

GUSTAR, THE VERB YOU DON'T LIKE

iDOP ■ ●

We see that some verbs don't follow the normal circle square pattern.

Compare **subject verb** vs. **verb subject** below:

● ■ vs. ■ ●

When *not* using **GUSTAR**:

● ■
Yo quiero Taco Bell.
I want Taco Bell.

When using **GUSTAR**:

iDOP ■ ●
Me gusta Taco Bell.
to me. is pleasing Taco Bell

Not using **GUSTAR**:

● ■
Tú no quieres Taco Bell.
You no want Taco Bell.

Using **GUSTAR**:

iDOP ■ ●
No te gusta Taco Bell.
not to you. is pleasing Taco Bell

iDOP ■ ● iDOP ■ ●
Te gusta comer, pero no te gusta comer Taco Bell.
to you, is pleasing Eating but not to you. is pleasing eating Taco Bell

See the difference between subject & verb order when **GUSTAR** is used? Notice also that the English translation when lined up with the Spanish sounds awkward. *Eating is pleasing to you. Not to you is pleasing Taco Bell.*

... AND THE VERBS YOU DON'T LOVE

When using **GUSTAR** and the following verbs, please keep in mind that:

- the **verb** comes before the **subject**.
- **me** and **te**, etc. do not mean "I" or "you." *This is my pet peeve!* Every single Spanish textbook I've seen get's this wrong! They list *me gusta* as meaning "I like." But *me* does not mean "I." (Check the [iDOP pronoun chart](#).) If you learn *me* as "I," you will write sentences like: *Yo me gusto helado*. "I to me I please ice cream." Please, no! *El helado* is the subject that changes **GUSTAR** to *gusta*! When textbooks teach *yo* means "I" and *me* means "I," you end up using both, conjugating **GUSTAR** for *yo*, and getting it wrong for the rest of your Spanish career. Please, no! It should be translated: "To me is pleasing ice cream." *Me gusta el helado*.
- "**no**" will come before the **iDOP**, not between the **iDOP** and the verb.
-¿No *te gusta el helado*?- -No, *no me gusta el helado*.-

There are other verbs that work like **GUSTAR** does: **iDOP VERB SUBJECT**

You'll come to recognize them as the verbs that textbooks pair with the word *me* and then translate that *me* as meaning "I." Remember that textbook definitions that say *me* means "I" are **wrong**. Clearly purple is not blue. *Yo means "I."*

You have to adjust how you translate. Step away from your textbook. Make the personal decision to translate the verb differently.

GUSTAR - "to be pleasing." (Translating *gustar* as "to like" is **wrong**.)

gusta is pleasing

Me gusta leer.

To me is pleasing reading.

gustan are pleasing

Me gustan los libros.

To me are pleasing books.

See how **GUSTAR** changes to *gustan* when the **subject** is plural?

Reading is a singular subject. **Books** are a plural subject.

Me has no impact on **GUSTAR**.

ENCANTAR - most often wrongly translated "love" as in, "really like a thing"
This is a misleading definition because it requires "I love" or "you love."
Think of it rather as "to be extremely or very pleasing."

encanta is very pleasing

Me encanta la vida.

To me is very pleasing life.

encantan are very pleasing

¿No te encantan las flores?

Aren't to you very pleasing flowers?

INTERESAR - "to be interesting" to someone, not "I'm interested in."

This verb is overused. Textbooks will hand you sentences like

"Me interesó la fiesta."

To me was interesting the party.

Seriously? The party wasn't fun, it was interesting? Try a museum.

Me interesó el museo. Me interesan las rocas.

To me was interesting the museum. To me are interesting rocks.

FASCINAR - "to be fascinating" to someone

Me fascina la manera en que cocinas sin aceite ni mantequilla.

To me it fascinates the way you cook without oil or butter.

Me encataría probarla.

To me it would be very pleasing to try it.

Yo veo que te gusta cocinar y que te interesan las recetas.

I see that to you pleasing cooking and to you are interesting recipes.

Think like Yoda talks and you'll get the hang of it.

--*Me gusta enseñar* el camino de la fuerza.--

"To me is pleasing to teach the ways of the Force."

Remember:

Purple is not blue.

Make the personal decision to translate these verbs differently.