

SPANISH SENTENCE-MAKING TABLE

PATTERN: [CONJUGATED VERB] + [INFINITIVE]

We begin with the first-person singular (Yo) for the Conjugated Verb because it reflects how we naturally talk about our own lives. These five Purpose Verbs arise from simple human communication: **wants** (querer), **needs** (necesitar), **abilities** (poder), **plans** (ir), and **obligations** (tener). The (Yo) is not needed but is shown for clarity.

Starter Word	[Conjugated Verb]	[Infinitive]	Connector	Expansion
No <i>not/don't</i>	(Yo) Quiero <i>I want</i>	Estudiar <i>to study</i>	Y <i>and</i>	You can expand by using a connector and repeating the pattern with a different conjugated verb and infinitive.
A veces <i>sometimes</i>	(Yo) Necesito <i>I need</i>	Hablar <i>to speak/talk</i>	Porque <i>because</i>	
Siempre <i>always</i>	(Yo) Puedo <i>I can</i>	Practicar <i>to practice</i>	Pero <i>but</i>	
Generalmente <i>generally</i>	(Yo) Voy a <i>I am going to</i>	Caminar <i>to walk</i>	También <i>also</i>	
Normalmente <i>normally</i>	(Yo) Tengo que <i>I have to</i>	Cocinar <i>to cook</i>		
Casi siempre <i>almost always</i>		Aprender <i>to learn</i>		
A menudo <i>often</i>		Mirar <i>to look/watch</i>		
Por lo general <i>usually</i>		Escuchar <i>to listen</i>		
De vez en cuando <i>once in a while</i>		Leer <i>to read</i>		

Remember: The [Infinitive] column can include many other high-frequency verbs that you will use often in everyday communication, e.g. *trabajar* (to work), *escribir* (to write), *llamar* (to call), *visitar* (to visit), *comprar* (to buy), *vivir* (to live), *tomar* (to take/drink), *beber* (to drink), *correr* (to run), *descansar* (to rest), *limpiar* (to clean), *ayudar* (to help), *buscar* (to look for), *preparar* (to prepare).

How to Build a Sentence Using the Table -- Your sentence has five possible parts. Think of them as blocks you can snap together: **Starter Word** sets the tone + **Conjugated Verb** tells the purpose (I want / I need / I can...) + **Infinitive** tells the action (to study / to speak / to walk...) + **Connector** joins two ideas (and / because / but / also) + **Expansion** adds another purpose/action.

Key Point: In Spanish, when two verbs appear together, the first verb carries the grammar — the person, number, and tense — and the second verb stays in its base form (the infinitive).

Basic example sentences:

1. A veces necesito hablar. Sometimes I need to talk.
2. Siempre puedo practicar. Always I can practice. (*I can always practice.*)
3. Generalmente voy a caminar. Generally I am going to walk.
4. Normalmente tengo que cocinar. Normally I have to cook.
5. De vez en cuando quiero leer. Once in a while I want to read.

More connectors for expanding your sentences:

- **así que** — so / therefore
- **por eso** — that's why
- **luego** — then / later
- **después** — after
- **antes** — before
- **mientras** — while
- **sin embargo** — however
- **además** — in addition

Expanded example sentences:

1. *Por lo general quiero caminar, **pero sin embargo estudio primero.** Usually I want to walk, however I study first.*
2. *Normalmente tengo que cocinar, **luego quiero leer.** Normally I have to cook, then I want to read.*
3. *De vez en cuando quiero hablar, **además necesito practicar.** Once in a while I want to speak, in addition I need to practice.*
4. *A menudo puedo mirar, **mientras escucho.** Often I can watch while I listen.*
5. *Casi siempre quiero aprender, **antes de cocinar.** Almost always I want to learn before cooking.*