

## Overview

Describing a home is one of the most practical ways to practise the present tense in Spanish. This guide focuses on the verbs you will use most often — especially the irregulars **tener**, **ser** and **estar** — and on adjective agreement so your descriptions sound natural and correct.

## Key verbs to describe a house

Use these verbs to say what a house has, how it is, and where things are. Below are the basic present-tense forms you need for talk about your home.

### Tener — to have (possession)

Conjugation (present): **tengo**, **tienes**, **tiene**, **tenemos**, **tenéis**, **tienen**. Use **tener** to say what the house contains or what people have.

Examples:

- **Tengo** un balcón. — I have a balcony.
- Mi casa **tiene** dos pisos. — My house has two floors.

### Ser vs Estar — both mean “to be”

Spanish has two verbs that translate as “to be.” Use **ser** for permanent or defining qualities, and **estar** for temporary states or locations.

- **Ser** (present): soy, eres, es, somos, sois, son. — Use for things like size, material, origin, or defining traits.  
Example: Mi casa **es** pequeña. (My house is small.)
- **Estar** (present): estoy, estás, está, estamos, estáis, están. — Use for location or temporary condition.  
Example: La sala **está** muy bonita hoy. (The living room looks very nice today.)

## Adjectives and agreement

Adjectives must agree in gender and number with the noun they describe.

- Masculine singular: **grande, bonito**
- Feminine singular: **pequeña, bonita**
- Adjective endings change for plural: **pequeñas, bonitos**
- Intensifiers: add **-ísimo** to emphasize. Example: **grandísimo** (very big)

## Useful vocabulary for describing a house

- la casa — the house
- el piso — the floor / apartment
- el primer piso — the ground floor / first floor (depending on country)
- el garaje / el estacionamiento — garage / parking
- el balcón — balcony
- la mesa — table
- el jardín — garden
- espacio — space

## An example description

Mi casa es pequeña, pero muy cómoda.

Mi casa está muy bonita y me gusta mucho.

Mi casa tiene dos pisos.

El primer piso es para los carros; el garaje es grande.

No tengo mesa por falta de espacio.

Tengo un balcón y un jardín grandísimo.

## Line-by-line explanation

- **Mi casa es pequeña** — uses **ser** for a normal quality (size).
- **Mi casa está muy bonita** — uses **estar** to express how the house looks or feels right now; both verbs appear in natural speech.
- **Mi casa tiene dos pisos** — uses **tener** to state possession (two floors).
- **El primer piso es para los carros** — explains the purpose of a space; **es** is

fine here because the purpose is a defining fact.

- **No tengo mesa por falta de espacio** — **tener** for possession and a common phrase to explain why something is missing.
- **Tengo un balcón y un jardín grandísimo** — shows possession and the intensifier **-ísimo**.

## Common mistakes to avoid

- Using **ser** when you need **estar** for temporary conditions (e.g. La sala **está** sucia vs La sala **es** sucia).
- Forgetting adjective agreement: **casa pequeño** is incorrect — say **casa pequeña**.
- Wrong conjugation of **tener**: say **tengo** for “I have”, not **tienes**.

## Practice tasks

Try these exercises to reinforce the grammar points above. Do them in writing or aloud.

1. Fill the blanks with the correct present tense form of **tener**, **ser**, or **estar**:
  1. Mi casa \_\_\_ (tener) tres habitaciones.
  2. El jardín \_\_\_ (ser/estar) muy bonito hoy.
  3. Nosotros \_\_\_ (tener) un balcón pequeño.
2. Make the adjective agree with the noun:
  1. La casa (pequeño) → \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Los jardines (bonito) → \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Una mesa (grande) → \_\_\_\_\_
3. Translate into Spanish:
  1. My house has two floors and a big garden.
  2. I do not have a table because there is no space.
4. Write a short 5-sentence description of your house in Spanish using at least one form of **tener**, one of **ser**, and one of **estar**.

## Answers and model sentences

- 1. Fill the blanks:
  1. Mi casa **tiene** tres habitaciones.
  2. El jardín **está** muy bonito hoy. (You could also say “es muy bonito” if it is

generally beautiful.)

3. Nosotros **tenemos** un balcón pequeño.
- 2. Adjective agreement:
    1. La casa **pequeña**
    2. Los jardines **bonitos**
    3. Una mesa **grande**
  - 3. Translations (one possible version):
    1. Mi casa tiene dos pisos y un jardín grande.
    2. No tengo mesa porque no hay espacio.
  - 4. Model 5-sentence description:
    1. Mi apartamento es pequeño pero muy acogedor.
    2. Tengo una cocina amplia y dos habitaciones.
    3. La sala está decorada con plantas.
    4. No tengo garaje, así que el coche está en la calle.
    5. El balcón es grandísimo y tiene muchas flores.

## Final tips

Describe your daily environment in Spanish as often as possible. Focus on using the present tense naturally: say what you have with **tener**, describe permanent qualities with **ser**, and mention locations or temporary states with **estar**. Practise adjective agreement until it becomes automatic.

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