

PRESENT TENSE

The present tense denotes events taking place in the present. With some verbs and contexts the present tense can be translated as a present continuous:

Escribe un libro sobre la abolición de la esclavitud.
(He's writing a book on the abolition of slavery)

Sometimes, the present tense may be used with a future meaning:
Te llamo esta noche. (I'll call you tonight)

Here is the table with the endings of the regular verbs ending in **-ar**:

hablar

hablo

hablas (habla)

hablamos

habláis (hablan)

hablan

¿Habla español? Do you speak Spanish?

Hablo may be translated as I speak English (Hablo inglés); I'm speaking with Juan (on the phone) (Hablo con Juan), and I'll speak with you tonight (Hablo contigo esta noche)

Other **-ar** regular verbs are:

cargar – to load and to charge; contestar – to answer; desear – to wish; escuchar – to listen; esperar – to expect, to hope and to wait; estudiar – to study; fumar – to smoke; ganar – to earn and to win; llegar – to arrive; necesitar – to need; preguntar – to ask; saltar – to jump, to leap and to hop; terminar – to finish; tomar – to take and to drink (beber); trabajar – to work and visitar – to visit.

¿Toma café? Do you drink coffee?

Haikus

Mientras lo **cargan**,
sueña el burrito amosquilado
en paraísos de esmeralda...

The little fly-tormented donkey,
while being burdened, dreams
of emerald heavenly pastures

Trozos de barro,
por la senda en penumbra
saltan los sapos...

Like chunks of mud,
along the shady road
hop the toads.

José Juan Tablada
México (1871- 1945)

There are two other main verb patterns: verbs ending in **-er** and **-ir** .
You will notice that the endings are the same, with the exception of
the first person plural we: **comemos** (we eat); **vivimos** (we live) and
you friendly plural.

<u>comer</u>	<u>vivir</u>
como	vivo
comes (come)	vives (vive)
come	vive
comemos	vivimos
coméis (comen)	vivís (viven)
comen	viven

Mal **comer** o bien **comer**, pero tres veces **beber**.
(Whether you eat badly or well, drink three times the amount of
water)

¿Dónde **vive**? Where do you live?

Other **-er** and **-ir** regular verbs are:

aprender – to learn; beber – to drink; comprender – to understand;
leer – to read; responder – to answer; vender – to sell; abrir – to
open; escribir – to write and recibir – to receive.

Quien mucho **come**, mucho **bebe**;
quien mucho **bebe**, mucho duerme;
quien mucho duerme, poco **lee**;
quien poco **lee**, poco sabe y poco vale. (it's worth a little)
Note: **vale** also means **okay** in Spanish.

Escribo muchas postales. (I write many postcards).