

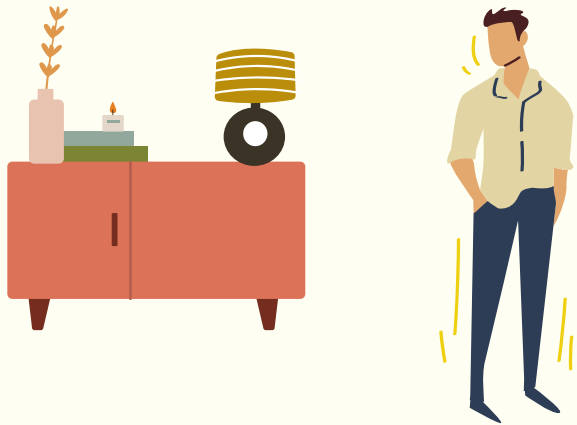
**SPANISH 101:**  
**AN EASY GUIDE TO**  
**USING 'HAY'**  
**IN SPANISH**



# HOW TO USE 'HAY' IN SPANISH

## POINT OUT EXISTENCE

Describes the objects within a place.



Hay dos libros en el tocador.  
There are two books in the dresser.

## EXPRESS OBLIGATION

Communicates impersonal obligations.



Hay que limpiar las escobas.  
We have to clean the brooms.

# POINT OUT EXISTENCE - HAY IN SPANISH

## ADD DETERMINERS

You can use determiners to provide extra information about the noun.

**Indefinite articles** - *un, una, unos, unas*

**Quantifiers** - *mucho, más, poco, demasiado, etc*

**Numbers** - *dos, tres, cuatro, etc.*

**Interrogative words** - *qué, por qué, dónde*

## EXAMPLES WITH HAY

Hay works with nouns to state or ask about their existence or presence.

**Mamá, ¿hay más pastel?**

*Mom, is there more cake?*

**Hay muchos mosquitos en la casa.**

*There are a lot of mosquitos in the house.*

**¿Cuántas personas hay?**

*How many people are there?*

# EXPRESS OBLIGATION - HAY QUE IN SPANISH

With this structure, hay means "to have to", or "let's do..."

## Hay que + [verb in infinitive form]

With this meaning, hay means "to have to", or "let's do...". With this meaning, hay means "to have to", or "let's do..."

**Hay que ir por un café.**

*Let's go for a coffee.*

**No se les olvide que hay que limpiar las ventanas.**

*Don't forget that we have to clean the windows.*

# DIFFERENT FORMS OF 'HAY' IN SPANISH

## Present

Hay tres camisas.

There are three shirts.

## Preterite

No hubo camisas verdes.

There were no green shirts.

## Imperfect

Había una rosa.

There was a pink one.

## Future

Habrán más camisas.

There will be more shirts.

## Near future

No van a haber más.

There will be no more.

## Conditional

Habría camisas verdes

There would be green shirts.

## Present Subjunctive

No creo que haya más camisas.

I don't think there are more shirts.

## Past Subjunctive

Ojalá hubiera otras camisas.

I wish there were other shirts.



# COMMON PHRASES & IDIOMS WITH HAY

**No hay problema**  
*No problem*

**¿Qué hay?**  
*What's up?*

**No hay de qué**  
*Don't mention it*

**¿Qué hay de nuevo?**  
*What's new?*

**Hay gato encerrado**  
*There's something fishy going on*

**Eres de los que no hay**  
*You're one in a million*

**Hay moros en la costa**  
*The coast is not clear*

**No hay de otra**  
*Have no other choice*

**Hay tela que cortar**  
*Have things to say / Have things to talk about*

**Hay pájaros en el alambre**  
*The coast is not clear*

# KEY POINTS: USING HAY IN SPANISH

- 'Hay' is the impersonal form of 'haber'
- 'Hay' in Spanish means 'there is' or 'there are'.
- Although it's always used in singular form, hay can be conjugated to different tenses.
- This word can be used to express obligation or to point out the existence/presence of a thing or person within a place.
  - Hay que + [infinitive] is the structure you must use to express obligation.
  - Hay + [determiner] + noun is the structure used to talk about existence.

# LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[An Easy Guide to Using 'Hay' in Spanish](#)

## RELATED GUIDES & RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

[Difference between 'hay', 'ahí', 'ay' and 'allí' in Spanish](#)

 [Watch My Lessons on YouTube!](#)  [Spanish Immersion YouTube](#)

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