an instruction, they might do this formally or informally

Gire a la derecha	Turn right (formal)
Gira a la derecha	Turn right (informal)
pare, para	stop (formal, informal)

Ceda el paso	Give way (formal)
Cede el paso	Give way (informal)

In this case the verb endings for formal and informal are the other way round because 'ceder' is an '-er' verb

Here are some others you may hear

siga, sigue	carry on (formal, informal)
vaya, ve	go (formal, informal)
salga, sal	leave (formal, informal)

IRREGULAR VERB: IR, 'TO GO'

The 'I' form of some irregular verbs ends in **-oy**.

.....
 estar: **estoy** to be: I am

dar: **doy** to give: I give

Another commonly used one is **voy**, I go. It comes from **ir**, which is also an irregular verb.

.....
 ir: **voy** to go: I go

For these three verbs, just change **-oy** for these other endings:

.....
voy I go

vas you go (informal)

va he/she goes, you go

vamos we go

vais you go (plural, informal)

van they, you go (plural, formal)

VERBS + INFINITIVE

Saying what you want to do in Spanish is quite straightforward

Quiero ...	I'd like...
... ver esta casa	... to see this house

You're using the infinitive or the dictionary form of the verb to see, 'ver'.

The infinitive is used after lots of other useful verbs and expressions

Me gusta ...	I like...
... ir a la playa	... to go to the beach
Voy a ...	I'm going to...
... ver adónde van	... see where they're going
Tengo que ...	I have to...
... salir	... go out

MORE ON 'DE'

Although **de** means 'of', it's not often translated like this in English.

un vaso de vino	a glass of wine
un bocadillo de queso	a cheese sandwich
el padre de Juan	Juan's father

De also means 'from'.

a cien metros de aquí	100 m from here
------------------------------	-----------------

When **de** is followed by **el**, the words combine to become **del**.

las llaves del coche	car keys
-----------------------------	----------

De is used in lots of phrases which describe position and location.

Está lejos (de aquí)	It's far (from here)
Está cerca (de la playa)	It's near (the beach)
Está encima (de la mesa)	It's on top (of the table)
Está debajo (de la mesa)	It's underneath (the table)
Están dentro (del coche)	They are inside (the car)
Están fuera (de la casa)	... outside (the house)
Está delante (de la casa)	It's in front (of the house)
Está detrás (de la oficina)	... at the rear (of the office)

'ME GUSTA, ME DUELE...'

You may remember 'me gusta' which literally means 'it pleases me'

.....
Me gusta I like it

Similarly, 'me duele la cabeza'. Literally, 'the head hurts me'

.....
Me duele la cabeza My head hurts

When someone asks you if you like something they say:

.....
¿Te gusta? ¿Le gusta? Do you like it?

Literally, 'does it please you?'

Similarly, they'd ask:

.....
¿Te duele? ¿Le duele? Does it hurt?

There are other verbs that work in a similar 'back-to-front' way

.....
¿Qué te/le parece? What do you think?

.....
No me interesa I'm not interested

.....
¿Qué te/le apetece? What do you fancy?

.....
Me encantan las gambas I love prawns

REFLEXIVE VERBS

You'll come across other verbs with **me**, **te** or **se** before them.

¿Cómo **te** llamas? What's your name?
Me llamo Merche My name is Merche

These are reflexive verbs. Literally, they mean 'what do you call yourself? I call myself Merche'.

Se is used for the formal you, he, she, it and they.

¿Cómo **se** llama? What's your/his/her name?
 ¿Cómo **se** llaman? What're your/their names?

Their dictionary form ends in '**-se**': llamarse is llamar + se, literally, 'to call oneself'.

Another common one is sentirse:

Me siento mal I feel ill
 ¿**Te** sientes mal? Do you feel ill? (informal)
 ¿**Se** siente mal? Do you feel ill? (formal)

Without **me**, **te** or **se** the meaning changes slightly:

Llamo a un médico I'll call a doctor
 Siento un dolor I feel a pain

WHAT YOU'VE DONE

When you're visiting places someone may ask:

¿Ha estado aquí antes? Have you been before?

You can reply with:

Sí, he estado en el Norte Yes, I've been to the North
 estar: estado to be: been

It's the past participle of 'estar'. The past participle is made by changing the ending of '-ar' verbs to '-ado', and of '-er' and '-ir' verbs to '-ido'. So, from 'tener': '¿han tenido un buen día?' Have you had a good day?

tener: tenido to have: had

'Ha sido importante', it's been important, from 'ser'

ser: sido to be: been

'¿Cómo has dormido?' How have you slept? from 'dormir', to sleep

dormir: dormido to sleep: slept

As usual, there are some common verbs that don't follow this regular pattern. 'He visto distintas partes de España' I've seen different parts of Spain, 'visto' from 'ver' - to see

ver: visto to see: seen

'He hecho muchas fotos' I've taken lots of pictures, 'hecho' from 'hacer'

hacer: hecho to make/do: made/done

IRREGULAR VERB: HACER

To ask about the weather you usually say:

¿Qué tiempo **hace**? What's the weather like?

Hace sol, **hace** frío It's sunny, it's cold

Hace is a form of the verb **hacer**, literally, to do or to make. **Hacer** is used in lots of expressions:

hacer fotos to take photos

hacer amigos to make friends

It's also used to indicate time.

Hace una hora An hour ago

Hacer is an irregular verb. **Hago** goes with **yo**. The others follow the regular pattern of **-er** verbs.

Hago la maleta I pack the suitcase

¿Qué **haces**? What are you doing?

Hacemos una visita We pay a visit

¿Qué **hacen**? What are you/they doing?