



Conversación intermedia I

Week 5 to 6 Grammar Guide: POWER VERBS AND OTHER VERBS

POWER VERBS:

Power verbs are verbs that can be used with infinitives of other verbs to express a wide variety of intentions and actions. The “power” of these verbs comes from the ability to use them with thousands of infinitives without worrying how to conjugate each of these verbs. Here is a list of the most important Power Verbs:

Necesitar	to need to	Ir a	to be going to
Querer	to want to	Tener que	to have to
Poder	to can or be able to	Tratar de	to try to
Gustar	to like, to be pleasing	Encantar	to love, to be enchanting

NECESITAR

to need to

necesito	necesitamos
necesitas	
necesita	necesitan

Ejemplos:

Necesito comer.

I need to eat.

Necesitamos decidir.

We need to decide.

(Ella) necesita terminar.

She needs to finish.

(Ellos) necesitan ganar.

They need to win.

Necesitas tratar.

You (informal) need to try.

QUERER

to want to

quiero	queremos
quieres	
quiere	quieren

Ejemplos:

Quiero salir.

I want to go out.

Queremos terminar.

We want to finish.

(Ella) quiere bailar.

She wants to dance.

(Ellos) quieren jugar.

They want to play.

IR A

to be going to

voy a	vamos a
vas a	
va a	van a

Ejemplos:

Voy a comer.

I'm going to eat.

Vamos a decidir.

We're going to decide.

(Ella) va a salir.

She's going to leave or go out.

(Ellos) no van a ganar.

They're not going to win

TENER QUE

tengo que tenemos que
 tienes que
 tiene que tienen que

Ejemplos:

Tengo que salir.
 Tenemos que terminar.
 (Ella) tiene que bailar.
 (Ellos) no tienen que ganar.

to have to

I have to go out.
 We have to finish.
 She has to dance.
 They don't have to win.

PODER

puedo podemos
 puedes
 puede pueden

Ejemplos:

Puedo cantar.
 Podemos jugar.
 (Ella) no puede recordar.
 (Ellos) no pueden ganar.

to be able to

I can sing.
 We can play.
 She can't remember.
 They can't win.

TRATAR DE (to try to)

trato de tratamos que
 tratas de
 trata de tratan de

Ejemplos:

Trato de (estoy tratando de) terminar.
 Tratamos de (estamos tratando de) recordar.
 (Ella) trata de (está tratando de) bailar.
 (Ellos) no tratan (no están tratando de) de ganar.

ESTAR TRATANDO DE (to be trying to)

estoy tratando de estamos tratando de
 estás tratando de
 está tratando de están tratando de

I'm trying to finish.
 We're trying to remember
 She's trying to dance.
 They're not trying to win.

GUSTAR and ENCANTAR

me gusta (encanta) nos gusta (encanta)
 te gusta (encanta)
 le gusta (encanta) les gusta (encanta)

Ejemplos:

Me gusta comer.
 Nos encanta viajar.
 Le gusta correr.
 No les gusta perder.

to like to or love to

I like to eat.
 We love to travel.
 He or she likes to run.
 They don't like to lose.

Special Note: Gustar and encantar can also be used with nouns; but when they are paired with a noun, they must be singular or plural like the noun:

Me encanta la comida.
 Me gustan las manzanas.
 Nos gusta el juego.
 Nos encantan los mariachis.

I love the food.
 I like the apples.
 We like the game.
 We love the mariachis.

Ser un poco más educado. (To be a little more polite)

me gustaría	nos gustaría	me encantaría	nos encantaría
te gustaría		te encantaría	
le gustaría	les gustaría	le encantaría	les encantaría

Ejemplos:

Me gustaría comer.	I would like to eat.
Nos encantaría viajar.	We would love to travel.
Le gustaría correr.	He or she would like to run.
Les encantaría ganar.	They would love to win.

