

SPANISH FAQ

What is the difference between *mudarse* and *movearse*?

Because *movearse* looks like “to move” in English, it makes us think that we can use the same verb for moving or for relocating. However, **when you want to refer to the relocation of a person**, you use the verb *mudarse* (to relocate). *Movearse* (to move) can refer to **setting in motion, or moving oneself – never relocating!** One thing both of these have in common? They’re both reflexive verbs and will require a reflexive pronoun!

Mi familia se mudó a Austin desde Denver. Mis papás estaban cansados de la nieve.
My family **relocated** to Austin from Denver. My parents were tired of the snow.



Ese tigre se mueve sigilosamente. Creo que está por atacar.
That tiger **is moving** sneakily. I think it’s about to attack.



↳ **TIP** Some speakers use the expression **cambiarse de casa** as a synonym of *mudarse* (to relocate)!
Nos vamos a cambiar de casa este verano. We are going to move (houses) this summer.

⚠ **IMPORTANT**

Mover (to move) is also used without a reflexive pronoun. In this case it means “to move something.” This includes body parts.
Elisa baila muy bien, sabe mover los pies.
Elisa dances very well, she knows how to move her feet.

SPANISH FAQ

How to use *pedir* (to ask for, to request) vs *preguntar* (to ask, to inquire)?

These two verbs are challenging because, in English, you will hear them both translated as “to ask.” However, they are not interchangeable. Let’s check out how to use this pair:

- **Pedir** (to ask for, to request) is used **to ask for a favor, asking someone to do something, or to talk about placing an order (goods or products).**

*¿Te puedo **pedir** que limpies tu cuarto? Está desordenado.*
¿Can I **ask you** to clean your room? It’s messy.

*El estudiante **pidió** ayuda de la profesora porque no entiende la lección.*
The student **asked for** help from the teacher because he doesn’t understand the lesson.

*Ayer **pedí** unos zapatos nuevos por internet. Llegan la próxima semana.*
Yesterday I **ordered** some shoes online. They arrive next week.

*Voy a **pedir** un café.*
I’m going to **order** a coffee.



⚠ IMPORTANT

Pedir (to ask for, to request) is never followed by the preposition **por** (through, along, by, for).

- **Preguntar** (to ask, to inquire) is used **to ask for additional information.** It can be part of a statement or a question.

*Los niños **preguntaron** de qué sabor era la torta.*
The kids asked what flavor the cake was.

*¿**Preguntaste** a qué hora cierran?*
Did you ask at what time they close?



⚠ IMPORTANT

Preguntar (to ask, to inquire) can also have a reflexive pronoun, but it will change meaning slightly: *Preguntarse* means “to ask oneself, to wonder.”

***Me pregunto** si hoy va a llover.*
I wonder if it will rain today.



SPANISH FAQ



How to use *apoyar* (to support) vs *soportar* (to tolerate, to put up with)?

The challenge for English speakers when it comes to these two verbs is the existence of a false friend. While *soportar* may look like “to support,” it actually means “to tolerate, to put up with.” Another meaning could be “to bear weight” when talking about structures. The verb you need to use when you want to talk about “supporting, being in favor, leaning on someone or something, etc.” is actually *apoyar*. Here are some examples:

- **Apoyar** (to support)

*Mi mamá siempre **apoya** mis decisiones y me ayuda a lograr mis metas.*
My mom always **supports** my decisions and helps me reach my goals.

This verb can also be used with a reflexive pronoun and followed by the preposition “en.”
Apoyarse en means to “to lean on/against” or to “rely on.”

*¡No **te apoyes en** la puerta!*
Don't **lean against** the door!

*Martha sabe que **se puede apoyar en** su equipo.*
Martha knows that she can **rely on** her team.



- **Soportar** (to tolerate, to put up with, to bear weight)

*Ella no **soporta** a Susana. Por favor no la invites a la fiesta.*
She doesn't **tolerate** Susana. Please do not invite her to the party.

*Ya **he soportado** demasiado.*
I have already **put up with** too much.

*Esas vigas **soportan** el peso del techo.*
Those beams **bear the weight** of the roof.





SPANISH FAQ



How to use *realizar* (to achieve) vs *darse cuenta* (to realize)?

The verb *realizar* doesn't mean "to realize," but rather "to achieve." If you realize something (an "aha" moment), you have come to know something, the expression you need is actually *darse cuenta*.

Another difference between these two verbs is their construction. While *realizar* (to achieve) is not reflexive, *darse cuenta* (to realize) requires **reflexive pronouns** and is also always followed by the **conjunction** (*de*) *que* (that), which is not necessary in English. Let's see some examples:

- **Realizar** (to achieve)

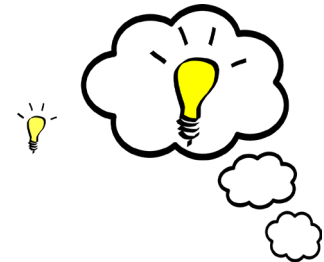
*Hace unas semanas **realicé** mi sueño de viajar a Perú. Mi lugar favorito fue Machu Picchu.*
A few weeks ago I **achieved** my dream of traveling to Perú. My favorite place was Machu Picchu.



- **Darse cuenta** (to realize)

*Después de estudiar biología a fondo **me di cuenta de que** mi pasión no era la medicina.*
After studying biology in depth I **realized** (that) my passion was not medicine.

*Lo siento, no **me di cuenta** que ya habías llegado.*
I'm sorry, I didn't **realize** that you had already arrived.



Scan for more
language learning
& teaching content

