

# 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”

<u>Subject Pronoun</u>	Conjugation	English Meaning
yo	<b>voy</b>	I go / I’m going
tú	<b>vas</b>	you go / you’re going (informal)
él / ella / usted	<b>va</b>	he/she/you (formal) goes / is going
nosotros / nosotras	<b>vamos</b>	we go / we’re going
vosotros / vosotras	<b>vais</b>	you all go (Spain, informal)
ellos / ellas / ustedes	<b>van</b>	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	<i>Voy de compras con mi madre.</i> → I’m going shopping with my mom.
ir de vacaciones	to go on vacation	<i>Vamos de vacaciones en julio.</i> → We go on vacation in July.
ir a pie	to go on foot / walk	<i>Voy a pie a la escuela.</i> → I walk to school.
ir en coche / tren / avión	to go by car / train / plane	<i>Ellos van en coche.</i> → They go by car.
ir de paseo	to go for a walk / outing	<i>Vamos de paseo al parque.</i> → We’re going for a walk in the park.
irse	to leave / go away	<i>Me voy ahora.</i> → 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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