



# SPANISH TABLE

*Infinitives*

## Summary of uses of the infinitive



Subject of a verb		
Standard use	<i>(El) Hacer ejercicio es bueno para la salud.</i>	Working out is good for health.
After <i>gustar</i> and similar verbs	<i>Me gusta nadar por las mañanas.</i>	I like swimming in the mornings.
After impersonal construction: es + adjective	<i>Es necesario estudiar.</i>	It's necessary to study.
After impersonal construction: es + article + noun	<i>Es un placer ayudar.</i>	It's a pleasure to help.
After impersonal construction: es + possessive + noun	<i>Es mi obligación ser puntual.</i>	It's my obligation to be punctual.

After a conjugated verb		
Verbs that are followed by an infinitive in English	<i>Debo tomar el autobús.</i>	I must take the bus.
Verbs that are followed by an "-ing" verb in English	<i>Manuel disfruta hablar en público.</i>	Manuel enjoys speaking in public.

# SPANISH TABLE

Infinitives

## Summary of uses of the infinitive

After a preposition		
Standard use	<i>Lo hice sin pensar.</i>	I did it without thinking.
Verbs followed by a preposition	<i>Mi papá me enseñó a pescar.</i>	My dad taught me how to fish.
After expressions including a preposition such as <i>fácil de</i> [easy to], <i>difícil de</i> [difficult to], <i>posible de</i> [possible to], and <i>imposible de</i> [impossible to]	<i>Este libro es imposible de terminar.</i>	This book is impossible to finish.
After <i>al</i> for actions that occur at the same time as the main verb	<i>Al entrar, dijo hola.</i>	When he entered, he said hi.
Infinitives contrast with the subjunctive after certain prepositions followed by <i>que</i> ( <i>antes de que</i> [before], <i>después de que</i> [before], <i>para que</i> [before], etc)	<i>Lo hice antes de salir.</i> <i>Lo hice antes de que llegaras.</i>	I did it before leaving. I did it before you arrived.

Other uses		
After expressions with <i>que</i> ( <i>hay que</i> [to have to], <i>tener que</i> [to have to], <i>algo que</i> [something to], <i>nada que</i> [nothing to], <i>poco que</i> [little to])	<i>Tengo que terminar antes de mañana.</i>	I have to finish before tomorrow.
Equivalent to a command in signs, posters, questions, and ads	<i>No correr.</i> <i>¿Por qué pagar más?</i>	No running. Why pay more?
The perfect infinitive, used to express an action that occurred before the action of the main verb	<i>Salió sin haber terminado la tarea.</i>	He left without having finished his homework.

Scan for more language learning & teaching content

