AIkits

LANGUAGES · CHEAT SHEET

# Spanish grammar cheat sheet

The core rules, the exceptions and what to learn at each level

## 1 Core rules

| Rule | Example |
|---|---|
| Nouns have gender | *el amigo / la amiga* |
| Agreement + adjective after noun | *un chico guap**o** / unas chicas guap**as*** |
| Ending shows the person | *habl**o**, habl**as**, habl**a*** (I / you / he speaks) |
| Subject pronoun dropped | *Soy español.* (I'm Spanish.) |
| No before the verb | ***No** soy español.* (I'm not Spanish.) |
| Pronoun before conjugated verb | ***Te lo** doy.* (I'm giving it to you.) |
| Questions open with ¿ | *¿Te llamas Ana?* (Is your name Ana?) |

## 2 Gender: watch out

| | |
|---|---|
| ***el problema, el día*** | masculine despite -a |
| ***la mano, la foto*** | feminine despite -o |
| **-dad, -ción, -tud, -umbre** | feminine: *la ciudad, la costumbre* |
| ***el agua*** | stays feminine: *esta agua, el agua fría* |
| **Plurals** | *mesa → mesa**s**, árbol → árbol**es*** |

## 3 Pronouns and the personal a

| | |
|---|---|
| **Before verb** | *Te lo advierto.* (I'm warning you about it.) |
| **On command / infinitive** | *Haz**lo**.* (Do it.) · *Debo hacer**lo**.* |
| **le + lo → se lo** | *Les compré caramelos → **Se los** compré.* |
| **Personal a** | *Vi **a** Pedro.* (I saw Pedro.) · *No tengo teléfono.* |

## 4 ser or estar

| | |
|---|---|
| **ser: what it is** | *Mario es cocinero.* (Mario is a cook.) |
| **estar: where / how** | *Estoy en casa.* (I'm at home.) |
| **Only ser / only estar** | *Luis es sincero.* · *Está contento.* |

TIP

Double negatives are correct: *No me gusta nada.* (I don't like it at all.)

## 5 What to learn at each level (Instituto Cervantes)

| A1 | A2 | B1 | B2 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gender, articles, present; *ser, estar, haber, ir* | Past tenses, commands, *se lo*, personal a | Future, conditional, present subjunctive | Imperfect subjunctive; *hasta que, aunque* |