

Subject Pronouns

In English, a subject pronoun replaces a noun that is doing the action of a verb.

For example: Mrs. Smith talks to students. Mrs. Smith sees them in the hall. Mrs. Smith teaches the students. Mrs. Smith assigns homework.

In these sentences we can replace “Mrs. Smith” with “She” since we know who we are talking about and who is doing the action. “She” is a subject pronoun.

English subject pronouns are:


I, you, he, she, it, we, they

Spanish pronouns work the same way. In Spanish, they are:

Yo, tú, él, ella, usted (Ud), nosotros, nosotras, vosotros, vosotras, ellos, ellas, Ustedes (UDS.)

You can organize these pronouns in a simple chart to help understand them better.

MEMORIZE THIS CHART!

	Singular	Plural
1st person	Yo = I	Nosotros = we (all male or mixed group) Nosotras = we (all female)
2nd person	Tú = you (familiar)	Vosotros = all of you (familiar, male or mixed) Vosotras = all of you (familiar, all female) 
3rd person	Él = he Ella = she Usted (Ud.) = you (formal)	Ellos = They (all male or mixed) Ellas = They (all female) Ustedes (Uds.) = all of you

Grammar points:

- Notice that there are 4 ways to say “you” in Spanish..
 1. Tú - this is used informally, meaning with your friends, Mom and Dad, kids, pets, etc.
 2. Usted – This is used formally, with adults, strangers, people in authority, to show respect. It’s often abbreviated to Ud.
 3. Ustedes – This is used to address a group of “you”s or y’all, all of you. Abbreviated to Uds.
 4. Vosotros/as- In Spain, this is used to address a group of people as “you.” In Texas, we say “Y’all.” In Spain, this can only be used when you are speaking

informally to a group of people (friends, family members). They do not use “Vosotros” or “Vosotras” in any other Spanish-speaking country.

- With plural subject pronouns, remember that if there is one guy in the group, no matter how many women, use the masculine form.
- Some times you will see multiple nouns and subject pronouns together. Any time that “yo” is included, use the nosotros,as form. If you see tú or Ud. Or Uds., and “yo” is not included, use the Uds. Form. This will become more important later with verbs.

Here is another chart to help you determine when to use each subject pronoun.

	Singular 1 person	Plural Two or more people
1st person	<p><i>Yo = I</i></p> <p>To Talk about oneself</p>	<p><i>Nosotros = we (all male or mixed group)</i> <i>Nosotras = we (all female)</i></p> <p>To talk about a group of two or more people that includes “yo”</p> <p>Ex: tú y yo Rosa y yo Los alumnos, tú, y yo</p>
2nd person	<p><i>Tú = you (familiar)</i></p> <p>To talk to a friend, kid, etc. To someone with whom you are on a first name basis. Ex: Maria, ¿Eres (tú) de Roxana?</p>	
3rd person	<p><i>Él = he</i> To talk about a guy Ex: Jorge el amigo El alumno El profesor</p> <p><i>Ella = she</i> To talk about a Girl Ex: Juanita la amiga la alumna la profesora</p> <p><i>Usted (Ud.) = you (formal)</i></p>	<p><i>Ellos = They (all male or mixed)</i> To talk about a group of people Ex: Juan, Paco, y José Carlos y Rosa Él y ella Los alumnos</p> <p><i>Ellas = They (all female)</i> To talk about a group of girls Elena, Margarita, y Esperanza Lupe y Rosa Carla y ella Las alumnas</p> <p><i>Ustedes (Uds.) = all of you</i></p>

	<p>To talk to an adult, stranger, a person in authority, some one you are NOT on a first name basis with, etc. EX: (to) Mr. Breden (to) Mr. Hacke (to) a police officer (to) a stranger Sr. Martínez, ¿De donde es Ud.?</p>	<p>To talk to a group of people that doesn't include "yo". EX: (to) Mr. Breden y Mr. Hacke (to) los amigos (to) las alumnas y tú (to) Javier, Lina, y tú</p>
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