

Gustar -- Transcript

Context

Hola y buenos días. In this lesson we're going to talk about the verb *gustar*. Remember, this is the verb we use in Spanish when we want to say that we like or dislike something. Spanish and English are the same in that both languages have one basic verb they use for saying that you like something. The verb *gustar*, however, works a little differently than the English verb "to like."

Let's start with a look at the basic forms of *gustar* and then move on to talk about how to use *gustar* in sentences.

Information

1. Let's start off by reviewing the basic forms of *gustar*. For all practical purposes you only need to remember the forms for *Ud.* and *Uds.* (third person singular and plural). Since *gustar* is a regular **-ar** verb, that means those forms are *gusta* and *gustan*. *Repite. Gusta. Gustan.*
2. Some people call *gustar* a "reverse-construction" verb while others just call it "backwards." In any case, the important thing to remember about *gustar* is that it means to be pleasing. So, in Spanish, when we say that "we like something," we're really saying that something is pleasing to me. That means that the thing you like or dislike will always be the subject of the verb.

For example, if I want to say "I like the book," in Spanish I actually have to say "The book is pleasing to me." *Me gusta el libro. Repite. Me gusta el libro.*

3. Notice in this example – *Me gusta el libro* – the thing that is pleasing (i.e. the book), actually goes after the verb. It's the subject but it doesn't appear in the location we normally associate with the subject – in front of the verb.

So in Spanish, when we're using *gustar*, the actual sentence structure is Indirect Object Pronoun (the person to whom it is pleasing), Verb, and then Subject. That means that when you want to find out what form of *gustar* to use, you always want to look at the end of the sentence – after the verb – instead of at the beginning where the subject usually appears.

When I say *Me gusta el libro*, I know that the form of *gustar* should be *gusta* because the subject is *el libro*. If I changed *el libro* to *los libros*, *gusta* would change to *gustan*. *Repite. Me gustan los libros.*

4. Okay, that seems easy enough, right? *Gustar* means to be pleasing, it has to agree with its subject, and that subject always goes after *gustar* instead of in front of it. Now the last thing to remember about *gustar* is that the word we put in front of it

to express who is doing the liking or disliking is not actually a subject in Spanish. It is really an indirect object pronoun since it is really the person to whom a thing is pleasing. Don't worry about the technical stuff. All you need to remember is that, with *gustar*, we don't use *yo, tú, nosotros* or other subject pronouns in front of the verb. Instead, we use *me, te, le, nos, vos, and les*. So, "We like the book" is *Nos gusta el libro*.

5. Let's try a couple more to make sure you have it. How would you say "They like the book"? (*Les gusta el libro*). Now try "You (familiar) like the books." (*Te gustan los libros*.) Hey, looks like you've got it!

Review – Things to Remember

Okay, that's the basic information to remember about *gustar*. It means to be pleasing, it agrees with its subject, and that subject always goes after *gustar* instead of in front of it. Finally, instead of putting subject pronouns like *yo* or *ellos*. In front of the verb, we use indirect object pronouns (*me, te, le, nos, vos, les*).

Well that's all for *gustar*. *Eso es todo. Adiós*.