

Which endings are added to this stem for the following subject pronouns?

|      |        |        |          |   |        |       |
|------|--------|--------|----------|---|--------|-------|
| yo   | prepar | _____  | nosotros | } | prepar | _____ |
|      |        |        | nosotras |   |        |       |
| tú   | prepar | _____  | ustedes  |   | prepar | _____ |
| él   | }      | prepar | ellos    | } | prepar | _____ |
| ella |        |        | ellas    |   |        |       |

Let's see how it works. Take the verb **hablar** (*to speak*). If you want to say *I speak*, take **yo**, then remove the **-ar** from **hablar**, and add the ending **-o**:

**hablar**

**yo hablo**

*I speak, I am speaking*

Do the same for all the other subjects:

|                          |                                                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>tú hablas</b>         | <i>you speak, you are speaking</i> (familiar singular) |
| <b>usted habla</b>       | <i>you speak, you are speaking</i> (formal singular)   |
| <b>él habla</b>          | <i>he speaks, he is speaking</i>                       |
| <b>ella habla</b>        | <i>she speaks, she is speaking</i>                     |
| <b>nosotros hablamos</b> | <i>we speak, we are speaking</i>                       |
| <b>nosotras hablamos</b> |                                                        |
| <b>ustedes hablan</b>    | <i>you speak, you are speaking</i> (plural)            |
| <b>ellos hablan</b>      | <i>they speak, they are speaking</i>                   |
| <b>ellas hablan</b>      |                                                        |

Note that there are two possible meanings for each verb form: **yo hablo** may mean *I speak* or *I am speaking*; **tú hablas** may mean *you speak* or *you are speaking*; and so on.

Now you do one. Take the verb **pasar** (*to pass*). Remove the **-ar**, look at the subjects, and add the correct endings.

|                  |       |                     |       |
|------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| <b>yo pas</b>    | _____ | <b>ella pas</b>     | _____ |
| <b>tú pas</b>    | _____ | <b>nosotros pas</b> | _____ |
| <b>usted pas</b> | _____ | <b>ustedes pas</b>  | _____ |
| <b>él pas</b>    | _____ | <b>ellos pas</b>    | _____ |

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An important point about the use of subject pronouns: In Spanish, the subject pronoun is often omitted if the meaning is clear. For example, you can say either **yo hablo español** or simply **hablo español**. The **yo** isn't really necessary except for emphasis, since the **-o** ending in **hablo** occurs only with the **yo** form. Another example: You can say either **nosotros trabajamos** or simply **trabajamos**, since the verb form that ends in **-amos** cannot be used with any other subject pronoun.

In fact, any subject pronoun may be omitted if it's not needed for clarity or emphasis.

—¿Dónde está Carmen?

*Where is Carmen?*

—Está en el supermercado.

*She is in the supermarket.*

—¿Qué compra?

*What is she buying?*

—Compra leche.

*She is buying milk.*

In the lessons that follow, we will sometimes omit the subject pronoun.

## Actividad E

Your new key pal wants to know what you do in your Spanish class. Use the **yo** person.

**EXAMPLE:** mirar la pizarra      (Yo) miro la pizarra.

1. escuchar al profesor

\_\_\_\_\_

2. practicar el vocabulario

\_\_\_\_\_

3. estudiar los verbos

\_\_\_\_\_

4. hablar en español

\_\_\_\_\_

## Actividad F

Your friends are telling you what they do on weekends. Use the **nosotros(-as)** person.

**EXAMPLE:** mirar la televisión      (Nosotros) miramos la televisión.

1. escuchar música

\_\_\_\_\_

2. trabajar en casa

\_\_\_\_\_

3. visitar a los abuelos

\_\_\_\_\_

4. comprar discos compactos

\_\_\_\_\_

## Actividad

The school counselor asks you how your parents spend time at home. Use the **ellos** person.

**EXAMPLE:** mirar la televisión    **(Ellos) miran la televisión.**

1. trabajar en casa \_\_\_\_\_
2. comprar comida \_\_\_\_\_
3. visitar a los amigos \_\_\_\_\_
4. hablar por teléfono \_\_\_\_\_

## Actividad

Tell what the members of the Gómez family are doing.

**EXAMPLE:** Jorge / usar la computadora    **Jorge usa la computadora.**

1. María y José / hablar por teléfono  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. El padre / comprar el periódico  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. La madre / trabajar en el jardín  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Los tíos / tomar una limonada  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. El bebé / desear leche  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Los abuelos / mirar un programa de televisión  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Here are some more activities:



bailar



buscar el diccionario



caminar en el parque



cantar en la fiesta



contestar la pregunta



entrar en la clase



llegar a casa



preguntar la dirección



usar la computadora