

## El Verbo GUSTAR

Spanish has no exact equivalent for **to like**. To express the idea of liking, Spanish-speaking people use the verb *gustar*, which basically means the same as the English expression **to be pleasing**. The most commonly used forms of this verb are *gusta* and *gustan*.

### EXAMPLES:

<i>Me gusta la playa.</i>	I like the beach.
<i>Me gusta bailar.</i>	I like to dance.
<i>Me gustan las fotos.</i>	I like photos.

### Guidelines:

1. If what you like is singular, use *me gusta*.
2. If what you like is plural, use *me gustan*.
3. If what you like is an action/activity, use *me gusta* + verb infinitive.
4. If you DON'T like something, put *no* in front of *me gusta*.

EXAMPLE: *No me gustan los chocolates.* I don't like chocolates.

### Other Forms:

<i>Te gusta la pera.</i>	You (familiar) like the pear.
<i>Te gustan las peras.</i>	You (familiar) like the pears.
<i>Le gusta el restaurante.</i>	He/she/ likes the restaurant.
	You (formal) like the restaurant.
<i>Nos gusta la clase.</i>	We like the class.
<i>Les gusta la bebida.</i>	They/You (plural) like the drink.
<i>Les gustan los libros.</i>	They/You (plural) like the books.

\*\*\* Follow the same rule for all forms: use *gusta* for the SINGULAR or an INFINITIVE; use *gustan* for the PLURAL. \*\*\*\*\*

To ask a question, simply raise the pitch of your voice when speaking, or place question marks when writing.

EXAMPLE: *¿Te gusta el pollo?* Do you like (the) chicken?

Suppose the "thing liked" is not a noun but a pronoun? For example, how do you say *I like it* or *I like them*? Here's how:

Me gusta.	<i>I like it.</i>	Te gusta.	<i>You like it.</i>
Me gustan.	<i>I like them.</i>	Te gustan.	<i>You like them.</i>
No me gustan.	<i>I don't like them.</i>	¿No te gustan?	<i>Don't you like them?</i>

The rule is simple. If "the thing liked" is *it*, use *gusta*; if "the thing liked" is *them*, use *gustan*.

As you have probably noticed, a problem may arise when *le* or *les* is used with forms of *gustar*. Imagine that you had to say something like this in Spanish:

*She* likes to dance and *he* likes to sing. What do you like to do?

If you say

*Le gusta bailar y le gusta cantar. ¿Qué le gusta hacer?*

the meaning would not be clear. So, for clarity, you say:

*A ella le gusta bailar y a él le gusta cantar. ¿Qué le gusta hacer a usted?*

What little word did we put before the pronouns *él*, *ella*, and *usted*? \_\_\_\_\_. It's very simple: To clarify the meaning of *le gusta*, *les gusta*, *le gustan*, or *les gustan*, put a plus the pronoun at the beginning of the sentence:

*A ellos les gusta mirar la televisión.*

*A usted no le gusta trabajar.*

*¿Le gustan a ella las rosas? or ¿A ella le gustan las rosas?*

Now look at one more situation involving the use of *gustar*:

*A Jorge le gustan las frutas.*

*A los niños les gustan los helados.*

What little word did we put before *Jorge* and *los niños*? \_\_\_\_\_. Right. To say that someone likes (or dislikes) something and the someone is a name or a noun, put a plus the name or noun before *le(s) gusta(n)*. (Remember that *a + el = al*: *Al niño le gusta el helado.*)