

- Cuando lo avistes me díces. 2
Lo avistaron en la distancia.
- Se divisaba el jinete a lo lejos. 3
A lo lejos divisó una sombra furtiva.
- Espiaban a los novios por la ventana. 4
La espiaba detenidamente.
- La anciana acostumbraba atisbar por las rendijas de la ventana, los quehaceres de los vecinos. 5
Atisbaba los billetes cuidadosamente.
- El cazador acechaba el león desde lejos. 6
- Las observamos detenidamente. 7
La observé caminar calle abajo.
- En la obscuridad apenas pudo percibir una forma irregular. 8
- Ojeó fijamente a la muchacha linda. 9
Ojeó rápidamente los seis libros.
- Después de estar allí unos minutos discernió la chinaesa en el rincón. 10
- El oculista le pidió que fijara la vista en un objeto próximo cuanto duraba la examinación. 11
- Examinó los documentos importantes. 12
- Desde aquí se ve el edificio. 13
La máquina para ver porque no funcionaba.
- Le pidió que echara un vistazo a su casa en vista de los frecuentes robos. 14
- Admiré su mosaico de marmol. 15
- Eché una mirada al hombre. 16
Eché una mirada al cielo.
- No vale la pena que echas ojo a la muchacha esa, que es muy coqueta. 17
- Visitas a los caballos a ver si están bien. 18
- Clavé la vista en el retrato durante la entrevista. 19
- Trataba de vislumbrar el casino pero el sol se lo impedía. 20
- Miró con fijezca cierto objeto sobre la mesa y éste al fin comenzó a tambalearse. 21

- 22) Lo miré de hito al pasar.
Su costumbre de mirar de hito a sus empleados le valió la antipatía de todos ellos.
- 23) Miró de soslayo al resto de la habitación y notó que habían cambiado la ubicación de los muebles.
Mientras conversaba con ella miraba de soslayo lo que estaba pasando a su derecha.
- 24) Vaya a ojear la prueba a ver qué tiene.
- 25) Vamos a echar una vistada al río.

Examination of the foregoing material suggests a scheme of semological delineation or

- I. Aspect
A. Durative
B. Momentaneous
C. Inceptive
- II. Subjective
A. Voluntary
B. Involuntary
C. Purposive
D. Disiderative
E. Furtive
F. Investigative
G. Curiosity
H. Astonishment
I. Disinterest
J. Hostility
K. Fondness
- III. Objective
A. Field
B. Object
C. Object in field
D. Distant
E. Not distant
F. Of difficult perception
G. Moving objective
- IV. Stigmative

Test for I: A, B, and C

Below are 25 short clauses preceded and followed by blanks, and below these are three expressions--A, B, and C--which might be used to expand the clauses. Examine the clauses and indicate which expander, or in some cases expanders, you would use with each. Indicate your choice(s) by writing the letter corresponding to the expander(s) by the clause.

Clauses:	A	B	C
1. He glared at her.	38	19	21
2. They sighted land.	0	26	33
3. He discerned the form.	19	20	29
4. He spied on them.	47	4	0
5. He spotted him.	2	29	43
6. They observed the deer.	42	5	3
7. They glimpsed him.	1	41	20
8. She had him in sight.	40	11	7
9. She watched him.	47	3	1
10. She spied it in the box.	2	3	43
11. He gazed at her.	47	0	2
12. He peeked at the book.	3	43	2
13. He peeped at her.	15	26	9
14. She scanned the horizon.	43	7	4
15. She kept him in sight.	49	4	0
16. They viewed the proceedings.	49	1	1
17. They surveyed the horizon.	42	3	2
18. He looked at it.	38	32	33
19. He saw it.	3	37	0
20. He ogled the beautiful girl.	46	3	1
21. He stole a glance at the picture.	0	33	18
22. They stared at him.	45	1	3
23. He eyed the candy.	40	8	3
24. He gaped at her.	41	4	6
25. He glanced at it.	5	37	12

- Expanders:
A. for several minutes
B. for a fleeting second
C. suddenly

Test for II: A and B

Below are 25 short clauses preceded and followed by blanks, and below these, two sets of clause expanders, A and B. Indicate which set of expanders (any member) best complements each of the clauses by writing the corresponding letter in the blank. If both A and B seem right, write A and B.

