

Rosa's Spanish Verb Adventure

Learning objective: To understand how Spanish verbs change their endings based on tense and to identify the difference between the present and past (pretérito) tenses.

Read the passage carefully, paying attention to the verb endings. Use the word bank to help you understand the Spanish terms, then answer the questions below.

Rosa the parrot loves to share her love for languages with her friends. Today, she is teaching them about the magic of Spanish verbs. 'In Spanish,' Rosa chirps, 'the end of the verb changes to tell us when something happened.' She points to her chalkboard. 'If I say, hoy estudio, it means I am studying today. The -o ending shows it is the present tense.' Her friend Max the monkey tilts his head. 'What about yesterday?' he asks. Rosa smiles. 'That is where the past tense, or pretérito, comes in! If you studied yesterday, you say, estudié. Notice how the ending shifts to an accented -é to show the action is finished.' Rosa explains that whether you speak (hablo) or studied (hablé), the root of the word often stays the same, but the ending acts like a map, guiding the listener through time. By mastering these endings, you can tell stories about what you are doing now or share exciting tales about your adventures from yesterday. It is just like solving a clever linguistic puzzle!

Word bank: hablar - to speak · estudiar - to study · hablé - I spoke · estudié - I studied · hablo - I speak · estudio - I study · ayer - yesterday · hoy - today

1. According to the text, what does the -o ending on a Spanish verb indicate? (2 marks)

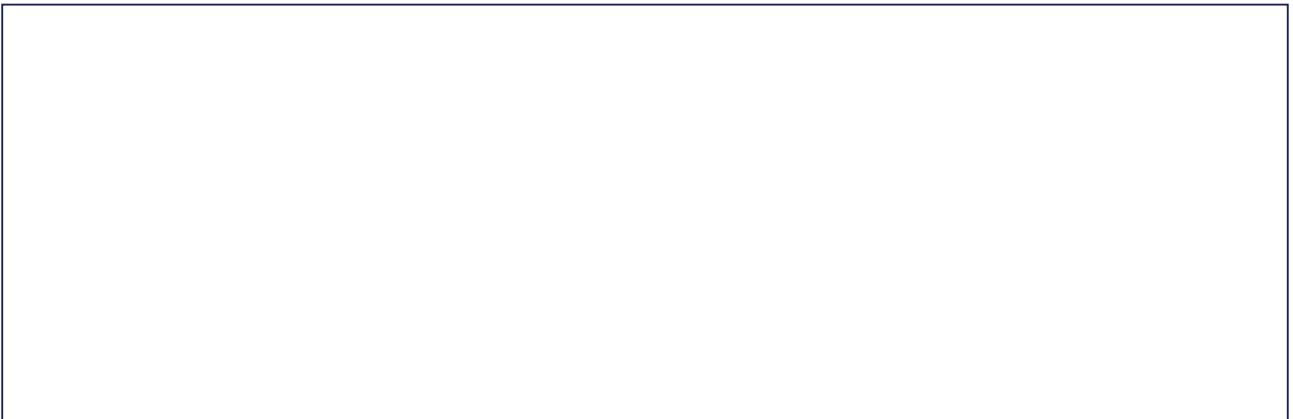
2. What is the specific Spanish word used in the passage to describe an action that happened yesterday? (2 marks)

3. Why does Rosa compare verb endings to a map? (3 marks)

4. Explain why Max might find Spanish verbs interesting based on his personality as a monkey who loves puzzles. (3 marks)

5. Do you think it is more useful to learn the present tense or the past tense first? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a classroom scene where Rosa the parrot is standing in front of a chalkboard. On the chalkboard, draw a 'Time Tree' with two branches: one labeled 'Presente' (with leaves showing '-o' words) and one labeled 'Pretérito' (with leaves showing '-é' words).



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the way we change verbs in English (e.g., walk vs. walked) with the Spanish examples provided. What might happen if a language did not have different verb endings for the past and present? Write a short paragraph justifying why verb tenses are essential for clear communication.