

A2 Spanish Grammar Essentials

Core Grammar Topics, Short Explanations & Practical Examples

Level: A2

Grammar Summary

Peninsular Spanish Focus

A2 Grammar Quick Reference: This document covers fundamental A2-level Spanish structures. Each topic includes a concise rule explanation followed by a clear, contextual example.

TOPIC 01

1. El pretérito perfecto (he comido)

Used to talk about completed actions connected to the present moment or within an unfinished time frame (e.g., *hoy, esta semana, este año, alguna vez*). Formed with the present tense of **haber** (*he, has, ha, hemos, habéis, han*) + past participle (*-ado / -ido*).

Hoy he desayunado un café y una tostada con tomate.

(Today I have eaten breakfast with a coffee and tomato toast.)

TOPIC 02

2. Saber + infinitivo

Expresses acquired skills, abilities, or knowing how to perform a specific activity or technique.

Laura sabe tocar la guitarra muy bien.

(Laura knows how to play the guitar very well.)

TOPIC 03

3. Poder + infinitivo

Expresses physical ability, possibility, or permission to do something in a specific situation.

¿Puedo abrir la ventana? Hace mucho calor.

(Can I open the window? It's very hot.)

TOPIC 04

4. Regular and irregular present tenses (Presente de indicativo)

Used to describe routines, general facts, and present states. Regular verbs follow standard endings (*-ar, -er, -ir*), while irregular verbs involve stem changes (*e→ie, o→ue, e→i*) or irregular *yo* forms.

Normalmente hablo con los clientes, pero hoy prefiero escribir correos.

(Normally I talk with clients, but today I prefer to write emails.)

TOPIC 05

5. Pronominal verbs (Verbos pronominales)

Verbs conjugated with a reflexive pronoun (*me, te, se, nos, os, se*). They often indicate actions done to oneself (daily routine), changes of state, or idiomatic shifts in meaning.

Me levanto a las siete de la mañana todos los días.

(I get up at seven in the morning every day.)

TOPIC 06

6. Verbs: *costar* and *sentirse*

Costar: Used like *gustar* (requires indirect object pronouns: *me, te, le, nos, os, les*) to express difficulty or monetary price (e.g., *me cuesta entender...*).

Sentirse: Used with adverbs or adjectives to express personal, emotional, or physical states (e.g., *me siento cansado/a*).

A Pablo le cuesta mucho madrugar, por eso siempre se siente cansado por las mañanas.

(Pablo finds it hard to get up early, which is why he feels tired in the mornings.)

TOPIC 07

7. Uses of: *para* and *porque*

Para + infinitivo: Expresses purpose or goal (*Why? / For what purpose?*).

Porque + verb clause: Expresses cause, reason, or explanation (*Why? / Because...*).

Estudio español para trabajar en España, porque me encanta la cultura.

(I study Spanish in order to work in Spain, because I love the culture.)

TOPIC 08

8. Forms and uses of the preterite (Pretérito indefinido)

Used for completed actions that took place at a specific, finished time in the past (e.g., *ayer, el año pasado, en 2020*).

Ayer viajé a Granada y visité la Alhambra.

(Yesterday I traveled to Granada and visited the Alhambra.)

TOPIC 09

9. Time markers to talk about the past

Temporal expressions that trigger specific past tenses. Markers like *ayer*, *anoche*, *la semana pasada*, *hace tres meses* trigger the **Pretérito Indefinido**, while *hoy*, *este mes*, *últimamente* trigger the **Pretérito Perfecto**.

La semana pasada fui al cine, pero esta semana no he tenido tiempo.

(Last week I went to the cinema, but this week I haven't had time.)

TOPIC 10

10. Prepositions: *desde*, *hasta*, *durante*

Desde: Starting point in time or space (*since / from*).

Hasta: End point in time or space (*until / up to*).

Durante: Duration of time (*for / during*).

Trabajo desde las nueve hasta las cinco, y durante la comida hablo con mis compañeros.

(I work from nine until five, and during lunch I talk with my colleagues.)

TOPIC 11

11. Demonstratives / Pronouns: *este* / *ese* / *aquel* / *el* / *la...* + *que* + verb

Structures used to identify, define, or specify a specific person, place, or object out of a group.

El chico que lleva la chaqueta azul es mi profesor de español.

(The boy who is wearing the blue jacket is my Spanish teacher.)