

Episode 4: 4. Regular Verbs

Grammar: Regular Verbs (Present/Past)

Song: “Para **bailar** La Bamba

Para bailar La Bamba

Se **necesita** una poca de gracia

Una poca de gracia

Para mí, para ti... Ay, arriba y arriba

Ay, arriba y arriba.”

Ceci: ¡Rylan! ¿Tú **bailas** la bamba?... I had no idea!

Rylan: Yo **bailo** la bamba, **bailo** salsa, ¡**bailo** un poco de todo!

Ceci: Sí, pero... ¿puedes **bailar** y **enseñar** al mismo tiempo? Because, in case you forgot, we do have a little something called a lesson.

Rylan: C’mon, Ceci! Can you honestly listen to this song and not wiggle your hips? ... Nadie **resiste** La Bamba, ¡es un clásico! Yo **bailo**. Tú **bailas**. Nosotros **bailamos**... ¡La Bamba!

Ceci: Ok, I’ll follow your lead... Rylan **baila** La Bamba. ¿Ustedes **bailan** también?

Rylan: And just like that we are conjugating verbs!

Ceci: That’s right. Today marks a milestone, a departure point for us in our Spanish-learning journey. We’re about to maximize our comprehension potential in a really big way. Today, we’re going to cover regular verbs.

Rylan: In the present... AND past tenses!

Ceci: Woah... ¡Espera! ¿Presente y pasado al mismo tiempo?... At the same time?!

Rylan: Sound like a big order? Well, it doesn’t have to be! We can learn a few moves that will have us dancing around regular verbs in no time! ... Solo se **necesita** una poca de gracia.

Ceci: You did that whole bit with La Bamba, just so you could say that, didn’t you?

Rylan: And it was worth it! ... Ceci, since we are on the subject of dance, I want to share with you one of the most embarrassing stories.

Ceci: Oh boy, we’re off to a good start.

Rylan: Hear me out, because I think I am not alone in this experience.

Ceci: So, what happened?

Rylan: Before my gap year, I took salsa lessons... ¡**Aprendí a bailar** salsa! ... because I knew I was going to dance during my trip.

Ceci: And... you were a bad dancer?

Rylan: Not at all! I was the best in the class!

Ceci: So, what happened?... ¿Qué **pasó**?

Rylan: Llegó la hora de la verdad... The moment of truth. I went to my first party in Caracas. There was a girl. A dancing queen... La reina del baile. She was dancing merengue and she was a-mazing! But I hadn't learned Merengue, so I sat and waited... Me **senté** y **esperé**. Finalmente, **tocaron** Salsa... ¡They played Salsa! So, full of confidence, I jumped from my seat... **salté** de mi silla y...

Ceci: ¿**Bailaron** hasta el amanecer? ... You danced until dawn?

Rylan: Nope. We couldn't dance at all! ... Yo no **bailé**. Ella no **bailó**. No **bailamos**... She had no idea what I was doing. I had learned all these complex moves and she learned to improvise. She couldn't follow me and I couldn't follow her!

Ceci: I'm not surprised! The Salsa and Merengue you see in competitions or in lessons is usually very different from the day to day salsa and merengue. It's the same music, but...

Rylan: Yes, I know, but you see the moral hidden in my story, yes?

Ceci: That conjugating verbs is like dancing? You can memorize all the steps but when it's time to get on the dance floor, sometimes you just need to listen to the music?

Rylan: I couldn't have said it better myself!

Ceci: Alright, before you get too carried away, let's go over some basics... **Necesitamos** los conceptos básicos y luego **podemos improvisar**. First we must address the elephant in the room: our old friends **Ser** y **Estar**. These are not regular verbs...

Rylan: ¡**Son** irregulares!... **Soy, eres, es, somos y son. Estoy, estás, está, estamos y están**... And that's just the present tense! We will do the past forms of **ser** y **estar** a little later. But don't worry, remember that the verb "to be" is irregular in English too! For the moment, keep the irregular forms of **ser** y **estar** on the back burner.

Ceci: Now, verb basics: Every verb consists of a stem and an ending. In regular verbs the stem remains the same, or regular, while the ending changes according to the tense...

Rylan: Como pasado o presente.

Ceci: And person...

Rylan: Yo, tú, nosotros, etc...

Ceci: The base form of a verb is called "infinitive" because it has not been conjugated, so it has no time or person. In Spanish, every single infinitive verb ends in AR, ER, or IR... Por ejemplo: **Bailar**, **Comer**, **Vivir**...

Rylan: To dance, eat, and live. 3 excellent activities, by the way.

Ceci: We have our starting point... **Tenemos** los verbos en infinitivo. Ahora, **hablemos** de conjugación... The word conjugate comes from the Latin "conjugare"; literally, 'to yoke together'

Rylan: ...

Ceci: ¡Rylan!

Rylan: Just kidding! What you're saying is crucial. Conjugate means to couple, to join two things together. Like partners in a dance! And verbs love to dance, so let's get this lesson dancing again!... Los verbos **adoran bailar**. Yo también **adoro bailar**. **Adoro cantar, viajar, comer y vivir** al máximo. ¿Tú, Ceci, qué **adoras**?