Clauses:	A	B
1. He glared at her ____.	37	10
2. He sighted land ____.	13	45
3. He discerned the form ____.	28	22
4. He spied on them ____.	30	20
5. He spotted him ____.	2	49
6. He observed the deer ____.	31	19
7. He glimpsed him ____.	2	47
8. He had him in sight ____.	28	21
9. He watched him ____.	36	15
10. He spied it in the box ____.	4	45
11. He gazed at her ____.	47	6
12. He peeked at the book ____.	29	22
13. He peeped at her ____.	42	12
14. He scanned the horizon ____.	41	6
15. He kept him in sight ____.	47	4
16. He viewed the proceedings ____.	33	24
17. He surveyed the horizon ____.	45	3
18. He looked at it ____.	38	23
19. He saw it ____.	4	46
20. He ogled the beautiful girl ____.	46	4
21. He stole a glance at the picture ____.	45	13
22. He stared at him ____.	47	5
23. He eyed the candy ____.	43	17
24. He gaped at her ____.	46	1
25. He glanced at it ____.	31	22

Expanders:

- A. realizing what he was doing (or) after much effort (or) voluntarily
- B. by accident (or) by chance (or) involuntarily

Test for II: C, D, E, F, and I

Below are 25 clauses and 5 expanders. Indicate which expanders you think go with each by writing the letters corresponding to your choices to the right of the various clauses.

Clauses:	A	B	C	D	E
1. He glared at her ____.	5	2	24	2	11
2. He sighted land ____.	4	9	2	0	24
3. He discerned the form ____.	11	2	20	3	9
4. He spied on them ____.	15	3	46	6	3
5. He spotted him ____.	1	1	45	2	10
6. He observed the deer ____.	42	3	17	32	4
7. He glimpsed him ____.	3	0	24	1	23
8. He had him in sight ____.	1	1	22	3	15
9. He watched him ____.	41	0	19	16	2
10. He spied it in the box ____.	2	20	3	1	12
11. He gazed at her ____.	15	35	19	0	3
12. He peeked at the man ____.	13	0	37	14	11
13. He peeped at her ____.	2	21	33	4	8
14. He scanned the horizon ____.	41	2	2	4	6
15. He kept him in sight ____.	9	1	24	8	0
16. He viewed the proceedings ____.	33	0	17	6	6
17. He surveyed the horizon ____.	48	1	2	1	0
18. He looked at it ____.	34	15	17	33	21
19. He saw it ____.	0	2	17	1	19
20. He ogled the beautiful girl ____.	44	46	16	0	2
21. He stole a glance at the picture ____.	4	12	28	7	12
22. He stared at him ____.	7	1	22	21	7
23. He eyed the candy ____.	12	31	3	2	5
24. He gaped at her ____.	0	16	20	4	1
25. He glanced at it ____.	7	1	4	21	41

Expanders:

- A. carefully
- B. an expression of desire on his face.
- C. from behind the wall (or) secretly
- D. to see why it wasn't working, (or) to find out where he (it) was going
- E. and turned away, uninterested.

Test for III: A, B, C, and G

Below are 25 truncated clauses and three sets of clause completers. Please indicate which completer you think might be aptly used in each item in the list 1-25. Indicate your choices by writing the letter(s) corresponding to your choice(s) in the blank in each case.

