

Welcome to Crystal Hunters!

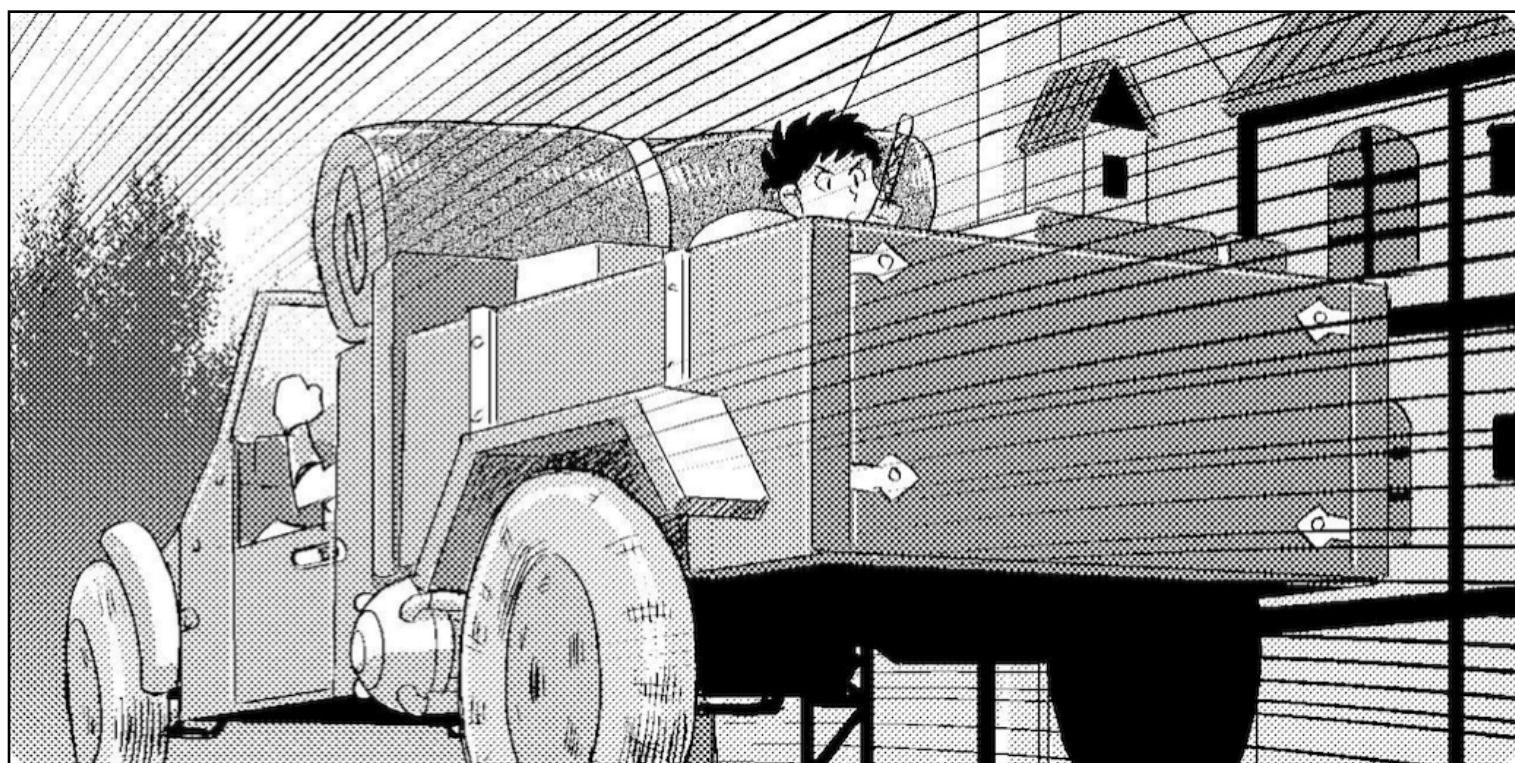
We are the world's first epic manga created for the express purpose of learning Spanish from zero.

According to the Foreign Service Institute, Spanish is one of the easiest languages for native English speakers to learn since it is closely related to English. Even if you are learning from zero, we believe you can read the first 100+ pages of Crystal Hunters in a weekend if you study at a brisk pace, or maybe in an afternoon if you blitz it. So clear your schedule for the day and join us for a fantastical adventure that will give you a sense of accomplishment for life.



Reading in Spanish

Let's jump in! Spanish is a nearly phonetically perfect language, which means that once you learn how each letter sounds, you'll be able to pronounce most words without any problem.



The Alphabet

The Spanish alphabet is very similar to the English alphabet. There is only one additional letter - ñ.

How to pronounce letters in Spanish:

Each letter usually only has one sound, although a select few have two sounds. Let's go through the alphabet quick.

a - like the 'a' in *father*.

b - same as English.

c - like English 'k' if it comes before 'a', 'o', 'u' or a consonant.

- like English 's' if it comes before 'e' or 'i'.

d - We don't have this sound in English. Explained below.

e - can be like the 'e' in *set*. Ex: *es*.