Ceci: Me? My favorite things?... Bueno, yo **adoro enseñar** los verbos regulares que terminan en AR, ER e IR. To teach the regular verbs ending in AR, ER and IR.

Rylan: Oh, come on!

Ceci: Me gusta **enseñar**, así que **enseño** (to teach). Me gusta **leer**, así que **leo** mucho. (to read) Me gusta **visitar** museos, (to visit museums) **aprender** (to learn) y también **bailar**.

Rylan: Nooooo!

Ceci: Don't sound so surprised!

Rylan: Tú no **bailas**.

Ceci: Yo sí **bailo**.

Rylan: ¿Qué música **bailas**?

Ceci: No me vas a **creer**... You won't believe me.

Rylan: ¿Tú **bailas**... Bachata?

Ceci: No, es demasiado lenta... It's too slow.

Rylan: ¿Tú **bailas** Tango?

Ceci: Demasiado difícil... Too hard.

Rylan: ¡Merengue!

Ceci: No.

Rylan: I give up.

Ceci: Reggaetón!

Rylan: ¡¿Qué?! ¡Tú no **bailas** reggaetón!

Ceci: ¿Por qué no? ... If not reggaetón, then what do you imagine?... ¿Qué **imaginas**?

Rylan: **Imagino** un ... ¿canto gregoriano?

Ceci: Ha, ha, very funny.

Rylan: Of course, I'm just joking... Yo **creo** que es fantástico que la seria profesora Ceci **baila** reggaetón... I hope some of your former students hear this!

Ceci: ¡Ok! ¡**Retornamos** a la conjugación!... AR, ER, and IR verbs each have their own conjugation patterns in the present tense. First, drop the last two letters which leaves us with the stem and then...

Rylan: Wait! You just gave me an idea...

Ceci: Oh, no, don't even think about it... ¿Dónde **encontraste** esa música?

Rylan: Relax, no need to show off your moves. Just repeat after me... Grupooo **AR: -o, -as, -a, -amos, -an.**

Ceci: **-o, -as, -a, -amos, -an.**

Rylan: Yo **bailo**, Tú **bailas**, Él o Ella **baila**.

Ceci: Nosotros **bailamos**, Ustedes, Ellos **bailan**.

Rylan: Grupooo **ER: -o, -es, -e, -emos, -en.** Yo **como**, Tú **comes**, Él o Ella **come**.

Ceci: Nosotros **comemos**, Ustedes, Ellos **comen**.

Rylan: Y para terminar grupooo **IR: -o, -es, -e, -imos, -en.** Yo **vivo**, Tú **vives**, Él o Ella **vive**.

Ceci: Nosotros **vivimos**, Ustedes, Ellos **viven**.

Ceci: I'll admit it, that was fun! We have more charts with examples of conjugations in the present tense on our site. Review them and if you're feeling adventurous, say them to a beat. It really helps... ¡Ahora, **viajamos** al pasado!

Rylan: Now we only have two conjugation patterns to learn. One for **AR** verbs: **-é, -aste, -ó, -amos, -aron**. And another shared by **ER** and **IR** verbs: **-í, -iste, -ió, -imos, -ieron**.

Ceci: Before you drop that beat again, I think Reggaetón might be too contemporary for the past tense. Instead, let's go back to La Bamba... Ritchie Valens **adaptó** la canción en 1958. Esa es la versión más popular. Pero la versión original es anónima y **salió** de Veracruz, México.

Rylan: ¡Yo **bailé** La Bamba en Veracruz!

Ceci: ¿Tú **viajaste** a Veracruz?

Rylan: Sí, con una amiga que me **enseñó** a **bailar** La Bamba.

Ceci: ¿Ustedes **bailaron** la verdadera bamba?

Rylan: Nosotros **bailamos**... nuestra versión. Los bailarines profesionales, ellos **bailaron** la verdadera bamba de Veracruz... As it turns out, the "bamba" is a folk dance with challenging steps!

Ceci: Yes! In Veracruz it is still traditionally danced at some weddings by the new couple. They show off their bond with the synchronization of their dance. In some cases they speed up the steps with each passing verse! Let's take a look at the next verse of the song:

*"Para **subir** al cielo, para **subir** al cielo
se **necesita** una escalera grande.
Una escalera grande y otra chiquita.
Ay, arriba y arriba, Ay, arriba y arriba."*

Rylan: I remember now! I even said to my friend... **Bailaron** tan rápido, que **subieron** al cielo. ¡No **necesitaron** escalera!

Ceci: Cuando **bailaste** la bamba, ¿tú **subiste** al cielo?

Rylan: No, mi amiga y yo no **subimos** al cielo, ¡pero sí nos **divertimos** mucho!

Ceci: Ustedes se **divirtieron** en Veracruz, ¿pero, **aprendiste** el baile también?

Rylan: Yo **aprendí** algunos pasos, ¡pero mi amiga **aprendió** todo el baile!... It was a great show actually, it showcased several styles of "zapateado", which is a lot like tap dancing... **Observé, disfruté**... Después, nosotros **comimos** y **bailamos** un poco más.

Ceci: Thank you for that little story Rylan! But now I can tell that you are left feeling nostalgic for your dancing days... Is there anything we can do to make you feel better?

Rylan: Sí, **necesito**... ¡**bailar**!

Ceci: Está bien, para terminar hoy **bailamos**.