

Spanish sentence matching

Teacher guide • Present indicative • Includes vosotros and vosotras

Goal

Students build, read, and explain a complete Spanish sentence using a pronoun, a correctly conjugated verb, and a meaningful ending. Includes estudiar, escribir, comer, ser, estar, ir, and tener.

Print and prepare

For one group of 2-4 students, print student pages 1-15 once, single-sided, in color at Actual size (100%). Print this teacher guide once and keep it out of student view.

Student pages 1-2: 16 blue pronoun cards (12 different pronouns, 4 repeats). Pages 3-8: 48 green verb cards (42 different forms, 6 useful repeats). Pages 9-11: 24 yellow ending cards. Pages 12-14: 24 gray challenge cards. Page 15: 1 reusable mat.

Cut student pages 1-14 on the dashed lines. Leave page 15 whole. The matching deck has 88 cards; the 24 challenge cards stay separate. Each matching card is about 3.65 × 1.94 inches.

One group builds one sentence at a time and returns cards after each turn. This avoids shortages. For two independent groups, print the complete student packet twice. For simultaneous individual building, print a complete packet per student.

Teach the three categories

Blue cards show pronouns: who. Green cards show verbs: what the subject does or is. Yellow cards show an object, description, place, destination, or other ending. All verbs use the same green; colors do not reveal pronoun matches. Cards contain only the word or phrase. Keep the three piles in consistent places and use the labeled mat for support.

Model and play for 10-15 minutes

1. Model Yo + estudio + español. Point to each card, then read "Yo estudio español." Explain that estudio matches yo.
2. Put a small, face-up choice of cards in each category. A student chooses one of each and places them on the mat. Do not force a random deal that may be impossible.
3. The student reads the whole sentence and explains the match. A partner checks meaning and agreement, then helps repair it if needed. Return all cards and rotate turns.
4. Allow pointing, echo reading, oral rehearsal, AAC, or a partner scribe. Assess grammar separately from speech or handwriting. Everyone can retry; no elimination or speed scoring.

Verb agreement key

Teacher only • All forms are present indicative

Read each column as one matching group. Usted uses the él/ella form; ustedes uses the ellos/ellas form. Nosotros and nosotras use the same verb form.

Infinitive	yo	tú	él / ella / usted	nosotros / nosotras	vosotros / vosotras	ellos / ellas / ustedes
estudiar	estudio	estudias	estudia	estudiamos	estudiáis	estudian
escribir	escribo	escribes	escribe	escribimos	escribís	escriben
comer	como	comes	come	comemos	coméis	comen
ser	soy	eres	es	somos	sois	son
estar	estoy	estás	está	estamos	estáis	están
ir	voy	vas	va	vamos	vais	van
tener	tengo	tienes	tiene	tenemos	tenéis	tienen

Vosotros and vosotras

Example: Vosotras sois estudiantes. Vosotros/vosotras are used mainly in Spain; ustedes is the usual plural you in Latin America.

Shared forms are correct matches

Él estudia, ella estudia, and usted estudia are all correct. Ellos estudian, ellas estudian, and ustedes estudian are all correct. Accept every valid match; there is no one-card-to-one-pronoun answer key. A student must explain the chosen match, not merely find a color. Object number need not match the subject: Ellas comen una manzana and Yo tengo dos libros are correct.

Agreement checks

Use estudiante or amable for a singular subject: Yo soy estudiante. Ella es amable. Use estudiantes or amables for a plural subject: Nosotras somos estudiantes. Ustedes son amables. These adjectives/nouns do not change for gender.

Yo and tú can refer to any gender. Teach respectful pronoun use without asking students to label classmates.

Ser describes identity, origin, or a characteristic in these cards. Estar gives location in these examples. Avoid teaching "permanent versus temporary" as an absolute rule.

Ir takes destinations here: voy a la escuela, va al parque, van a la biblioteca. Al is a + el. Tener expresses possession, age, or hunger: tengo un lápiz, tiene ocho años, tenemos hambre.

Preserve accents on the cards. When writing a sentence, capitalize the first word and add a period.

Endings and model sentences

Teacher only • Useful pairings rather than an exhaustive key

estudiar

Try: español; matemáticas; ciencias

Nosotros estudiamos ciencias.

escribir

Try: una carta; mi nombre; un cuento

Tú escribes una carta.

comer

Try: una manzana; arroz; una ensalada

Ellas comen arroz.

ser

Try: estudiante / estudiantes; amable / amables; de México

Ella es estudiante. Ellos son estudiantes.

estar

Try: en clase; en casa; en el parque

Ustedes están en clase.

ir

Try: a la escuela; al parque; a la biblioteca

Yo voy a la biblioteca.

tener

Try: un lápiz; dos libros; hambre; ocho años

Usted tiene ocho años.

Accept other sensible combinations

An ending can work with more than one verb. Yo estudio en casa, ella escribe en clase, and nosotros tenemos una manzana are valid. Ask what the sentence means. Do not reject a valid sentence just because it is absent from these examples. Él es español is also valid when español names nationality; ella would need española. Estar amable/amables can describe behavior at that moment.

Meaning matters too

"Yo como una carta" has matching subject and verb, but is not a sensible everyday sentence for this activity. Help the student choose a food ending. A sentence should be complete and meaningful in the intended classroom context.

Support levels and final game

Teacher only • Cooperative sentence challenge

Choose the right starting point

Level 1: Use *yo* and *tú*, one regular verb, its two matching forms, and two suitable endings. Model aloud, then let students choose and explain.

