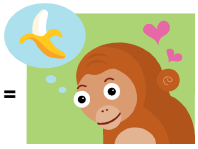
Using *Gustar* to Express Likes and Dislikes

We do not express likes and dislikes the same way in Spanish and English. In the English sentence, the subject is the one that likes something. In the Spanish sentence, *what is liked* is the subject.

Mar 26-10:21 AM

***Gustar* means "to be pleasing to/to please," but it is often translated as "to like" because it is used in sentences in which we would use the verb "to like" in English. Knowing that it means "to please/to be pleasing to" can help us understand how the verb works in the Spanish sentence.**



***Le gusta el plátano*. Literally = "Him it pleases the banana."**

Mar 29-8:15 AM

Let's look at how we differentiate who we are talking about liking (or not liking) something in Spanish.

me gusta / gustan (talking about what pleases me)

te gusta / gustan (talking about what pleases you, informal)

le gusta / gustan (talking about what pleases you, formal/him/her)

les gusta / gustan (talking about what pleases you, plural/them)

nos gusta / gustan (talking about what pleases us)

Mar 26-10:41 AM

Now, let's see why sometimes we use *gusta* and other times *gustan*...

Mar 26-12:37 PM

Ejemplo:

Me gusta el chocolate.

Me gustan los chocolates.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE???

Mar 26-10:34 AM

Ejemplo:

Te gusta correr.

No te gusta cantar.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IN WHAT IS LIKED IN THESE EXAMPLES AS COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS ONES???

Mar 26-12:58 PM

Gusta:

1. To talk about something singular that someone likes (named with a singular definite article and a singular noun);
2. To talk about something someone likes to do (with a verb in the infinitive).

Gustan:

To talk about something plural that someone likes (named with a plural definite article and a plural noun).

Mar 26-1:05 PM

Anyone can like (or not like) the chocolate or the chocolates, but the form of gustar *does not change because of that:*

Les gusta el chocolate.

Le gustan los chocolates.

Nos gusta el chocolate.

No te gustan los chocolates.

Me gustan los chocolates.

☆WHAT IS LIKED (OR NOT LIKED) DETERMINES WHICH FORM OF THE VERB GUSTAR IS USED.☆

Mar 26-10:38 AM

Anyone can like or not like to do something, but the form of gustar *does not change because of that either:*

Les gusta correr.

Le gusta correr.

Nos gusta correr.

No te gusta correr.

Me gusta correr.

Mar 26-1:09 PM

Basically what is being liked is the subject and who likes it is the indirect object. Make gustar match the item that is being liked and not who is liking the item.

To correctly use the verb gustar draw the following box:

A mí me	A nosotros nos
A tí te	
A él	A ellos
A ella le	A Uds. les
A Ud.	

(to whom the item is pleasing)

if what you like is a gusta (singular noun, infinitive)
if what you like is a gustan (plural noun)

A ella _____ _____ dibujar.
A nosotros _____ _____ beber los refrescos.
A nosotros _____ _____ los refrescos.

It is easiest to write these sentences if you start at the back of the sentence with what is being liked and then work your way to the front of the sentence.

Sep 15-5:34 PM

A mí me gusta hablar por telefono.
A mí me gustan los dulces.

The first sentence mean that talking on the phone is pleasing to me. Gusta agrees with hablar and me agrees with "a mí".

In the second sentence gustan agrees with "los dulces". Dulces is plural so we use gustan. "me" still agrees with "a mí"

¿A tí _____ _____ correr?
No, no _____ _____ correr. A mí _____ _____ pasear.

Walker, ¿Te gusta mirar la televisión?

Clase, ¿A Walker _____ _____ mirar la televisión.

Jan 3-7:27 PM

Now it's your turn...

Mar 29-8:50 AM

(You, informal, like...)

Mar 29-8:52 AM

(I like...)

Mar 29-8:54 AM

(You, formal/He/She likes...)

Mar 29-8:54 AM

(We like...)

Mar 29-8:54 AM

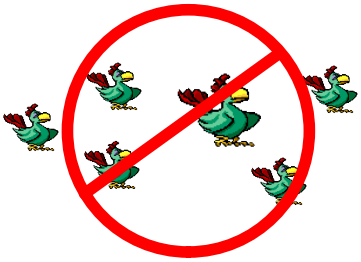
(You, plural/They like...)

Mar 29-8:54 AM

(You, informal like...)

Mar 29-10:43 AM

(We do not like...)



Mar 29-8:55 AM

(He/She does not/You, formal do not like...)

Mar 29-10:52 AM

(I do not like...)

Mar 29-8:55 AM

(You, informal like...)

Mar 29-8:55 AM

(I do not like...)

Mar 29-10:45 AM

(You, plural/They like...)

Mar 29-8:55 AM

(We like...)

