

A Notice the different verbs that are used to talk about activities.

It's important to remember that the verb 'to play' is translated in two different ways. *Tocar* means 'to play a musical instrument' and *jugar* 'to play a sport'.

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| 1 I play the trumpet. | <i>Toco la trompeta.</i> |
| 2 I do judo. | <i>Practico el judo.</i> |
| 3 I'm a member of the basketball club. | <i>Soy miembro del club de baloncesto.</i> |
| 4 I dance salsa. | <i>Bailo salsa.</i> |
| 5 I sing in a choir. | <i>Canto en un coro.</i> |

★ Remember from Module 1 that you do not usually need to use the subject pronoun (I, you, he, she, etc.) in Spanish. Can you remember why?

In Spanish you can use the verb *practicar* to say 'to do' a sport. In English 'to practise' usually means to do something so that you get better at it, but in Spanish *practicar* can also just mean 'to do' when you are talking about doing a sport.

Notice how all the verbs except this one end in -o – the present tense verb ending for 'I'. This verb is an irregular verb so you have to learn it separately. (I am - soy)

B Now complete these translations by choosing the correct verb from activity A.

- I play the violin. – _____ *el violín.*
- I sing in a group. – _____ *en un grupo.*
- I do gymnastics. – _____ *gimnasia.*
- I dance Zumba. – _____ *Zumba.*
- I'm a member of the athletics club.
– _____ *miembro del club de atletismo.*

★ Remember that Spanish verbs have different endings depending on who the subject is (the person doing the action) and the tense it is in (present, past, future, etc).

C Look at these example translations and answer the questions below.

- I play the trumpet. I've been playing it for seven years.
Toco la trompeta. La toco desde hace siete años.
- I do judo. I've been doing it for four years.
Practico el judo. Lo practico desde hace cuatro años.

1 Why is the word 'it' translated as *la* in the first sentence and as *lo* in the second sentence?

2 What do you notice about where *lo* and *la* are positioned compared to the English?

3 What is different about how the verbs are used in Spanish and in English?

D Now translate these sentences into Spanish. Use a dictionary to find any words you do not know.

1 I do swimming. I've been doing it for two years.

2 I play the flute. I've been playing it for five years.

3 I do cycling. I've been doing it for eight years.

Remember that you need to know if 'it' refers to a masculine or feminine noun. A dictionary will tell you this.

E Put the time expressions and the verbs into the correct columns to complete the table.

<i>el año pasado</i>	<i>el año que viene</i>	<i>la semana pasada</i>	<i>todos los días</i>
<i>tres veces a la semana</i>	<i>el verano próximo</i>	<i>hace un mes</i>	
<i>gané</i>	<i>voy a participar en</i>	<i>ganamos</i>	<i>practico</i>
<i>hicimos</i>	<i>vamos a participar en</i>	<i>toco</i>	

	time expression in English	time expression in Spanish	verb in English	verb in Spanish
present	three times a week every day		I play I do	
past	last year last week a month ago		I won we won	
future	next year next summer		I'm going to take part in we're going to take part in	

F Translate the text below into Spanish.

I've been a member of the orchestra for two years. I play the violin and next year we're going to take part in an international competition. Also, I do karate. I do it twice a week and last term I won a prize. It was great!

The word 'international' is very similar in Spanish. Remember that it's an adjective though and the position of adjectives is usually different in Spanish. Where should it go?

★ Before translating read the whole passage first and consider what you have learnt about the topic before. Use a dictionary or your Student Book to find words you can't remember and check whether any nouns in the text are masculine or feminine.

Answers

B

- 1 *Toco el violín.*
- 2 *Canto en un grupo.*
- 3 *Practico gimnasia.*
- 4 *Bailo Zumba.*
- 5 *Soy miembro del club de atletismo.*

C

- 1 The direct object pronoun *la* is used to translate 'it' when the noun being referred to is feminine and the direct object pronoun *lo* is used to translate 'it' when the noun being referred to is masculine.
- 2 *Lo* and *la* come before the verb in Spanish instead of after it, like in English.
- 3 In English two different tenses are used instead of one - the present tense to talk about what you usually do and the present perfect continuous tense to talk about how long you have been doing something. In Spanish, you just use the present tense with *desde hace*.

D

- 1 *Toco el piano. Lo toco desde hace tres años.*
- 2 *Practico la natación. La practico desde hace dos años.*
- 3 *Toco la flauta. La toco desde hace cinco años.*
- 4 *Practico el ciclismo. Lo practico desde hace ocho años.*

E

	time expression in English	time expression in Spanish	verb in English	verb in Spanish
present	three times a week every day	tres veces a la semana todos los días	I play I do	toco practico
past	last year last week a month ago	el año pasado la semana pasada hace un mes	I won we won	gané ganamos
future	next year next summer	el año que viene el verano próximo	I'm going to take part we're going to take part	voy a participar en vamos a participar en

F

Sample answer

Soy miembro de la orquesta desde hace dos años. Toco el violín y el año que viene vamos a participar en un concurso internacional. También practico el karate. Lo practico dos veces a la semana y el trimestre pasado gané un premio. ¡Fue genial!