Level 2: Add all pronouns and the three regular verbs. Ask which other pronouns could use the same verb card.

Level 3: Add *ser*, *estar*, *ir*, and *tener*. Include singular/plural endings and discuss meaning. Mix only the forms already taught.

Final game for 5–8 minutes

Keep all matching cards face up in their three category groups. Put the 24 challenge cards in a separate pile. Choose four appropriate challenges for this round; use fewer if students are just starting.

On each turn, read one challenge together. The builder makes a sentence on the mat; the reader reads it; the checker explains subject-verb agreement and the ending. Rotate roles each turn. For two students, combine reader and checker. For four, add a coach who asks whether the sentence makes sense.

Earn one team mark only after the sentence is sensible and correct, every student has read it using their communication supports, and each has given or selected an agreement explanation. Mark one of the four numbers on the mat. Help and retries are unlimited.

Aim for four team marks. There is no timer or elimination. For a pronoun-swap challenge, first build a sentence using the first pronoun, then change to the requested pronoun and change other words as needed. For an error-fix challenge, repair the verb while keeping the stated pronoun and ending. Return cards after each challenge.

Quick check: Can the student choose the verb, explain the pronoun group, and choose a meaningful ending? Note the support used and reteach the specific part that was difficult.

Challenge examples one to twelve

Teacher only • Examples follow reading order on student pages 12-13

Accept any complete, sensible sentence that meets the card prompt. Students must explain the verb match and any ending agreement. The numbers below identify reading order; challenge cards have no printed numbers.

1 Estudiar with nosotros or nosotras

Nosotras estudiamos español. Estudiamos matches nosotras.

2 Escribir with tú

Tú escribes una carta. Escribes matches tú.

3 Comer with ellas

Ellas comen arroz. Comen matches ellas.

4 Ser with one person

Yo soy amable. Soy matches yo; amable is singular.

5 Estar with a group

Ellos están en casa. Están matches ellos.

6 Ir with yo

Yo voy al parque. Voy matches yo.

7 Tener with usted

Usted tiene un lápiz. Usted uses tiene.

8 Change él to ellos

Él es estudiante. → Ellos son estudiantes. Change the verb and the ending.

9 Estudiar with vosotros

Vosotros estudiáis ciencias. Estudiáis matches vosotros.

10 Escribir with nosotras

Nosotras escribimos un cuento. Escribimos matches nosotras.

11 Comer with usted

Usted come una manzana. Usted uses come.

12 Ser with vosotros

Vosotros sois amables. Sois matches vosotros; amables is plural.

Challenge examples thirteen to twenty four

Teacher only • Examples follow reading order on student pages 13-14

13 Estar with tú

Tú estás en clase. Estás matches tú.

14 Ir with ustedes

Ustedes van a la biblioteca. Van matches ustedes.

15 Tener with yo

Yo tengo dos libros. Tengo matches yo; two books can belong to one person.

16 Estudiar with ella

Ella estudia matemáticas. Estudia matches ella.

17 Escribir with ellos

Ellos escriben una carta. Escriben matches ellos.

18 Ir with nosotras

Nosotras vamos a la escuela. Vamos matches nosotras.

19 Change tú to vosotros

Tú eres estudiante. → Vosotros sois estudiantes. Change the verb and ending.

20 Change nosotros to yo

Nosotros tenemos hambre. → Yo tengo hambre. The ending stays the same.

21 Fix Yo comes arroz

Yo como arroz. Replace comes with como to match yo.

22 Fix Vosotros es amables

Vosotros sois amables. Replace es with sois. Amables is already plural.

23 Fix Ellas está en casa

Ellas están en casa. Replace está with están to match ellas.

24 Fix Tú tiene un lápiz

Tú tienes un lápiz. Replace tiene with tienes to match tú.

Optional past ser extension

Teacher only • Use after students are secure with the present-tense deck

Prepare a separate mini deck

Print optional student page 16 once per group. It has 6 past-tense verb cards and 2 matching ending cards. Borrow blue pronoun cards and the mat from the main set. Put all present-tense verbs and endings away. Keep these 8 extension cards in a separate envelope labeled PASADO.

Teach one past tense

These are the preterite forms of ser. They describe a completed past situation within a stated time. Spanish has other past tenses; this mini deck does not teach the imperfect forms such as era. The same preterite forms also belong to ir, but this extension uses ser meanings only. El año pasado does not always require the preterite; this is the past form practiced here.

Preterite agreement key

yo → fui

tú → fuiste

él / ella / usted → fue

nosotros / nosotras → fuimos

vosotros / vosotras → fuisteis

ellos / ellas / ustedes → fueron

Build and explain

Choose one pronoun, one verb from the past-tense mini deck, and one ending from that mini deck. Read the sentence, point to the past-time words, and explain agreement. Return the cards and let the next student try. There is one of each verb, so build one sentence at a time.

Model answers

Yo fui estudiante el año pasado.

Tú fuiste estudiante el año pasado.

Ella fue estudiante el año pasado.

Nosotras fuimos estudiantes el año pasado.

Vosotros fuisteis estudiantes el año pasado.

Ustedes fueron estudiantes el año pasado.

Use estudiante for singular subjects and estudiantes for plural subjects. Accept other correct pronoun swaps using the key above. Keep this extension out of the present-tense final challenge game.