

Rosa's Spanish Verb Adventure

Learning objective: To understand and apply present and past tense verb endings in Spanish, identifying how actions change based on time.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your knowledge of Spanish verbs and the context provided to answer the questions. Refer back to the text to justify your responses.

Rosa the parrot loves teaching languages in the canopy of the forest. Today, she is helping her friends understand how Spanish verbs change. 'In Spanish,' Rosa chirps, 'the ending of a verb tells us who is doing the action and when it happens.' She explains that for regular -ar verbs like 'hablar', the present tense changes to match the person. For example, 'Yo hablo' means 'I speak'. However, when we talk about the past, the endings transform completely. 'Yo hablé' means 'I spoke'. Rosa shows how 'bailar' follows this pattern too. 'Yo bailo' is what I do now, but 'Yo bailé' is what I did yesterday. Max the monkey, who loves maths, notices that the verbs act like a logical formula. He calculates that by changing the suffix, one can shift the entire timeline of a sentence. Rosa encourages them to practise, reminding them that even if they make a small mistake, every word is a step closer to fluency. Learning the difference between 'o' and 'é' ensures that listeners know exactly whether the dancing is happening right now or if it is a wonderful memory.

Word bank: hablar (to speak) · bailar (to dance) · cantar (to sing) · el pasado (the past) · el presente (the present) · la conjugación (conjugation)

1. According to the passage, what specific part of a Spanish verb indicates who is performing the action and when it is happening? (2 marks)

2. What is the difference in meaning between 'Yo bailo' and 'Yo bailé'? (2 marks)

3. Why does Max the monkey think that learning Spanish verbs is similar to solving a maths puzzle? (3 marks)

4. Explain why Rosa emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between the 'o' and 'é' endings. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Do you think it is more important to learn the present tense or the past tense first when starting a new language? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Rosa the parrot sitting on a branch with a chalkboard, showing a colourful diagram that compares the present tense ending 'o' to the past tense ending 'é'.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are teaching a new student about Spanish verbs. Create a 'Verb Transformation Table' for the verb 'cantar' (to sing). Write the present tense form for 'I' (Yo canto) and the past tense form for 'I' (Yo canté). Then, write a short paragraph explaining why changing a single letter can completely alter the meaning of a story.