The Verb *Ir* (To Go)

The verb **ir** means “to go,” and it’s one of the most essential verbs in Spanish. Because it is **irregular**, it doesn’t follow standard conjugation patterns and must be memorized. Despite this, *ir* is short, common, and incredibly useful for everyday communication, helping speakers talk about movement, plans, destinations, and future actions.

1. The Forms of “Ir”

Subject Pronoun	Conjugation	English Meaning
yo	**voy**	I go / I’m going
tú	**vas**	you go / you’re going (informal)
él / ella / usted	**va**	he/she/you (formal) goes / is going
nosotros / nosotras	**vamos**	we go / we’re going
vosotros / vosotras	**vais**	you all go (Spain, informal)
ellos / ellas / ustedes	**van**	they / you all go

Examples:

- Yo voy al parque. → I go to the park.
- Tú vas a la escuela. → You go to school.
- Él va al cine. → He goes to the movies.
- Nosotros vamos al museo. → We’re going to the museum.
- Ellos van de vacaciones. → They’re going on vacation.

2. The Basic Pattern: Ir + a + Place

To say where someone is going, use the structure:
ir + a + (place)

Examples:

- Voy **a la escuela.** → I’m going to school.
- Vas **al supermercado.** → You’re going to the supermarket.
- Ella va **a la biblioteca.** → She’s going to the library.
- Vamos **a casa.** → We’re going home.

Note:
When *a* comes before *el*, they combine into **al**:

- *Voy al cine.* (not *a el cine*)
- *Vas al parque.*

3. Talking About the Future: Ir + a + Infinitive

Spanish often uses **ir + a + infinitive** to talk about **future plans or intentions** — similar to *"going to"* in English.

Examples:

- Voy a estudiar mañana. → I'm going to study tomorrow.
- Vamos a viajar a México. → We're going to travel to Mexico.
- Ellos van a comer en un restaurante. → They're going to eat in a restaurant.
- ¿Qué vas a hacer hoy? → What are you going to do today?

Formula:
Subject + form of "ir" + a + infinitive (unconjugated verb)
→ expresses what someone *is going to do.*

4. Common Expressions with "Ir"

Expression	Meaning	Example
ir de compras	to go shopping	*Voy de compras con mi madre.* → I'm going shopping with my mom.
ir de vacaciones	to go on vacation	*Vamos de vacaciones en julio.* → We go on vacation in July.
ir a pie	to go on foot / walk	*Voy a pie a la escuela.* → I walk to school.
ir en coche / tren / avión	to go by car / train / plane	*Ellos van en coche.* → They go by car.
ir de paseo	to go for a walk / outing	*Vamos de paseo al parque.* → We're going for a walk in the park.
irse	to leave / go away	*Me voy ahora.* → I'm leaving now.

5. Practice: Fill in the Blanks

Complete each sentence with the correct form of **ir**.

1. Yo _____ a la escuela todos los días.
2. Tú _____ al cine con tus amigos.
3. Ella _____ a estudiar esta noche.
4. Nosotros _____ de vacaciones en julio.
5. Ellos _____ al restaurante italiano.

Answers: voy, vas, va, vamos, van

6. Common Mistakes to Avoid

Wrong: *Yo soy al parque.*
Correct: *Yo voy al parque.*
(*Ser* means "to be," not "to go.")

Wrong: *Voy la escuela.*
Correct: *Voy a la escuela.*
(Don't forget the *a* before the place!)

Wrong: *Vas el cine.*
Correct: *Vas al cine.*
(Remember *a + el = al.*)

7. Why "Ir" Matters

The verb **ir** allows you to talk about:

- **Movement and travel**
- **Daily routines**
- **Future plans and goals**
- **Intentions and actions**

It's one of the most practical verbs in Spanish — and mastering it opens the door to expressing what you're *going to do*, *where you're going*, and *who you're going with.*

8. Quick Conversation Example

A: ¿Adónde vas?
(Where are you going?)
B: Voy al café con mis amigos.
(I'm going to the café with my friends.)
A: ¿Qué van a hacer?
(What are you going to do?)
B: Vamos a estudiar y hablar.
(We're going to study and talk.)

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