- can also be like the 'ay' in *hay*, but shorter. Ex: *pero*

f - same as English.

g - like English 'g' if it comes before 'a', 'o', 'u' or a consonant.

- like English 'h' if it comes before 'e' or 'i'.

h - silent.

i - like 'ee' in English, but shorter.

j - like 'h' in English.

k - same as English.

l - We don't have this sound in English. Explained below.

m - same as English.

n - same as English.

ñ - like 'n' + 'y' in English. Ex: *canyon* in English.

o - like the name of the letter, but shorter.

p - like 'p' in English, but softer.

q - like 'k' in English.

r - We don't have this sound in English. Explained below.

s - same as English.

t - like 't' in English, but softer.

u - like 'u' in *rule*, but shorter.

- silent when in 'que'/'qui'/'gue'/'gui'. Ex: *equipo*,
but not silent if 'ü'. Ex: *güiro*.

v - like 'b' in English.



w - same as English.

x - same as English.

y - like 'y' in English, or in some countries like the 's' in *pleasure* or the 'sh' in *ship*.

z - like 's' in English if in Latin America, or like the 'th' in *with* if in Spain.

Sounds we don't have in English and Double Letter Sounds

ch - like most instances of 'ch' in English. Ex: *chocolate* in English (or Spanish).

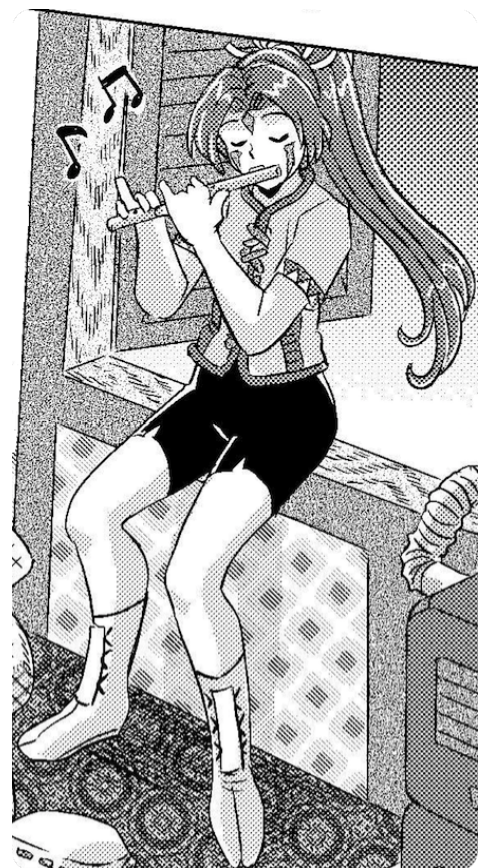
d - Spanish d is similar to English d, but put your tongue behind your teeth instead of putting your tongue above your teeth. This can give the Spanish d some 'th' flavor sometimes.

l - Spanish l is similar to English l, but put your tongue above your teeth instead of behind them.

ll - like 'y' in English, or in some countries like the 's' in *pleasure* or the 'sh' in *ship*.

r - similar to the 'dd' in *ladder*, but softer, and flap your tongue slightly higher in your mouth.

rr - a trill or tongue roll



Spanish Stress

Like English, Spanish also stresses certain syllables in their words. Luckily, the rules for stress are fairly easy. There are only three categories - two regular, and one very easy irregular.

Vowels + n & s

Words that end in a vowel (a, e, i, o ,u) or the consonant n or s have their stress on the second to last syllable.

<u>gra</u> -cias	po-de- <u>ro</u> -so
<u>tris</u> -te	es- <u>pe</u> -ra

All other consonants

Words that end in any consonant other than n or s have their stress on the final syllable.

fe- <u>liz</u>	ciu- <u>dad</u>
mu- <u>jer</u>	en- <u>trar</u>

Easy Irregular

Spanish really helps us out for the irregulars here, and it puts an accent mark - the acute accent specifically (´) - above the syllable that is supposed to be stressed. Thank you Spanish!

<u>má</u> -qui-na	tam- <u>bién</u>
a- <u>diós</u>	<u>ár</u> -bol



Acute Homonyms

Wow, that went quick. Good thing Spanish doesn't have a bunch of rules (with lots of exceptions!) for stress like English or that would have taken way longer.

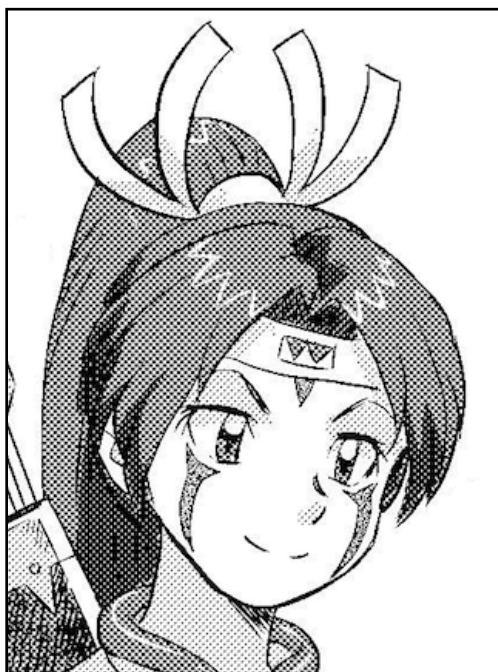
In fact, acute accents are so useful that they have more than one use. Another way to use acute accents is for homonyms - or words that are spelled the same but have a different meaning. Acute accents in this situation are used to make it easy to see which word is which, and in this situation they don't change the stress of the word.

