

Lesson 11: The Verb “Gustar” Do You Like?

“To Like” in Spanish is “Gustar”, but the use of this verb is very different compared with others verbs. GUSTAR is part of a group of verbs that we call “Verbos con Objeto Indirecto” (Verbs with Indirect Object). Why are they different in comparison to verbs? Let’s take a look.

Firstly, these verbs need a pronoun. The Indirect Object pronouns are the following:

(A mí) **ME**

(A vos/a tí) **TE**

(A él/ella) **LE**

(A nosotros-as) **NOS**

(A ustedes/Ellos-as) **LES**

You have to conjugate “Gustar” according to what you like. The thing you like is the Subject.

For example: **Las Manzanas : (Ellas) GUSTAN. El Vino: (Él) GUSTA.**

So, if we want to say, “I like wine” we say:

Me gusta el vino.

You will notice this can be a little strange and get confusing. The best way to think about it is to realize that “Gustar” is directly translated as “to fancy something.” So when you say “**Me gusta el vino**”, you are really saying “Wine fancies me.”. If you think of it this way, it will be much easier to understand. The object is doing an action to you. The objects are “fancying you”.

“I like apples” = **Me Gustan las manzanas.** “Apples fancy me.”

If you want to say you like something that is a verb, you will use Gustar in singular and the verb in Infinitive.

Me Gusta bailar tango. (I like to dance tango.)

Me Gusta estudiar español. (I like to study Spanish.)

Lets take a look again at the indirect pronouns:

(A mí) **ME**

(A vos/a tí) **TE**

(A él/ella) **LE**

(A nosotros-as) **NOS**

(A ustedes/Ellos-as) **LES**

You are probably asking, "What are those things in the parenthesis? (A mí, etc.).
These are useful for three reasons:

1. When we are speaking about a third person, we don't know about whom we are speaking. So, we need to be very specific:

A Juan Le Gusta la carne, A mis amigos Les gusta salir. (Juan likes meat)/(My friends like to go out)

2. The question: Who likes... in Spanish is **¿A quién le gusta...el tango?** (Who likes tango?)

So, we have to answer: **A mí me gusta** (I like)/ **A nosotros nos gusta** (We like)/ **A Adriana Varela le gusta.** (Adriana Varela likes it.)

3. When we agree with someone about liking something, if it is positive, we have to say "**A mí también**" (me too) or "**A mí tampoco**" (me neither) when this is negative.

For example:

"Me gusta el fútbol" (+) (I like football)

"A mí también" (+) (Me Too)

"A mí no (-) (I don't)

or

"No me gusta el fútbol" (-) (I don't like football)

"A mí tampoco" (-) (Me either)

"A mí sí" (+) (I do)

*** (With common verbs you say "yo también", "yo tampoco" instead of "a mí")

Other Verbs used like GUSTAR.

INTERESAR (I'm interested in):

Me interesa la cultura de Buenos Aires/ Me interesan los problemas sociales.
(I'm interested in the culture of Buenos Aires)/(I'm interested in the social problems.)

ENCANTAR (To love):

Me encanta el mate/ Me encantan las calles de San Telmo. (I love mate.)/(I love the streets of San Telmo.)

MOLESTAR (To Bother/Annoy):

Me molesta el subte lleno por la mañana/ Me molesta la caca de perro en las calles. (The full subway in the morning bothers me.)/ (The dog poop on the street bothers me.)