

## Reference 1.1: Subjects

**Subjects:** Subjects are the part of the sentence that perform or do the verb that is addressed in a declarative sentence or a question.

**Subject Pronouns:** Subject Pronouns are subjects, but subject pronoun can replace a subject if the subject is already known to the person being spoken.

### Example 1:

- John and Mary are nice. (“John and Mary” are subjects.)
- They are nice. (The word “they” is a subject pronoun.)
  - **Note:** The word “they” can only be used if the person being addressed knows the reference. If we were to simply say “They are nice.” without any background, we would not know who “they” refers to.

### Example 2:

- Mary and I are tall. (“Mary and I” are subjects.)
- We are nice. (The word “we” is a subject pronoun.)
  - **Note:** The word “we” can only be used if the person being addressed knows the reference. If we were to simply say “We are nice.” without any background, we would not know who the other person refers to.

**Subjects and Verbs:** Subjects and verbs have an important relationship in languages. In fact, no complete sentence can be made without a subject and a verb. These are the two minimum requirements in order to make a sentence.

**Singular vs. Plural:** Singular subjects mean that there is only one subject doing the action. Plural subjects mean that there is more than one subject doing the action.

### Example 1:

- He speaks English. (The word “he” is a subject.)
  - **Note:** The subject “he” is singular because it refers to one person doing the verb (speaking).

### Example 2:

- We speak Spanish. (The word “we” is a subject.)
  - **Note:** The subject “we” is plural because it refers to more than one person doing the verb (speaking).

It is important to understand the difference between singular and plural because in English, the word “you” can be singular and plural. In Spanish, this will never happen.

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**Aspect:** Aspect refers to the point of view of the pronoun.

- **1st Person:** Is used when the person speaking is talking about himself or herself.
- **2nd Person:** Is used when the person speaking is talking directly to someone.
- **3rd Person:** Is used when the person is speaking about someone or something, or speaking directly to someone that they have a formal relationship with.

**T-Charts:** When studying most European languages, it is important to familiarize yourself with a T-Chart. A T-Chart is a graphic organizer that is used to reference aspect and singular vs. plural. Below you will see two charts: one of the subject pronouns in English and one of the subject pronouns in Spanish.

### English Subject Pronouns

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
<b>1st Person</b>	I	We
<b>2nd Person</b>	You	You (all)
<b>3rd Person</b>	He, She, It, You (formal)	They, you (all) formal

### Spanish Subject Pronouns

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
<b>1st Person</b>	Yo	Nosotros, Nosotras
<b>2nd Person</b>	Tú	Vosotros, Vosotras
<b>3rd Person</b>	Él, Ella, Usted, Se, _____	Ellos, Ellas, Ustedes

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### Translation of Subject Pronouns from English to Spanish

English	Spanish	Aspect
I	yo	1 <sup>st</sup> person singular
you (when speaking to one person informally)	tú	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular
he	él	3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular
she	ella	3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular
you (when speaking to one person formally)	usted	3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular
one	se	3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular
it	(nothing)	3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular
we	nosotros	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural
you (when speaking to a group informally)	vosotros	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural
they	ellos	3 <sup>rd</sup> person plural
you (when speaking to a group formally)	ustedes	3 <sup>rd</sup> person plural

**Note:** The difference between “nosotros” and “nosotras”, “vosotros” and “vosotras”, and “ellos” and “ellas” is that if the subject is completely feminine or female, then we use the form that ends in the letter “a”.

**Translating “you”:** You may have noticed that there are four ways to say “you” in Spanish. It will depend on whom you are addressing when speaking.

- **Tú:** This is used when you are speaking directly to someone that you have an informal relationship with.
  - This is someone that you call by their first name or have a special name for.
- **Usted:** This is used to mean “you” when you are speaking directly to someone that you have a formal relationship with
  - This is someone that you call sir or ma’am or by their last name.
- **Vosotros:** This is used to mean “you” when you are speaking directly to a group of people that you have an informal relationship with
  - These are people that you call by their first name or have a special name for.
  - In English, when the word “you” is plural, we tend to create a plural marker depending on our dialect of English.
    - Examples of this are “you all”, “y’all”, “you-ins”, “yins”, “you guys” or “you people”.
  - The “vosotros” form of you is only used in Spain.
- **Ustedes:** This is used to mean “you” when you are speaking directly to a group of people that you have a formal relationship with
  - These are people that you would call sir or ma’am or by their last name.
  - In Latin America, the usage of “vosotros” does not exist. Therefore this formality only applies in Spain. In Latin America, this is the only way to say “you” plural.