



Dear Educator,

The United States celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15–October 15. During this time, we recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States and celebrate Hispanic culture. Having students share their own cultural traditions is a great way to start talking about the topic of culture and the way in which it impacts our world view. Students also develop a sense of pride when they have an opportunity to share the unique contributions of their culture. By expressing an interest in students' culture, educators send a message that they respect and value diversity.

Please use this special Grammar Gallery lesson as part of your celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Students will learn about Hispanic culture and also practice using simple present tense verbs.

Buena suerte!

Sincerely,
The Grammar Gallery Team



National Hispanic Heritage Month Facts

- During this period, we celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of people from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.
- President Lyndon Johnson approved this celebration and President Ronald Reagan expanded it.
- This celebration begins on September 15 because that is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua—all of which declared independence in 1821.
- Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.



SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE VERBS

The **simple present tense** is a verb tense that tells you an action or condition is happening in the present time, on a regular basis, or all the time. We use the present tense for three reasons:

- 1) to describe an action or condition that is happening right now
- 2) to indicate an action or condition that you do as a habit
- 3) to tell a general truth



National Hispanic Heritage Month **starts** on September 15.



Simple Present Tense: **Positive**

	Describe an action or condition happening now	Indicate an action or condition done as a habit	Tell a general truth
First Person Singular (I)	I am in Mexico.	I eat at home every Sunday.	I speak Spanish.
Second Person Singular (you)	You are in Mexico.	You eat at home every Sunday.	You speak Spanish.
Third Person Singular (he/she/it)	He is in Mexico. She is in Mexico. It is in Mexico.	He eats at home every Sunday. She eats at home every Sunday. It eats at home every Sunday.	He speaks Spanish. She speaks Spanish. It speaks Spanish.
First Person Plural (we)	We are in Mexico.	We eat at home every Sunday.	We speak Spanish.
Second Person Plural (you)	You are in Mexico.	You eat at home every Sunday.	You speak Spanish.
Third Person Plural (they)	They are in Mexico.	They eat at home every Sunday.	They speak Spanish.

Spelling Rules: Third person singular – he/she/it (positive)

- With most verbs, add –s to the end of the verb.
Examples: read → reads help → helps
- With verbs that end with –sh, –ch, –ss, and –x, add –es to the end of the verb.
Examples: brush → brushes watch → watches
- With verbs that end with a consonant + –y, change the –y to –i and add –es.
Examples: cry → cries study → studies
- The verbs *have*, *go*, and *do* are irregular in the third person singular.
Examples: have → has go → goes do → does



Simple Present Tense: **Negative**

	Describe an action or condition <u>not</u> happening now	Indicate an action or condition is <u>not</u> done as a habit	Tell a general truth
First Person Singular (I)	I am not in Mexico.	I do not eat at home every Sunday.	I do not speak Spanish.
Second Person Singular (you)	You are not in Mexico.	You do not eat at home every Sunday.	You do not speak Spanish.
Third Person Singular (he/she/it)	He is not in Mexico. She is not in Mexico. It is not in Mexico.	He does not eat at home every Sunday. She does not eat at home every Sunday. It does not eat at home every Sunday.	He does not speak Spanish. She does not speak Spanish. It does not speak Spanish.
First Person Plural (we)	We are not in Mexico.	We do not eat at home every Sunday.	We do not speak Spanish.
Second Person Plural (you)	You are not in Mexico.	You do not eat at home every Sunday.	You do not speak Spanish.
Third Person Plural (they)	They are not in Mexico.	They do not eat at home every Sunday.	They do not speak Spanish.



DESCRIBE AN ACTION OR CONDITION HAPPENING NOW

I **am** in Spain.



The weather in Cuba **is** beautiful.



These Mexican blankets **are** colorful.



He **works** in Venezuela.





INDICATE AN ACTION OR CONDITION DONE AS A HABIT

She **makes** tamales on Saturdays.



They **observe** Hispanic Heritage Month in September.



People **visit** Mayan temples every day.



Mexican Americans **celebrate** Cinco de Mayo on May 5.





TELL A GENERAL TRUTH

Sonia Sotomayor **is** the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice.



Forests, volcanoes, and lakes **are** all features of southern Chile.



Many Americans **speak** Spanish.



Llamas **live** in Peru.





DIRECTIONS: Look at each picture related to Hispanic heritage, history, and culture. Make a sentence about each picture. Use a simple present tense verb in each sentence.

Example:



South America **is** a continent.



*Guatemalan
Crafts*





Musicians





*Mayan
Temple*





*Sonia
Sotomayor*





*Cesar
Chavez*



Photo Credit: Joel Levine



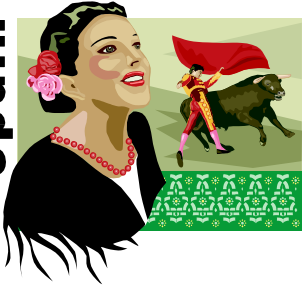
*U.S. Navy
Celebration of
National Hispanic
Heritage Month*





DIRECTIONS: Write a sentence about each picture. Use the simple present tense.

Spain



Example:

Spain **is** a country in Europe.