For example, you'll see these homonyms in Crystal Hunters:

el	the	él	he
tu	your	tú	you
se	oneself/itself	sé	I know
esta	this	está	he/she/it is

You'll also see these question words in Crystal Hunters with accents. You won't see these words in Crystal Hunters without accents, but they are also homonyms. If you ever see these in real life, it means that they're being used as relative pronouns instead of as question words.

¿qué?	what?	¿cómo?	how?
¿quién?	who?	¿dónde?	where?



Crystal Hunters Vocabulary List

(listed alphabetically by chapter)

Note: unless otherwise specified, the first word of each line is the root word. Any words following the root word on that line are conjugations of the root word. Conjugations are written in italics.

Chapter 1		
Spanish Word	Gender	Meaning in English
a		to
¡AHH!		AHH!
ahora		now
al	masculine	to the (a + el)
allí		there*
aquí		here
árbol	masculine	tree
Bansom		Bansom (name)
bien		good, OK
caer / <i>cae</i>		to fall
camión	masculine	truck
capítulo	masculine	chapter
cazador(es)	masculine	hunter(s)
conocer / <i>conocerte</i>		to know of, to meet
correr / <i>corre</i>		to run
cristal(es)	masculine	crystal(s)
de		of
detener / <i>detiene</i>		to stop
dinero	masculine	money
dónde		where
él	masculine	he
el	masculine	the
en		in, on
equipo	masculine	team
<i>es / eres</i> (conjugations of "ser")		to be*
eso	neutral	that
espada	feminine	sword
estar / <i>está / estás / están / estoy</i>		to be*
este / esta	m/f	this
estos		these
feliz		happy
gente	feminine	people
golpear / <i>golpees</i>		to punch
golpe	masculine	punch
gracias		thank you

Chapter 1		
Spanish Word	Gender	Meaning in English
gustar / <i>gustan</i>		to like*
gusto	masculine	pleasure, taste
haber / <i>hay</i>		to have
hola		hello
hombre	masculine	man
ir / <i>irte / irme / vamos / va / van</i>		to go
Kal		Kal (name)
la	feminine	the
llamar / <i>llamo</i>		to call*
lo		him, it
los / las	masculine / feminine	the (plural)*
máquina(s)	feminine	machine(s)
me		me, myself
mi		my
monstruo(s)	masculine	monster(s)
no		no
pensar / <i>piensa</i>		to think
pero		but
poder / <i>puedes / puedo / podemos / pueden</i>		can/to be able to
por		for, by
por qué		why
qué		what
querer / <i>quieres / quiero</i>		to want
quién		who
saber / <i>sé</i>		to know
se		itself, yourselves, themselves
ser / <i>son / seamos / es / eres</i>		to be*
sí		yes
su		his, her, its
también		also, too
te		you, yourself
tener / <i>tienes / tiene / tengo / tenemos</i>		to have
triste		sad
tu		your
tú		you
un / una	masculine / feminine	a
usar / <i>usa</i>		to use
vamos / <i>van / va</i> (conjugations of "ir")		to go
ver / <i>ve / ves / ven</i>		to see
y		and
yo		I

Chapter 2		
Spanish Word	Gender	Meaning in English
adiós		goodbye
<i>deténte</i> (conjugation of "detener")		to stop
entrar / <i>entra</i>		to enter
<i>estamos</i> (conjugation of "estar")		to be*
esto	neutral	this
flecha(s)	feminine	arrow
mujer	feminine	woman
nueva	feminine	new
poderoso	masculine	powerful
<i>queremos</i> (conjugation of "querer")		to want
<i>somos</i> (conjugation of "ser")		to be*
Subasa		Subasa (name)
sus		his/her (plural)
tus		your (plural)
<i>veo</i> (conjugation of "ver")		to see
ya		already

Chapter 3		
Spanish Word	Gender	Meaning in English
casa	feminine	house, home
cola	feminine	tail
cómo		how
con		with
cuerno(s)	masculine	horn(s)
cuidad	feminine	city
<i>deténganse</i> (conjugation of "detener")		to stop
Devan		Devan (name)
ella	feminine	she
ellos	masculine	they
<i>entren / entremos</i> (conjugations of "entrar")		to enter
ese	masculine	that
esperar / <i>espera</i>		to wait
Knites		Knites (name)
<i>llamas</i> (conjugation of "llamar")		to call
mis		my (plural)
<i>tienen</i> (conjugation of "tener")		to have
<i>vayan</i> (conjugation of "ir")		to go

Verb Conjugations

Let's be honest, the verb conjugations of Spanish are probably going to be the hardest part of learning the basics. But Spanish has been so easy up to this point, so it wouldn't be any fun if there wasn't a difficult part at some point, right? Gotta keep us on our toes!