	A	B	C	D
1. He glared at ____.	14	46	15	6
2. He sighted ____.	4	15	41	20
3. He discerned ____.	12	26	27	16
4. He spied on ____.	0	28	19	13
5. He spotted ____.	11	23	42	27
6. He observed ____.	28	21	11	34
7. He glimpsed ____.	7	10	42	30
8. He had ____ in sight.	7	32	16	19
9. He watched ____.	21	20	21	43
10. He spied ____.	0	24	30	36
11. He gazed at ____.	41	34	5	8
12. He peeked at ____.	0	45	6	4
13. He peeped at ____.	1	47	13	11
14. He scanned ____.	49	1	0	2
15. He kept ____ in sight.	2	17	39	44
16. He viewed ____.	48	5	6	10
17. He surveyed ____.	47	2	3	9
18. He looked at ____.	30	43	34	27
19. He saw ____.	15	40	41	29
20. He ogled ____.	1	48	7	7
21. He stole a glance at ____.	3	46	13	15
22. He stared at ____.	20	43	21	10
23. He eyed ____.	3	45	8	11
24. He gaped at ____.	3	40	6	8
25. He glanced at ____.	14	35	19	16

- A. the horizon (or) the scene
- B. the bottle (or) the girl
- C. the cabin among the trees (or) the man in the crowd
- D. the man walking down the street (or) the moving car

Test for III: D, E, and F

To the right of the members of the list 1-25 write one or more of the letters A, B, or C to indicate which of the completers you think could be aptly used with each.

	A	B	C
1. He glared at ____.	19	35	8
2. He sighted ____.	44	9	32
3. He discerned ____.	11	8	28
4. He spotted ____.	32	13	8
5. He spied on ____.	35	2	8
6. He observed ____.	38	33	7
7. He had ____ in sight.	36	2	13
8. He watched ____.	38	11	7
9. He glimpsed ____.	21	8	10
10. He gazed at ____.	44	31	16
11. He peeked at ____.	35	11	33
12. He peeped at ____.	17	9	17
13. He scanned ____.	26	1	22
14. He kept ____ in sight.	28	2	40
15. He viewed ____.	12	0	21
16. He surveyed ____.	46	8	11
17. He looked at ____.	41	3	11
18. He saw ____.	34	28	8
19. He ogled ____.	38	34	33
20. He stole a glance at ____.	34	14	3
21. He stared at ____.	14	33	6
22. He eyed ____.	17	37	11
23. He gaped at ____.	12	40	9
24. He glanced at ____.	10	32	10
25. He glanced at ____.	11	41	9

- A. it _____ from his distant position. _____ the field
- B. it right at his feet. _____, the man at his side.
- C. the obscure form

Below are 25 clauses and 5 expanders. Indicate which expanders you think go with each by writing the letters corresponding to your choices to the right of the various clauses.

Clauses:	A	B	C	D	E
1. He glared at her.	2	4	42	0	10
2. He sighted land.	8	9	0	0	6
3. He discerned the form.	19	5	4	1	7
4. He spied on them.	13	8	15	1	37
5. He spotted him.	12	4	3	2	9
6. He observed the deer.	14	2	2	8	4
7. He glimpsed him.	7	11	4	3	4
8. He had him in sight.	13	2	2	5	10
9. He watched him.	13	20	20	7	19
10. He spied it in the box.	19	5	4	0	12
11. He gazed at her.	9	4	16	34	16
12. He peeked at the book.	31	2	5	3	46
13. He peeped at her.	21	4	3	8	42
14. He scanned the horizon.	21	11	9	0	3
15. He kept him in sight.	19	2	11	1	15
16. He viewed the proceedings.	17	18	19	6	17
17. He surveyed the horizon.	12	6	8	1	8
18. He looked at it.	33	14	21	17	26
19. He saw it.	14	5	7	9	8
20. He ogled the beautiful girl.	9	8	2	11	19
21. He stole a glance at the picture.	18	8	4	6	32
22. He stared at him.	11	18	22	4	29
23. He eyed the bandy.	5	2	5	10	19
24. He gaped at her.	14	36	3	4	22
25. He glanced at it.	13	2	7	9	11

Expanders:

- A. a look of curiosity on his face.
- B. astonished by what he saw.
- C. angrily
- D. fondly
- E. apprehensive of the possible consequences (or) although he knew he shouldn't.

