**Regular "ar" Verbs**

In Spanish, there are three categories of verbs. The category is determined by the last two letters of the infinitive:

-ar verbs (like hablar)  
-er verbs (like comer)  
-ir verbs (like vivir)

The infinitive is the base form of the verb, such **as to speak, to eat, to live, etc**. In Spanish, all infinitives end in -ar, -er, or -ir.

-ar verb  
hablar (to speak)  
  
-er verb  
comer (to eat)  
  
-ir verb  
vivir (to live)

To conjugate a verb means to manipulate the infinitive so that it agrees with the different possible subjects. Here is the present tense conjugation of the infinitive "to speak":

to speak  
  
I speak  
you speak  
he speaks  
she speaks  
we speak  
you-all speak  
they speak

The present tense in Spanish can mean three things. The Spanish phrase "yo hablo" can mean:

yo hablo  
I speak  
  
yo hablo  
I am speaking  
  
yo hablo  
I do speak

Many Spanish verbs are completely regular, meaning that they follow a specific pattern of conjugation. In this lesson you will learn to conjugate regular -ar, -er, and -ir verbs (in the present tense). Before you can do that, you must memorize the following subject pronouns.

yo (I)  
tú (you - informal)  
él (he)  
ella (she)  
usted (you - formal)  
nosotros/nosotras (we)  
vosotros/vosotras (you-all - informal)  
ellos/ellas (they)  
ustedes (you-all formal)

Spanish infinitives are divided into two parts: the ending and the stem. The ending is the last two letters. Remember, all infinitives end in -ar, -er, or -ir. The stem is everything that's left after you remove the ending.

habl + ar = hablar  
com + er = comer  
viv + ir = vivir

In this lesson, we will use the model -ar verbs: hablar. In Spanish, you conjugate verbs by changing the ending. If the subject is I (yo), conjugate by dropping the ending and add -o.

**yo** hablo (hablar - ar + **o = hablo)**  
I speak, I am speaking, I do speak

If the subject is you - informal **(tú),** conjugate by dropping the ending and add -as (for -ar verbs).

tú hablas (hablar - ar + as **= hablas)**  
you speak, you are speaking, you do speak

If the subject is he (él), she (ella) or you - formal (usted), conjugate by dropping the ending and add -a (-ar verbs).

**él/ella/usted habla** (hablar - ar + a = **habla)**  
he speaks, she is speaking, you (formal) do speak

If the subject is we (nosotros/nosotras), conjugate by dropping the ending and add **-amos** for -ar verbs.

**nosotros** hablamos (hablar - ar + **amos** = hablamos)  
we speak, we are speaking, we do speak

If the subject is they (ellos/ellas) or you-all - formal (ustedes), conjugate by dropping the ending and add -an (-ar verbs).

**ellos/ellas/ustedes hablan (hablar - ar + an = hablan)**they speak, they are speaking, you-all (formal) do speak

As you can see, to conjugate regular -ar verbs, simply drop the ending (-ar) and add one of the following:

o  
as  
a  
amos  
áis  
an