But luckily, the verb conjugations in Crystal Hunters aren't that bad. We've tried really hard to keep them to the absolute minimum. You will still need to do a bit of extra memorization, yes, but we're only going to cover 9 of the 50+ ways to conjugate each verb.

Present tense

And what better way to start going over the 9 types of verb conjugations in Crystal Hunters than to master the first 5 of those in the present tense.

In Spanish, the dictionary form of all verbs end in "ar", "er", or "ir", and of those there are both regular verbs which follow the rules, and irregular verbs which desire to make our lives more difficult and do their own thing. In Crystal Hunters, we don't have any rule-following "ir" verbs, so we can just skip the rules for those ones for now.



Lawful "ar" & "er" verbs

These verbs all follow the exact same rules, so while learning the rules requires a bit of effort, you can apply them across all lawful verbs, which is pretty nice.

Anyway, conjugating dictionary form into present tense is based on who the subject of the sentence is. So, depending on who the sentence is about, the present conjugation of the verb changes. The five different categories of subject used in Crystal Hunters are:

First person singular ("I")	First person plural ("We")
Second person singular ("You")	XXXX
Third person singular ("He"/"She"/"It")	Third person plural ("They")

The Powerful “O”

First person singular is the only verb that conjugates with an “o” ending. Not only that, but it’s the only lawful verb in Crystal Hunters that requires removing both “ar” or “er” from the end of the dictionary form of the verb to conjugate it.

For example:

“correr” (to run) conjugates into “corro”

“usar” (to use) conjugates into “uso”

Also, since first person singular has fused itself into this word now, “corro” doesn’t only mean “run”. It means “I run”.

Likewise, “uso” means “I use”.

Since subjects are infused into the verbs, it is very common for the subject pronouns to be omitted in Spanish. We will describe this more in detail later, but an interesting fact is that in over 100 pages of Crystal Hunters, we only use the Spanish word “yo” (“I”) a total of 3 times. “Yo” gets omitted that often.



The Other Four Lawful Conjugations

For some reason the other four conjugations aren’t as powerful. When doing these conjugations you only need to take the “r” off the end instead of both the “ar” and the “er” like with first person singular.

After that, each subject category adds (or doesn’t add) additional letters to differentiate themselves.

Using our chart from before, it looks like this:

	+ “mos”
+ “s”	
no addition	+ “n”

So now, let's bring first person singular back into the group so we can complete our conjugation charts for the lawful verbs. We use a total of 7 lawful verbs in Crystal Hunters, and here are the charts for each of them in glorious uniformity.

“correr” (to run)

corro	corremos
corres	
corre	corren

“entrar” (to enter)

entro	entramos
entras	
entra	entran

“esperar” (to wait)

espero	esperamos
esperas	
espera	esperan

“golpear” (to punch)

golpeo	golpeamos
golpeas	
golpea	golpean

“gustar” (to like)

gusto	gustamos
gustas	
gusta	gustan

“llamar” (to call)

llamo	llamamos
llamas	
llama	llaman

“usar” (to use)

uso	usamos
usas	
usa	usan



The Unlawful Irregulars

The more common the word, the more likely it is to be irregular, and since Crystal Hunters primarily uses very common words, the large majority of our verbs (12 of 19) are irregular.

But being a conjugation criminal comes in shades of gray, so luckily not everything will need to be learned from scratch. While some verbs are very unlawful and all of their conjugations break the rules, others only dip their toes into the Devil's pool so they only have one conjugation that breaks the rules. Not only that, but there are a lot of conjugations for these verbs that Crystal Hunters just doesn't use, so don't worry about immediately cramming all of these unlawful conjugations into your memory.

That said, there is one super villain verb that manages to break 6 laws even though we've only covered 5 conjugations, and we've put it in solitary at the end of the list.

Here are the charts for all 12 of our unlawful verbs, and we've highlighted the conjugations which are irregular. The white boxes are all rule-following conjugations.

"caer" (to fall)

caigo	caemos
caes	
cae	caen

"detener" (to stop)

detengo	detenemos
detienes	
detiene	detienen

"estar" (to be*)

estoy	estamos
estás	
está	están

“ir” (to go)

voy	vamos
vas	
va	van

“pensar” (to think)

pienso	pensamos
piensas	
piensa	piensan

“poder” (to be able)

puedo	podemos
puedes	
puede	pueden

“querer” (to want)

quiero	queremos
quieres	
quiere	quieren

“saber” (to know)

sé	sabemos
sabes	
sabe	saben

“ser” (to be*)

soy	somos
eres	
es	son

“tener” (to have*)

tengo	tenemos
tienes	
tiene	tienen

“ver” (to see)

veo	vemos
ves	
ve	ven

Solitary Confinement for the Verb Supervillain

"haber" (to have*)

he	hemos
has	
ha	han
existential form: hay	

As you can see, in addition to breaking all 5 conjugations rules it even created a new category of conjugation - the existential form - just to be the biggest badass.

