



# SPANISH AUXILIARY VERBS 101

## HELPING VERBS

## IN SPANISH

## GUIDE WITH LISTS & EXAMPLES



# SPANISH AUXILIARY VS MAIN VERBS

## AUXILIARY VERB

- It's **always** conjugated.
- Conveys **when** an action happens and **who** performs it, among other information.

## MAIN VERB

- Must **be** an infinitive, gerund or past participle.
- Informs **what** happened (the main action).



Juan **está** viendo una película.  
Juan **is** watching a movie.

# USING AUXILIARY VERBS IN SPANISH

Auxiliary verb + Infinitive



Lorena va a estudiar.  
Lorena is going to study.

Auxiliary verb + Gerund



Ellos están caminando.  
They are walking.

Auxiliary + Past participle



Cindy no ha dormido.  
Cindy has not slept.

# COMMON AUXILIARY VERBS IN SPANISH

**Haber**

*To have*

**Estar**

*To be*

**Ser**

*To be*

**Ir**

*To go*

**Seguir**

*Keep doing something*

**Volver a**

*To do something again*

**Llevar**

*Have been doing something*

**Soler**

*To used to*

**Dejar de**

*To stop doing something*

# HELPERS FOR INFINITIVE VERBS IN SPANISH

**Acabar de** - *To finish*

**Acostumbrarse a** - *To get used to*

**Alcanzar a** - *To be able to*

**Comenzar a** - *To start*

**Deber** - *Must / Should*

**Dejar de** - *To stop doing*

**Empezar a** - *To start*

**Estar por** - *To be about*

**Haber que (impersonal form)** - *Must*

**Ir a** - *Going to*

**Necesitar** - *To need*

**Poder** - *Can / To be able to*

**Ponerse a** - *To start*

**Querer** - *To want*

**Saber** - *To know*

**Soler** - *To used to*

**Tener que** - *To have to*

**Venir a** - *To come to*

**Volver a** - *To do again*

# HELPERS FOR PRESENT & PAST PARTICIPLES

## PRESENT PARTICIPLE HELPERS

**Acabar** - *To end up*

**Andar** - *To be*

**Continuar** - *To continue*

**Estar** - *To be*

**Ir** - *To go*

**Llevar** - *How long / Have been*

**Quedarse** - *To stay doing something*

**Seguir** - *To keep doing something*

**Terminar** - *To finish doing something*

## PAST PARTICIPLE HELPERS

**Andar** - *To be*

**Estar** - *To be*

**Haber** - *Have*

**Ser** - *To be*

# KEY POINTS: AUXILIARY VERBS IN SPANISH

- A Spanish auxiliary verb **works** with main verbs to build compound tenses, periphrases, or passive voice structures.
- You **must always conjugate** helping verbs because they provide essential grammatical information such as: tense, subject, mood, and voice.
- In fact, you **can conjugate** them to any tense and **use** them in the subjunctive or indicative mood.
- They **do not** describe what the action is. In other words, they do not carry the meaning of the sentence.
- Auxiliary verbs in Spanish **work with** gerunds, past participles, and infinitives.

# LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[Spanish Auxiliary Verbs 101: Helping Verbs in Spanish](#)

## RELATED GUIDES & RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

[Present Participles](#)

[Past Participles](#)

[Infinitive Verbs](#)

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