

# Helpful Hints for Using the Spanish/English Dictionary

- 1. Read the WHOLE definition!** The correct definition is not always the first word you read. If the word you read does not make sense, it's probably not the right word. Continue reading.
- 2. Nouns & Adjectives – Gender & Number**
  - They will be **masculine** in the dictionary; you will have to change their endings to make them **feminine**.
  - They will always be **singular**; you will have to add either **-s** or **-es** to make them **plural**.
- 3. Verbs (the most challenging)**
  - They will always be in the **INFINITIVE** form. **That means they will have a “R” on the end.** The “R” on the end changes the definition: **HABLAR >>> TO TALK, VIVIR >>> TO LIVE**
  - There are **three types of verbs in Spanish –AR, -ER, -IR**

*Examples: hablar, saber, vivir*

Story form >>>> Dictionary form “R” on the end
habla >>>> hablar
ve >>>> ver
sabe >>>> saber
vive >>>> vivir

- Some verbs change their **roots/stems** from their infinitive. Only vowels make these changes.

Story form	Dictionary form	Story form	Dictionary/Infinitive form
1. <b>duerme</b> – h/s sleeps	<b>dormir</b> – to sleep	ue	o
2. <b>piensa</b> – h/s thinks	<b>pensar</b> – to think	ie	e
3. <b>pide</b> – h/s asks for	<b>pedir</b> – to ask for	e	i
4. <b>juega</b> – h/s plays	<b>jugar</b> – to play	ue	u

- the “**nosotros (we)**” form does not change from its root/stem.  
**dormir >>>> dormimos**

**4. Multiple Meanings** - If you are looking up a Spanish word from the English side, you should read all entries BUT THEN look up the Spanish word in the Spanish side to make sure it has the right English meaning – use both sides of the dictionary when looking up a Spanish word.

# Dictionary Work – Practice

## Nouns & Adjectives

A. Gender – What is the gender (masculine, feminine, or both) of the following words in Spanish?

1. map \_\_\_\_\_
2. hand \_\_\_\_\_
3. grande \_\_\_\_\_
4. nuestras \_\_\_\_\_
5. lápiz \_\_\_\_\_

B. Number – What is the number (singular or plural) of the following words?

6. dos \_\_\_\_\_
7. clase \_\_\_\_\_
8. lápices \_\_\_\_\_
9. papeles \_\_\_\_\_
10. gato \_\_\_\_\_
11. monos \_\_\_\_\_

## Verbs - Infinitive Forms

C. Infinitive Endings (-AR, -ER, -IR) What is the infinitive ending for the following words?

12. pone \_\_\_\_\_
13. escribe \_\_\_\_\_
14. ríe \_\_\_\_\_
15. anda \_\_\_\_\_
16. sale \_\_\_\_\_

D. What is the infinitive form for the following words?

17. pienso \_\_\_\_\_
18. juegas \_\_\_\_\_
19. duermen \_\_\_\_\_
20. tienen \_\_\_\_\_

## Multiple Meanings

E. What is the best Spanish translation for the following words?

21. to cook \_\_\_\_\_
22. a cook \_\_\_\_\_
23. kitchen \_\_\_\_\_
24. a fly (bug) \_\_\_\_\_
25. to fly \_\_\_\_\_