ENGLISH-SPANISH KEY

Clause #	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					

Las siguientes cinco páginas consisten en cuestionarios diseñados para juntar materia sobre el uso del español en cuanto a ciertas categorías semológicas. No son pruebas de la gramática sino de la semántica. En cada página hay que marcar las letras correspondientes a las expresiones complementarias al lado derecho de las frases que con ellas concuerden. Se puede usar más de una expresión complementaria con una frase.

En general se deben unir las expresiones y frases que se impliquen mutuamente. Por ejemplo:

- 1. Le pegué
 - A. antes de ir a la escuela.
 - B. con un martillo.
 - C. aunque no quería.

"Le Pegué" puede ocurrir con las tres expresiones A., B., y C. pero B. es la que cumple con el criterio de concordancia mutua.

Test for I: A, B, C

	A	B	C
1. Lo miró.	17	6	7
2. Lo avistó.	0	7	21
3. Lo divisó.	1	0	19
4. Lo espizó.	17	6	2
5. Lo observó.	20	5	0
6. Lo atisbó.	11	3	0
7. Lo acechó.	15	8	5
8. Lo percibió.	0	5	20
9. Lo ojeó.	0	20	5
10. Lo discernió.	1	5	12
11. Fijó la vista en ella.	19	1	4
12. Lo exaudricó.	13	6	4
13. Lo vió.	5	11	14
14. Le echó un vistazo.	0	12	0
15. Le echó una mirada.	0	17	0
16. Lo admiró.	18	1	0
17. Le echó ojo.	1	12	0
18. Lo visó.	1	12	0
19. Clavó la vista en ella.	17	6	0
20. Lo vislumbró.	1	12	0
21. Lo miró con fijeza.	19	1	0
22. Lo miró de hito.	5	13	0
23. Lo miró de soslayo.	5	14	0
24. Lo acójó.	0	0	2
25. Le echó una vistada.	6	8	2

- A. por mucho rato.
- B. por un segundo. (o) rápido (a).
- C. de repente. (o) después de algún tiempo.

	A
1. mirarlo	19
2. avistarlo	8
3. divisarlo	12
4. espiarlo	20
5. observar	20
6. atisbarlo	20
7. acecharlo	20
8. percibirlo	20
9. ojearlo	3
10. discernirlo	15
11. fijar la vista en ella.	3
12. esoudrifarlo	14
13. verlo	20
14. echar un vistazo a ella.	13
15. echar una mirada a ella.	13
16. admirarlo	20
17. echar ojo a ella.	13
18. viscarlo	5
19. clavar la vista en ella.	14
20. vislumbrarlo	12
21. mirarlo con fijeza	15
22. mirarlo de hito	14
23. mirarlo de soslayo	15
24. sojarlo	4
25. echar una vistada a ella.	4

A. Se puso a (o) Decidió

	B	C	D	E	F
1. Lo miró	15	11	9	5	4
2. Lo avistó	11	0	0	2	0
3. Lo divisó	5	5	1	16	0
4. Lo espizó	0	0	0	2	11
5. Lo acechó	0	0	0	0	0
6. Lo observó	1	0	0	0	0
7. Lo atisbó	1	1	0	0	0
8. Lo percibió	13	0	0	0	0
9. Lo ojé	5	0	0	0	0
10. Lo discerní	11	0	0	0	0
11. Fijé la vista en ella	11	5	20	0	0
12. Lo exoudrifé	0	14	5	17	0
13. Lo ví	19	9	5	9	0
14. Le eché un vistazo	5	1	0	0	0
15. Le eché una mirada	0	0	5	11	0
16. Lo admiré	0	0	15	0	0
17. Le eché ojo	1	5	1	0	0
18. Lo visé	1	0	0	0	0
19. Clavé la vista en ella	5	12	19	0	0
20. Lo vislumbré	2	0	0	0	0
21. Lo miré con fijeza	0	14	5	0	7
22. Lo miré de hito	0	0	0	1	0
23. Lo miré de soslayo	0	0	0	0	0
24. Lo sojé	0	1	0	0	0
25. Le eché una vistada	1	0	0	0	0

- A. sin querer.
- B. a propósito. (o) adrede.
- C. con los ojos llenos de deseo.
- D. a escondidas.
- E. pero no descubrí nada.