The existential form is used like we use "there is/are" in English to show that something exists somewhere.

Example: "Hay un monstruo." = "There is a monster."



Grammar in Action!

Although we haven't finished going over all the different Spanish conjugations in Crystal Hunters, this is a good time to take a break from those and to start learning how to use everything we've learned so far.

In general, Spanish follows the same basic word order as English:
Subject -> Verb -> Object.

For example: "Kal quiere su espada." = "Kal wants his sword."

But, as mentioned before, the subject is infused into the verb when conjugated, so as long as the subject pronoun isn't ambiguous, it's omitted.

Example: "Quiero mi espada." = "I want my sword."

This omission can be done for negative sentences too. In English we have "do not"/"don't" for negative sentences, but in simple Spanish you only need to use "no".

Example: "No tienes tu máquina." = "You don't have your machine."

This pronoun omission happens for questions too. In English, we have a complicated rule where the subject and verb have to change positions for questions, but in Spanish we don't have to deal with that because there's no pronoun.

Example: "¿Quién eres?" = "Who are you?"

Oh, and this seems like a good time to mention that Spanish uses upside down question marks and upside down exclamation points in front of sentences in addition to the regular question marks and exclamation points. You can see an example for question marks above, so here's a sentence using exclamation points:

Example: "¡Tenemos cristales!" = "We have crystals!"



Gender Roles, Plurality, & Adjectives to Describe Them

There are three other differences between Spanish and English for basic grammar, and the first of those is that Spanish is a gendered language. Because of this, we always need to be aware of the masculinity or femininity of what we're talking about. This is important because the effects of gender are far reaching, and, depending on the situation, gender can take over up to 80% of a sentence.

But, let's just start with single words for now. The source of gender in Spanish is nouns, and more specifically nouns that are the object of the sentence, so all the gendering will be coming from there. Even before we get into the effects these nouns will have on other words, some nouns change their own forms depending on how they are used. We have this in English too, and these nouns are usually ones that involve people. For example: "waiter" & "waitress", or "actor" & "actress". We have one of these nouns in Crystal Hunters too. "cazador" (hunter) is the masculine form, and "cazadora" (huntress) is the feminine form.

After nouns themselves, the first step of gender influencing other words is articles. In English these are "a" & "the". In Spanish, "a" is "un" or "una", and "the" is "el" or "la". We'll use one masculine - "camión" (truck) - and one feminine - "máquina" (machine) - word for our examples for now.

For example:

Masculine - un camión // el camión

Feminine - una máquina // la máquina



Another thing that's influenced by gender are demonstratives. In English these are "this" & "that". In Spanish "this" is "este" or "esta", and "that" is "ese" or "esa".

For example:

Masculine - este camión // ese camión

Feminine - esta máquina // esa máquina



Now, let's start making some sentences with the points we've covered so far. Remember, the word that determines the gender of a sentence is the object. If our object is masculine, then the sentence becomes masculine. Likewise, if our object is feminine, then the sentence becomes feminine.

For example:

"Quiero un camión." = "I want a truck."

"Kal usa esta máquina" = "Kal uses this machine."

OK, those were relatively simple examples, so now let's make it a bit more difficult. Remember, gender changes whole sentences, so having more gender-influenceable words means you'll need to change more words. Here are some sentences where both the articles (a/the) and the demonstratives (this/that) change gender.

For example:

"Este es un camión." = "This is a truck"

"Esta es una máquina." = "This is a machine."

The Bisexual "O"

Before we continue, let's take a quick aside. Not all demonstratives (this/that) are masculine or feminine. Sometimes we're not really sure what we're talking about, and if we're not sure what it is how can we know if it's masculine or feminine? For these situations when we need our gender to be something that plays nice with both genders - or "neutral" - we wield the "O". Upon wielding the "O", "este/esta" become "esto", and "ese/esa" become "eso".

For example:

"¿Qué es eso?" = "What is that?"



The Part-Time Bisexual “O”

In addition to using the bisexual “O” when not knowing about what things are, we can also use the bisexual “O” for concepts/ideas/things that are not physically there.

Now this is where it gets fun. If we’re talking about something that’s not there, but we know the gender of the thing we’re talking about, then we can use either the gender or the “O”. Both are OK.

For example, let’s say a mother and child are looking at a picture book with animals in it, and the mother says the word “cola” (tail). In response to this the child says, “¿Qué es una cola?”

When the mother responds, she points to the picture of the tail. As she does this, she can say either of these. They are both correct.

Mother: “Esto es una cola.”

Mother: “Esta es una cola.”

“Esto” is correct because the tail is not really there, it’s just a representation.

“Esta” is correct because the gender of “cola” is female.



Gender-Bending Adjectives

Adjectives work a bit differently in Spanish than they do in English. The first difference is that they come after the noun instead of before it, and the second difference is that just like articles and demonstratives, some of them are influenced by gender.

Luckily, Crystal Hunters only has one type of adjective that changes gender, and those are the ones that end in “o” (masculine form) or “a” (feminine form).

For example:

“Tengo un camión nuevo.” = “I have a new truck.”