Otros verbos como gustar y encantar: (But not typically used with infinitives)

Me duele...	It hurts me... (I have a pain or ache)
la cabeza	my head
la garganta	my throat
el estómago	my stomach
la muela	my tooth (molar)
Me duelen...	They hurt me...
los pies	my feet
Me fascina	It fascinates me
Me falta	I'm missing (It's lacking to me)
Me interesa	It interests me
Me parece (que)	It seems to me (that)
Me molesta	It bothers me

EL ORDEN DE LAS PALABRAS (Word order and personal "a")

Quiero ayudar a María.	I want to help María.
Quiero ayudarla.	I want to help her.
Necesito invitar a Juan.	I need to invite Juan.
Necesito invitar lo .	I need to invite him.
Tengo que arreglar el carro.	I have to fix the car.
Tengo que arreglar lo .	I have to fix it.
Puedo visitar a Ana.	I can visit Ana
Puedo visitar la .	I can visit her.
Voy a mirar la película.	I'm going to watch the movie.
Voy a mirarla.	I'm going to watch it.
Estoy tratando de tocar la guitarra.	I'm trying to play the guitar.
Estoy tratando de tocar la .	I'm trying to play it.

OTRAS PALABRAS USADAS CON INFINITIVOS (Other words used with infinitives)

ES + ADJECTIVO

Es importante escuchar

No es importante recordar

Es divertido jugar

Es difícil entender

No es fácil entender

Es útil practicar

Es inútil (no es útil) tratar

It's...

It's important to listen

It's not important to remember

It's fun to play

It's difficult to understand

It's not easy to understand

It's useful to practice

It's useless to try

HAY QUE

Hay que regresar

Hay que estudiar

You (we) have to, one has to

You have to return

You have to read

DEBES, DEBERÍAS*

Debes ayudar

Debes contestar

Deberías recordar

No deberías olvidar

Deberías escuchar

*Deberías is a little more polite, similar to gustaría.

You ought to, you should

You ought to help

You ought to answer

You should remember

You shouldn't forget

You should listen

VERBOS REFLEXIVOS: Una introducción (An introduction to reflexive verbs)

Reflexive verbs will be covered in greater detail later, but here are a few reflexive verbs you can start with. For example, **Sentarse** is a reflexive verb meaning to sit (oneself) down:

Me siento	I sit down	Nos sentamos	We sit down
Te sientas	You sit down		
Se sienta	He, she sits down	Se sientan	They sit down

As a shortcut to learning to use reflexive verbs, instead of conjugating each reflexive verb and inserting the right pronoun, you can use the infinitive form of the verb after a Power Verb:

Necesito <u>sentarme</u>	I need to sit down	Voy a <u>sentarme</u>	I'm going to sit down
Necesitamos <u>sentarnos</u>	We need to sit down	Vamos a <u>sentarnos</u>	We're going to sit down
Necesitas <u>sentarte</u>	You need to sit down	Vas a <u>sentarte</u>	You're going to sit down
Necesita <u>sentarse</u>	He, she needs to sit down	Va a <u>sentarse</u>	He/she is going to sit down
Necesitan <u>sentarse</u>	They need to sit down	Van a <u>sentarse</u>	They're going to sit down

Here are some common reflexive verbs you can practice with.

Verbs for daily activities

Lavarse	To wash oneself
Bañarse	To bathe oneself
Ducharse	To shower oneself
Vestirse	To dress oneself

Verbs for physical movement

Sentarse	To sit down (sit oneself)
Levantarse	To stand up (lift oneself)
Acostarse	To lay down (lay oneself down)
Despertarse	To wake up (wake oneself)
Irse	To leave (go oneself)

Verbs for feelings and personal behaviors

Sentirse	To feel (sense oneself)
Preocuparse	To worry (preoccupy oneself)
Comportarse	To behave (comport oneself)
Mejorarse	To improve (oneself)
Asegurarse	To make sure (assure oneself)

Reciprocal verbs

Apoyarse	To support each other
Ayudarse	To help each other
Conocerse	To know each other
Saludarse	To greet each other

Other common reflexives

Llamarse	To call oneself
Dedicarse	To dedicate oneself