

## 3 TO MASTER

It will take time to master all the tenses and how they relate to each other. There are, however, three that you should work at mastering right now. They will help you to be able to express yourself almost immediately.

First we will start with the easier 2, found in The Present Tense Box.  
Then we will go to the more difficult Preterite, found in The Past Tense Box.

- 1) You need to be able to talk about what you **are doing**,
- 2) what you **are going to do**,
- 3) and what you **did**.

Example:

I **put** some worms and other nasty things in a blender.

Josh **gave** me \$20.

I **drank** 8oz.

Right now, I **am puking**.

I **am not going to drink** that again.

We'll start with **are doing**.



yo	estoy	nosotros	estamos
tú	estás	vosotros	estáis
él		ellos	
ella	está	ellas	están
ud.		uds.	

**P-ing** may seem a bit easier to identify because it's almost always linked up with "ahora" - meaning "now."

**PF**, The Present Future, is what you "**are going to do.**" So it gets words like:

mañana - tomorrow

luego - later

en unos minutos - in a few minutes

por la tarde - during the afternoon

Here's a Present Future example using *por la tarde*.

● **PF**  
 Yo **voy** a **comer** papas fritas por la tarde.  
 I am going to eat french fries during the afternoon.

What else do we see in the Present Future?

Let's label it in English. "You **are going** **[to do.]**"

There is an "a" between the **[ ]** and the **[ ]**.

The **[ ]** represent a verb that has **not** been changed to match a ●.

Remember, verbs that aren't changed are called **INFINITIVES**.

Now let's compare the charts we use for these first two tenses. Compare **IR** (to go) with the **ESTAR** (to be).

**IR:**

yo	voy	nosotros	vamos
tú	vas	vosotros	váis
él		ellos	
ella	va	ellas	van
ud.		uds.	

### ESTAR:

yo	estoy	nosotros	estamos
tú	estás	vosotros	estáis
él		ellos	
ella	está	ellas	están
ud.		uds.	

Similar endings, in that both *yo* forms end in “oy,” yet **ESTAR** contains many more accents.

Here’s a helpful saying to remember where the accents go in The Present tense of **ESTAR**:

“Accents are everywhere that I am not.”

Here’s the key to understanding this phrase. “I am” present in the *yo* form, and “I” is also a part of the group *nosotros*. You can’t say “we” without “I.” Therefore, the *yo* and the *nosotros* form do not have accents.

So, we have **P-ing**, and **PF**.

One communicates what people **are doing** right now,  
the other what people **are going to do** in the near future.

Their parts are **not**, I repeat, **not** interchangeable. You must practice to keep from getting confused.

Practice writing your own sentences.

Practice using the different parts.

Practice with the labels.

Here's an example with **SALTAR**.

● **PF**  
• Yo **voy** a **[saltar]** la cuerda.  
I am going to jump rope.

● **P-ing**  
• Yo **estoy saltando** la cuerda.  
I am jumping rope.

● **PT**  
• Yo **salté** la cuerda por una hora.  
I jumped rope for 1 hr.

Don't forget to include some time framing words.

You are going to listen to music tomorrow.

You are listening to music right now.

You are going to eat a snack later.

You are eating a snack right now.

You are going to live a great life in just a few seconds.

You are living a great life now.