What Is a Verb? -ar, -er, -ir — Essentials

Verbos e infinitivos

Understand it · Entiéndelo

What you are learning · Qué vas a aprender

A verb expresses an action or state. Its dictionary form, the infinitive, ends in -ar, -er, or -ir: hablar (to speak), comer (to eat), vivir (to live). These endings identify three verb families. To conjugate means to change the verb form to show who does it and when. Regular verbs follow their family's pattern; irregular verbs change in ways that do not follow the usual pattern. After quiero or puedo, keep the next verb in the infinitive.

English	Spanish
to speak	hablar hablar: Verb — action or state
to eat	comer comer: Verb — action or state
to live	vivir vivir: Verb — action or state

Notes

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Verbos e infinitivos

Use it · Úsalo

Build it step by step · Constrúyelo paso a paso

English	Spanish
I want to eat.	Quiero comer. Quiero: Verb — action or state; comer: Verb — action or state
I can speak.	Puedo hablar. Puedo: Verb — action or state; hablar: Verb — action or state

Common mistake · Error común

Do not conjugate both verbs in “Quiero comer”. Quiero identifies the subject; comer stays an infinitive.

Use it in real life · Úsalo en la vida real

At a meal, say that you want to eat and need to work.

Check and try again · Comprueba y vuelve a intentar

Quiero comer. Necesito trabajar. The first verb changes; the second stays an infinitive.

Notes

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