	G	H	I	K	L
1. Lo miró	9	12	7	8	11
2. Lo avistó	0	0	0	0	0
3. Lo divisó	0	2	2	0	0
4. Lo espizó	11	0	0	0	0
5. Lo acechó	18	0	0	11	0
6. Lo observó	0	6	6	7	0
7. Lo atisbó	0	0	5	1	0
8. Lo percibió	0	0	9	0	0
9. Lo ojé	5	0	12	6	0
10. Lo discerní	0	0	6	0	0
11. Fijé la vista en ella	12	0	0	6	12
12. Lo exoudrifé	6	0	0	0	0
13. Lo ví	6	5	5	7	5
14. Le eché un vistazo	6	6	12	6	7
15. Le eché una mirada	0	0	0	0	0
16. Lo admiré	0	0	0	0	0
17. Le eché ojo	0	0	0	0	0
18. Lo visé	0	0	0	0	0
19. Clavé la vista en ella	0	0	0	0	0
20. Lo vislumbré	0	0	0	0	0
21. Lo miré con fijeza	0	0	0	0	0
22. Lo miré de hito	0	0	0	0	0
23. Lo miré de soslayo	0	0	0	0	0
24. Lo sojé	0	0	0	0	0
25. Le eché una vistada	0	0	0	0	0

- A. con curiosidad.
- B. con asombro.
- C. sin interés aparente.
- D. con hostilidad.
- E. con sorpresa.

	A	B	C	F	G
1. Miró	6	20	0	5	5
2. Avistó	5	0	1	6	0
3. Divisó	0	0	5	11	0
4. Espizó	0	0	0	8	0
5. Observó	3	16	0	5	0
6. Atisbó	2	7	0	5	0
7. Acechó	0	2	5	6	1
8. Percibió	1	6	5	6	0
9. Ojé	0	12	5	0	0
10. Discerní	0	0	13	1	0
11. Fijé la vista en	6	18	0	6	0
12. Exoudrifó	7	2	0	5	0
13. Ví	10	12	7	6	0
14. Echó un vistazo a	6	13	0	1	0
15. Echó una mirada a	13	12	0	5	0
16. Admiré	12	11	6	0	0
17. Eché ojo a	0	20	0	0	0
18. Visé	0	3	0	0	0
19. Clavé la vista en	12	12	0	0	0
20. Vislumbré	0	2	0	14	5
21. Miró con fijeza	1	19	0	5	0
22. Miró de hito	0	1	0	11	2
23. Miró de soslayo	0	11	0	6	12
24. Sojé	0	2	0	0	0
25. Echó una vistada	0	8	0	0	0

- A. el horizonte. (o) el campo.
- B. el objeto
- C. el retrato de su tío entre los demás.
- D. la sombra informe.

Test for III: D, E, and IV

	D	E	IV
1. Lo miró	17	6	7
2. Lo avistó	18	1	0
3. Lo divisó	19	1	0
4. Lo espío	12	13	5
5. Lo acechó	12	13	0
6. Lo observó	17	13	0
7. Lo atisbó	7	6	1
8. Lo percibió	13	2	0
9. Ojeó el libro que estaba	0	14	5
10. Lo discernió	14	0	0
11. Fijó la vista en el objeto	5	14	6
12. Lo exoudrifó	5	13	5
13. Lo vió	17	18	9
14. Bohó un vistazo a el que estaba	5	20	0
15. Bohó una mirada a el que estaba	6	19	0
16. Lo admiró	19	11	0
17. Le echó ojo el que estaba	13	0	6
18. Lo visó	2	0	1
19. Clavó la vista en el que estaba	5	20	0
20. Lo vislumbró	13	6	1
21. Miró con fijeza el que estaba	1	18	0
22. Miró de hito al que estaba	1	18	0
23. Miró de soslayo al que estaba	5	19	0
24. Lo sojó	0	1	0
25. Bohó una vistada al que estaba	7	0	0

- A. en la distancia. (o) desde lejos.
- B. cerca. (o) muy a la mano.
- C. y ní le daba vergüenza.

