

Rosa's Verbs and Tenses: A Spanish Language Journey

Learning objective: To understand and apply present and simple past tense verb endings in Spanish, identifying how actions shift across time.

Join Rosa the parrot as she explores how Spanish verbs change. Read the passage carefully, observe the verb endings, and complete the tasks to master these grammatical patterns.

Hola! I am Rosa. In Spanish, we use verb endings to show when an action happens. When I talk about today, I use the present tense. I say 'Yo como una manzana' (I eat an apple). But when I talk about yesterday, I use the preterite tense to show the action is finished. I say 'Yo comí una manzana' (I ate an apple). Notice how the ending changes from -o to -í! Verbs ending in -ar, -er, and -ir all have special patterns. By learning these, you can describe your adventures in the past, present, and future.

Word bank: hablar (to speak) · comer (to eat) · vivir (to live) · hablé (I spoke) · comí (I ate) · viví (I lived) · hablo (I speak) · como (I eat) · vivo (I live)

1. Explain why the ending of the verb 'comer' changes from 'como' to 'comí' in Rosa's passage. What does this tell the listener about the timing of the action? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the present tense ending for 'hablar' (hablo) and 'vivir' (vivo). What do you notice about the last letter? (2 marks)

3. If Rosa says 'Yo hablé con mi amigo', is she speaking about something happening right now or something that has already occurred? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. Create a new sentence using the verb 'vivir' in the present tense to describe where you live. Then, write the same sentence in the past tense. (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the meaning of a story if a writer accidentally used present tense endings throughout a historical recount? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration. On the left side, draw Rosa doing an activity in the 'Present' (label it 'Presente'). On the right side, draw Rosa having finished that same activity, representing the 'Past' (label it 'Pasado').



Extension challenge: Research three common Spanish -ar verbs. Create a table showing the 'Yo' (I) form in both the present and the past tense. Then, write a short paragraph in English explaining why it is important for language learners to memorise these specific verb patterns.