“¿Ves mi máquina nueva?” = “Do you see my new machine?”

If an adjective in Crystal Hunters ends in something other than “o” or “a”, then it is a bisexual adjective and plays nice with both genders just the way it is.

For example:

“Este no es el monstruo feliz” = “This is not the happy monster.”

“Esa es la mujer feliz” = “That is the happy woman.”

Now that we have mastered the basics of adjective gender, let’s put some gendered adjectives in sentences with articles and demonstratives and witness the full glory of the 80% gender-influenced sentence. The only word non-gendered in these sentences is “es”.

For example:

“Este es el árbol nuevo.” = This is the new tree.”

“Esa es una mujer poderosa.” = “That is a powerful woman.”



An Abundance of Plurality

Tagging along to our party of gender-benders and bisexuals are the pluralities. In English, we add plurality to demonstratives (this/that -> these/those) and to nouns (woman -> women). But in Spanish, we also add it to adjectives and to “the”.

For example, let’s change an example above into a plural version.

“Este es el árbol nuevo.” -> “Estos son los árboles nuevos.”

Wow! 100% plurality! What an amazingly plurality-friendly language Spanish is! Here’s a chart for all articles, demonstratives, and adjectives that change with gender and plurality in Crystal Hunters:

Masculine Singular	Feminine Singular	Masculine Plural	Feminine Plural
un	una	N/A	N/A
el	la	los	las
este	esta	estos	estas
ese	esa	esos	esas
nuevo	nueva	nuevos	nuevas
poderoso	poderosa	poderosos	poderosas
triste	triste	tristes	tristes
feliz	feliz	felices	felices
bien	bien	bienes	bienes

Even More Plurality!!

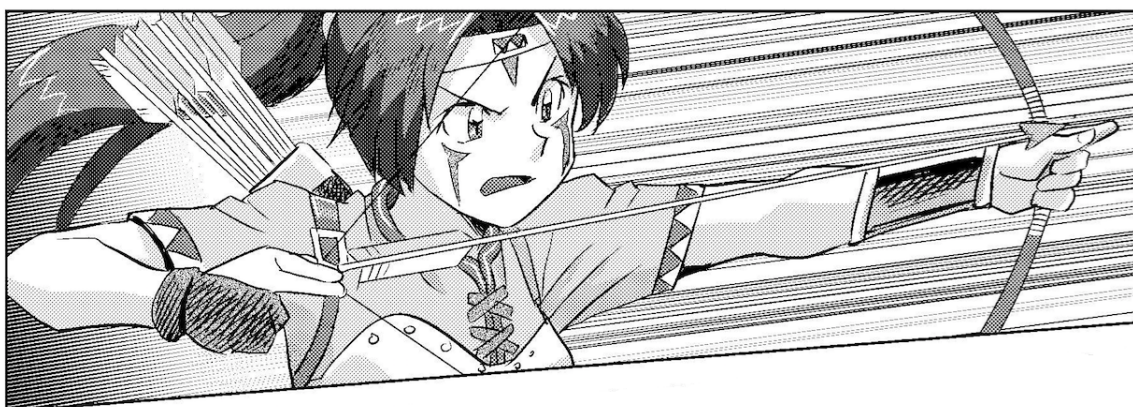
Plurality extends even to places that gender doesn’t have power over, but at least those places are limited to possessive pronouns. And luckily we only need to add some ‘s’es .

mi -> mis

tu -> tus

su -> sus

For example: “Subasa usa sus flechas!” = “Subasa uses her arrows!”



You Get a Preposition! And You Get a Preposition!

In general, Spanish uses prepositions the same way English does. For example: “en un árbol” is a direct translation of “in a tree”, “Voy a la ciudad” is a direct translation for “I go to the city”, etc.

But that said, Spanish kind of has a thing for prepositions, and uses them a lot more than English does. We might even call Spanish a preposition connoisseur. Let’s take a look at a few of the ways Spanish that uses them.

Everybody Loves the “a”

Spanish loves to use “a” (“to”) in its sentences, especially with movement verbs. English does this too, and for the most part we “go to” places, although we don’t always use “to” with “go”. For example: “go there” or “go home”. And there are other words, like “enter” in English, that show movement but don’t really use “to” at all. For example: “I enter to the truck” sounds super weird.

But in Spanish, using “a” with movement to places is the norm.

For example:

“Bansom va a casa.” = “Bansom goes to home.” =
“Bansom goes home.”

“Tú entras a la ciudad.” = “You enter to the city.” =
“You enter the city.”

In fact, Spanish adds this “a” so much that they have a “to” + “the” short-hand for the masculine singular form of “the”. This rule changes “a” + “el” into “al”.



For example:

“Kal entra al camión.” = “Kal enters to the truck.” = “Kal enters the truck.”

IT'S ALIVE!

Spanish really loves to add “a”. In addition to the use of “a” above, Spanish also adds “a” after some verbs when the subject is interacting with something alive. In Crystal Hunters, the verbs that can add this “a” with alive objects are “Detener”, “Golpear”, “Querer”, “Tener”, “Usar”, & “Ver”.