SPANISH ERIC CHART

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
avistar												
avistarse												
divisar												
divisarse												
espíar												
acechar												
observar												
atisbar												
percibir												
ojar												
discernir												
fijar la vista												
escudriñar												
ver												
echar un vistazo												
echar una mirada												
acdirar												
echar ojo												
visear												
clavar la vista												
vislumbrar												
mirar con fijeza												
mirar de hito												
mirar de soslayo												
sojar												
echar una vistada												
Insufficient data												

Example	Features acc. to Hadlich	Bello/Cuervo Sopena, 1958	Gili y Gaya Gredos, 1964	Real Academia Espasa-Calpe, 1973	Bull, 1965 St/B/M, 1965 Hadlich, 1971 ...
habla	/-perf -past/	Presente	Presente	Presente	Present
hablaba	/-perf +past/	Co-pretérito	Pretérito imperfecto	Pretérito imperfecto	Imperfect
habló	/+perf +past/	Pretérito	Pretérito perfecto absoluto	Pretérito perfecto simple	Preterite
hablará	/+subs -past/	Futuro	Futuro absoluto	Futuro	Future
hablaría	/+subs +past/	Pos-pretérito	Futuro hipotético	Condicional	Conditional
ha hablado	Features for the corresponding form of haber + -do + verb (stem)	Ante-presente	Pretérito perfecto to actual	Pretérito perfecto	Present Perfect
había hablado		Ante-co-pretérito	Pluscuamperfecto	Pretérito pluscuamperfecto	Pluperfect
hubo hablado		Ante-pretérito	Antepretérito	Pretérito anterior	Preterite Perfect
habrá hablado		Ante-futuro	Antefuturo	Futuro perfecto	Future Perfect
habría hablado		Ante-pos-pretérito	Antefuturo hipotético	Condicional perfecto	Future Conditional

N.B. Use this sheet for consultation. There is no need for memorizing everything. In class, we will use the terms you find in the textbooks of the English writing authors in order to avoid confusion.

Task: Develop the Bibliography, pointed to in the Table. Find out about the authors mentioned.

Morphological Pattern of the Regular Spanish Verb

(mainly based on Bull, Chapter 9)

Lic. I.G./82

1. Simplex Forms	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3				
Infinitive	A	a	r	E	e	r	I	i	r				
Perfect Participle	A	a	do	E	i	do	I	i	do				
Imperfect Participle	A	a	ndo	E	ie	ndo	I	ie	ndo				
Present Indicative	A	a	mos ²	E	e	mos	I	i	mos				
Subjunctive	A	a	mos	E	a	mos	I	a	mos				
Imperfect Indicative	A	aba	mos	E	fa	mos	I	fa	mos				
Subjunctive	A	ara	mos	E	iera	mos	I	iera	mos				
2. Complex Forms	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Pres. Perf. Ind.	h	e	mos	A	a	do	h	e	mos	E	i	do	
Subj.	haya	mos	A	a	do	haya	mos	E	i	do	I	do	
Indicative	habia	mos	A	a	do	habia	mos	E	i	do	I	do	
Subjunctive	hubieramos	A	a	do	hubieramos	E	i	do	I	do	I	do	
Future Conditional	A	a	r	Ø	e	mos	Ø	1 + 2 =	E	e	/	I	i
Conditional	A	a	r	Ø	famos	Ø	1 + 2 =	E	e	/	I	i	
3. Complex-Complex Forms	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
Future Perfect	hab	Ø	r	Ø	e	mos	E	i	do				
Future Conditional	hab	Ø	r	Ø	fa	mos	E	i	do				

¹Capital letters A, E, and I stand for any root of regular verbs in the corresponding category, e.g., cantar, comer, vivir.