Mar 29-8:55 AM

(We do not like...)

Mar 29-10:50 AM

If you want to know about what someone likes, you can ask generally or specifically.

¿Qué te gusta? (General)

¿Te gusta bailar? (Specific)

Sí, me gusta bailar.

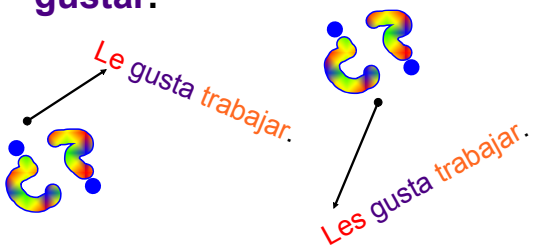
(Or...)

No, no me gusta bailar.

Practice with a partner using the verbs you know.

Mar 29-8:59 AM

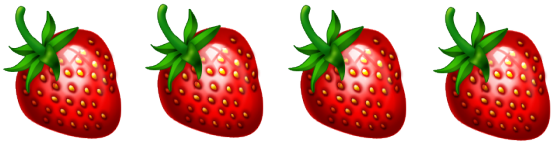
Sometimes, we use clarifiers and emphasizers with the verb gustar.



Mar 29-9:29 AM

When we are saying "I like" (or "don't like") something in Spanish, it is very clear who we are talking about. Still, we sometimes use an emphasizer in our sentences.

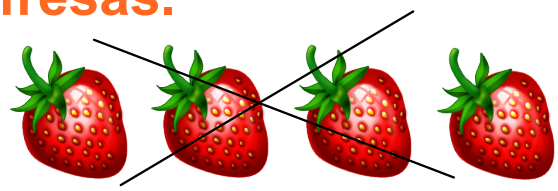
A mí me gustan las fresas.



Mar 29-9:38 AM

When we are saying "you like," informal, (or "don't like") something in Spanish, it is also very clear who we are talking about. Still, we sometimes use an emphasizer in our sentences in this case also.

A ti no te gustan las fresas.



Mar 29-10:03 AM

Also, when we are saying "we like" (or "don't like") something in Spanish, it is clear we are talking about ourselves, but we may use an emphasizer in our sentences or a clarifier to be very specific about who we are.

A nosotros/nosotras nos gustan las fresas.
A Juan y a mí nos gustan las fresas.
A ti y a mí no nos gustan las fresas.

Mar 29-10:07 AM

When we need to use *le* or *les* in Spanish, it may not be clear who we are referring to, so we may use a clarifier in our sentences to make it clear.

A usted le gustan las fresas.
A Juan le gustan las fresas.
A María le gustan las fresas.
A ella no le gustan las fresas.

A ustedes les gustan las fresas.
A ti y a Luisa no les gustan las fresas.
A Juan y María les gustan las fresas.
A los muchachos no les gustan las fresas.

Mar 29-10:13 AM

Now it's your turn...

Mar 29-10:30 AM

___ Susana _____ _____ nadar.

___ Luis y a mí _____ _____ los gatos.

___ _____ _____ te _____ nadar.

___ _____ me _____ nadar.

___ ustedes _____ _____ _____ nadar.

___ los estudiantes _____ _____ nadar.

___ nosotras _____ _____ nadar.

Check your answers on the next page...

Mar 29-10:30 AM

A Susana le gusta nadar.

A Luis y a mí nos gustan los gatos.

A ti no te gusta nadar.

A mí me gusta nadar.

A ustedes no les gusta nadar.

A los estudiantes les gusta nadar.

A nosotras nos gusta nadar.

Mar 29-3:23 PM

Te gusta bailar.

Mar 29-10:57 AM

Me gusta escribir.

Mar 29-10:59 AM

Le gusta leer.

Mar 29-11:01 AM

Nos gusta comer.

Mar 29-12:41 PM

Les gusta nadar.

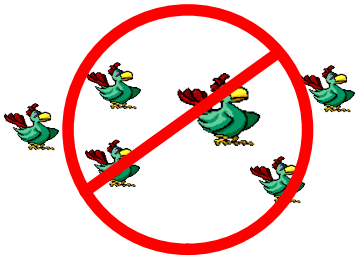
(You, plural/They like...)

Mar 29-1:08 PM

Te gustan los gatos.

Mar 29-1:11 PM

No nos gusta cantar.



Mar 29-3:03 PM

No le gusta la casa.

Mar 29-3:06 PM

No me gusta patinar.

Mar 29-3:07 PM

Te gusta trabajar.

Mar 29-3:10 PM

No me gusta la casa.

Mar 29-3:11 PM

Les gusta estudiar.

Mar 29-3:12 PM

Nos gusta escuchar.

Mar 29-3:14 PM

No nos gustan los apartamentos.

Mar 29-3:16 PM

Sep 15-5:33 PM