

**The verb *gustar*: (to be pleasing, to please, to like)**

In Spanish, the verb **gustar** is used to express likes, dislikes, and preferences. While you are learning how to use **gustar**, it may be better for you to translate **gustar** as "*to be pleasing to*" rather than "*to like*" since this verb is accompanied by an indirect object pronoun.

The subject of the verb **gustar** is whatever is doing the pleasing. **Gustar** agrees in person and number with the subject of the sentence. The indirect object pronoun indicates who is being pleased.

- To say that one or many people like one thing, use this structure:  
indirect object pronoun + **gusta** + singular noun

**Me gusta el pan.**

*(Bread is pleasing to me.)/I like bread.*

**Les gusta el pollo.**

*(Chicken is pleasing to them.)/They like chicken.*

- To say that one or more people like more than one thing, use this structure:  
indirect object pronoun + **gustan** + plural noun

**Le gustan los postres.**

*(Desserts are pleasing to him.)/He likes desserts.*

**Nos gustan las uvas.**

*(Grapes are pleasing to us.)/We like grapes.*

- To negate the above sentences, add **no** before the indirect object pronoun:  
**No me gusta el pan.**

*I do not like bread.*

**NOTE:** **Gustar** can be followed by an infinitive verb to express the idea that one likes *to do something*. The singular form of **gustar**, **gusta**, is used, regardless of how many things one likes to do.

**Les gusta ir al mercado.**

*They like to go to the market.*

**Le gusta cocinar, comer y beber.**

*He likes to cook, eat and drink.*

## More about the verb *gustar*

For clarification or emphasis, the preposition *a* + prepositional pronoun or indirect object noun can be used in addition to the indirect object pronouns.

**Al capitán le gusta comprar comida.**

*The captain likes to buy food.*

**A mí me gusta el pan.**

*I like bread.*

**A los alumnos les gusta la pizza.**

*The students like pizza.*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Here are some other verbs that follow the grammatical pattern of *gustar*:

<b>encantar</b>	<i>to love/delight</i>	<b>Me encanta la comida china.</b>	<i>I love Chinese food.</i>
<b>faltar</b>	<i>to lack</i>	<b>Les falta dinero.</b>	<i>They lack money.</i>
<b>interesar</b>	<i>to interest</i>	<b>Le interesa la receta.</b>	<i>He is interested in the recipe.</i>
<b>molestar</b>	<i>to bother</i>	<b>Te molesta cocinar.</b>	<i>Cooking bothers you.</i>
<b>parecer</b>	<i>to seem</i>	<b>Nos parece buena la cena.</b>	<i>Dinner seems good to us.</i>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** There are several ways to express liking someone in Spanish. Here are examples of what to say in these different situations:

- use **gustar** to express the idea that you are *attracted to a person*:  
**Me gusta Rocío.** *I like Rocío.*
- use **gustar** when referring to *qualities or defects of a person*:  
**No nos gusta su actitud.** *We do not like his attitude.*
- use **caer bien** or **caer mal** to say that you *like/dislike someone, in a general sense*:  
**Nos cae bien el profesor.** *We like the teacher.*  
**A Jorge le cae mal esa señora.** *Jorge does not like that lady.*