²The scheme takes the first person plural ending. Remember that the third slot is composed of Ø - s - Ø for singular and mos - is - n for plural. Also observe that some forms correlate the 2nd slot according to the person/number slot, e.g., vivimos vs. viven.

N.B. In this scheme the Imperative forms are not included. Nor are the Preterite forms because they are rather irregular and will be dealt with later.

Task: Find the minimal contrastive forms and 'play games' with the verbs of your mother tongue.

MORPHOLOGY OF VERB FORMS

The English verb forms are composed of two parts, a stem and an affix: talk, talks, talked, talking; sing, sings, sang, sung, singing; etc. Spanish verb forms are always made up of three parts, a stem plus two suffixes. This is readily observable in the infinitives and both participles:

compr-a-r	compr-a-do	compr-a-ndo
vend-e-r	vend-i-do	vend-ie-ndo
viv-i-r	viv-i-do	viv-ie-ndo

or in finite forms:

compr-a-n	vend-e-n	viv-e-n
compr-a-s	vend-e-s	viv-e-s
compr-a-mos	vend-e-mos	viv-i-mos

When the finite forms are arranged in a vertical pattern, for example,

compr-a-s
vend-e-n
viv-i-mos

it is apparent that every part in each column or slot is different from every other part in the same slot. This systematic difference reveals a patterned structure which indicates that the traditional division of the verb form into just stem and ending fails to account for all the parts. A series of minimal pairs

compr-a-mos	vend-e-mos	viv-e-s
compr-e-mos	vend-a-mos	viv-a-s

quickly establishes that each part does have a definite function. In these examples the first slot labels the action, the second marks the mode, and the third indicates person and number.

A comparison of *usted-es compr-a-n* and *usted compr-a* shows that singularity, as in pronouns, nouns, and adjectives, is marked by a zero suffix. With zero, written Ø, established as a functioning element, the three parts of the present indicative forms of regular verbs may be shown as follows:

yo	compr-Ø-Ø	vend-Ø-Ø	viv-Ø-Ø
nosotros, -as	compr-a-mos	vend-e-mos	viv-i-mos
usted	compr-a-Ø	vend-e-Ø	viv-e-Ø
ustedes	compr-a-n	vend-e-n	viv-e-n
él, ella	compr-a-Ø	vend-e-Ø	viv-e-Ø
ellos, -as	compr-a-n	vend-e-n	viv-e-n
tú	compr-a-s	vend-e-s	viv-e-s
vosotros, -as	compr-á-is	vend-é-is	viv-ø-ís

The present subjunctive forms of the same verbs are:

yo	compr-e-Ø	vend-a-Ø	viv-a-Ø
nosotros, -as	compr-e-mos	vend-a-mos	viv-a-mos
usted	compr-e-Ø	vend-a-Ø	viv-a-Ø
ustedes	compr-e-n	vend-a-n	viv-a-n
él, ella	compr-e-Ø	vend-a-Ø	viv-a-Ø
ellos, -as	compr-e-n	vend-a-n	viv-a-n
tú	compr-e-s	vend-a-s	viv-a-s
vosotros, -as	compr-é-is	vend-á-is	viv-á-is

An analysis of these two sets of forms reveals some basic linguistic facts and much useful pedagogical information:

1. The stem is a constant which combines with all subjects and all suffixes.
2. The person and number suffixes, within their fixed combinatory potential, are constants which combine with all stems and all mode markers.
3. Except for the special contrast between the *tú* and *vosotros* forms, which indicate social relationship as well as person and number, the singular subject is marked by Ø. Restated, this becomes: singular subject is marked by Ø or s; plural subject by mos, n, and is. (In the intimate imperative, d is also a mark of plurality: *hablad*.)