Examples:

“Subasa quiere al monstruo.” =

“Subasa wants (to) the monster.” (alive, so add “a”)

“Subasa quiere sus flechas.” =

“Subasa wants her arrows.” (not alive, so no “a”)

“Kal ve a Bansom.” = “Kal sees (to) Bansom.” (alive, so add “a”)

“Kal ve una máquina.” = “Kal sees a machine.” (not alive, so no “a”)



Thor's Hammer of Thunder!

Spanish also uses prepositions for showing possession or for changing nouns into adjectives. English does this sometimes too, although fairly rarely.

The first way to do this is through “de” (“of”), which can be used to show possession and make nouns describe the essence of something.

For example:

“las espadas de Daphne” = “the swords of Daphne.” = “Daphne’s swords.”

“la casa de máquinas” = “the house of machines” = “the machine house”

Another way to use prepositions to change nouns into adjectives is with “con” (“with”). While “de” shows something’s essence, “con” shows that something is a part of something. This is a distinction we don’t always make in English. Sometimes we use nouns as adjectives and they could be either “de” or “con” in Spanish. Be careful which one you use though, depending on which one you choose the meaning can change a lot!

Examples:

“the horn monster” = “el monstruo con cuerno.” =

“The monster with horn” = (a monster with a horn on its head.)

“the horn monster” = “el monstruo de cuerno” =

“the monster of horn” = (a gathering of horns became a sentient being and started attacking people.)

Head for the Hills!

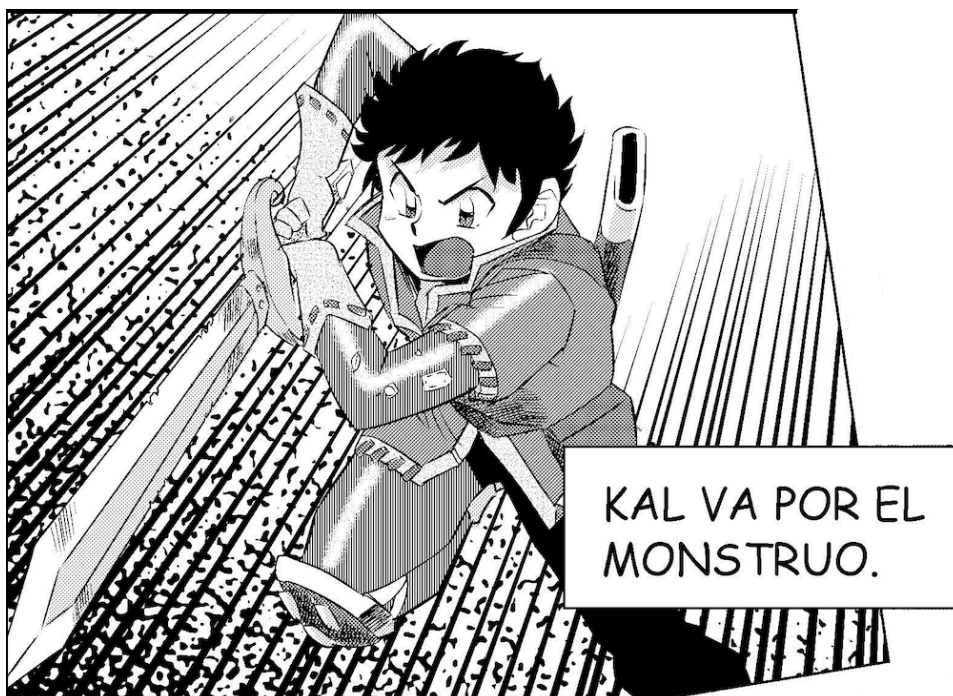
Sometimes Spanish doesn't want to add extra prepositions, it just wants to use them a bit differently than English does. In English, sometimes we use “for” instead of “to” when moving towards something. It's not super common, but it happens. For example: “Head for the Hills!” or “Dive for the bushes!”

Well, in Spanish, it's a bit weird to use “a” (“to”) when referring to “going to” or “moving towards” something that isn't a place. It's not wrong, but it's not natural. So instead of using “a”, Crystal Hunters uses “por” (“for”) in these situations.

For example:

“¡Kal va por el monstruo!” = “Kal goes for the monster!”

(It sounds less natural to use “for” than “to” in these situations in English, but in Spanish it's more natural.)



Grammar: The Next Stage

You've made it through the basic grammar! You're getting close to the end of this guide now. Just a few more points to go through and you'll be ready to read Crystal Hunters in Spanish.

I Can Do That!

The next grammar point for this level is pretty easy, and it's one we do in English too. When using "poder" (can/be able to) in Spanish, we conjugate "poder" and then use the dictionary form of the following verb instead of conjugating it. We don't conjugate "can" in English, but we do use the dictionary form of the following verb.

For example:

"She has this money." -> "She can have this money."

"Ella tiene este dinero." -> "Ella puede tener este dinero."

When Words Don't Disappear

Although we've said that subject pronouns can be omitted, there are times when they can't be. Basically, if there's nothing after the verb, the subject pronoun needs to stay.

