Rosa’s Spanish Verb Adventure

Learning objective: To recognise and use common Spanish verbs in the present tense (first and third person) and understand how they change.

Read the short story below to see how Rosa the parrot uses her Spanish verbs. Then, complete the questions to show what you have learnt about Spanish grammar.

Hola! I am Rosa. Every morning, I love to practise my languages. In Spanish, we change the end of the verb to match who is doing the action. When I talk about myself, I use 'yo'. I say, 'Yo hablo español' (I speak Spanish). When I talk about my friend Leo the lion, I use 'él'. I say, 'Él come una manzana' (He eats an apple). If I talk about where he stays, I say, 'Él vive en la selva' (He lives in the jungle). It is like a puzzle! Just remember: -o is for me (yo), and -e is often for he or she (él/ella).

Word bank: hablar (to speak) · comer (to eat) · vivir (to live) · yo (I) · él/ella (he/she) · hablo (I speak) · come (he/she eats) · vive (he/she lives)

1. If 'hablo' means 'I speak', how would you say 'I eat' using the verb 'comer'? (Hint: remove the -er and add -o). (1 mark)

2. Rosa says 'Él vive' means 'He lives'. Using this pattern, how would you write 'She lives' in Spanish? (1 mark)

3. Look at the sentence 'Él come una manzana'. What does this mean in English? (1 mark)

4. Explain why we add different endings to Spanish verbs. Why can't we just use the same word every time? (2 marks)

5. If 'yo' means 'I', rewrite this sentence in Spanish: 'I live'. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Rosa the parrot teaching a small class of animals how to say 'I eat' and 'He speaks' in Spanish. Include speech bubbles with the Spanish words inside.

Extension challenge: Research one other Spanish verb that ends in -ar. Can you write a sentence using 'Yo' and a sentence using 'Ella' (she) with your new verb?