Examples:

"Yo corro." = "I run." (And can't be just "Corro.")

"Ella no entra." = "She doesn't enter." (And can't be just "No entra.")

But, if we add something to the end of these sentences, then we can still omit the subject pronoun.

"¡Corro a el monstruo." = "I run to the monster!"

"No entran a mi casa." = "They don't enter my house."

That said, just like in English, commands are an exception to this non-disappearing rule. Both the subject and everything after the verb can be omitted for commands. Let's go over command forms next so we can go look at some examples.

Do As I Say! More Conjugating!

Whenever there's a new verb type in Spanish, you know what that means! That's right! More conjugating! Huzzah!

Depending on which Spanish speaking country you're talking about and how you count them, there are 5-10 command conjugations in Spanish. We'll only be talking about 4 though, which will bring us up to our goal of 9! Finish these and we're done with conjugations!

The Happy Bachelor

The first command form is what we consider "normal" for a command in English. Say a verb - with an implied "you" as the subject - to get meaning across as quickly and as forcefully as possible.

But unfortunately, it doesn't work for negative commands, and it doesn't work when addressing more than one person. This is why we call this command form the "Happy Bachelor". Or, if you want to be boring you can also call it the "tú affirmative command".

Conjugating the "Happy Bachelor" is easy. For the most part, you just use the same conjugation as the third person singular conjugation for present tense. And as luck would have it, we've already learned that.

For example:

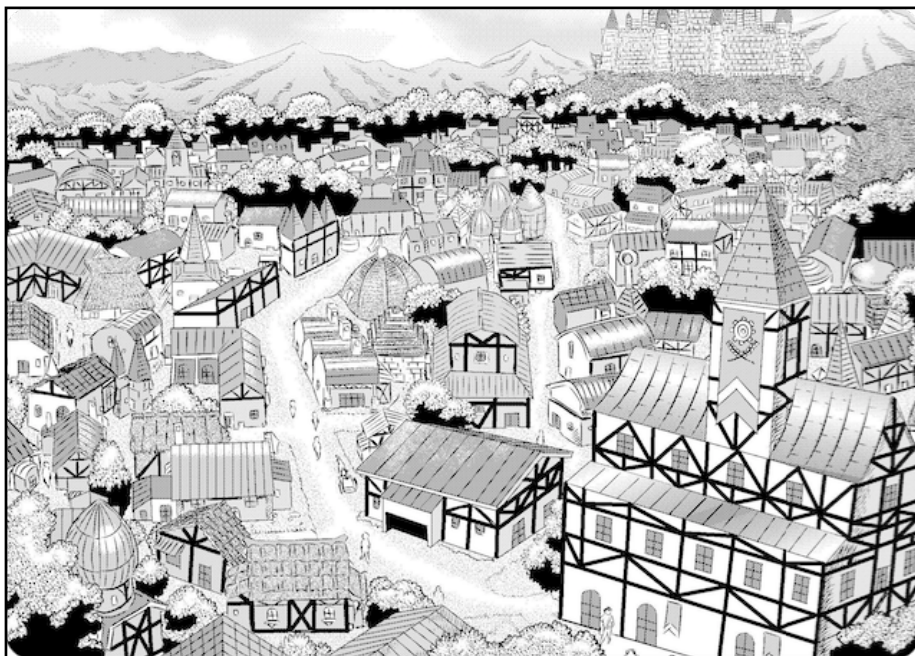
"Bansom espera." = "Bansom waits."

"¡Espera!" = "Wait!" (With "you" as the omitted subject)



Although the “Happy Bachelor” and third person singular present are usually the same, there are a few irregular ones here and there. Here's a list of all the verbs in Crystals Hunters in “Happy Bachelor” form, and we've highlighted the irregulars.

Dictionary Form	Tú Affirmative Command
Caer	Cae
Correr	Corre
Detener	Detén
Entrar	Entra
Esperar	Espera
Estar	Está
Golpear	Golpea
Gustar	Gusta
Haber	He
Ir	Ve
Llamar	Llama
Pensar	Piensa
Poder	Puede
Querer	Quiere
Saber	Sabe
Ser	Sé
Tener	Ten
Usar	Usa
Ver	Ve



The 3 Evil Twins

Last 3 conjugations in one go! Let's do this!

In general, the last 3 command conjugations are all just present form conjugations but we switch the last "a" into an "e" or we switch the last "e" into an "a". We just turn them into nearly identical versions of themselves. Simple!

The first evil twin is the "negative tú" command, and it is the evil twin of the second person singular present form. It is preceded by a "no".

Examples:

"No corres a la ciudad." = "You don't run to the city."

"¡No corras a la ciudad!" = "Don't run to the city!"



The second evil twin is the plural form (and it works for both affirmative and negative!!), and it's the evil twin of the third person plural present.

Now, you might be thinking, "Wouldn't the second person plural be more appropriate?" Second person is for "you". Why are we using third person for "you"?

Well, the answer to that is that Spanish uses the third person plural for "you" in order to be more formal. But, in countries other than Spain, this formal form evolved to work for both informal and formal situations.

This is nice because it means we don't have to learn as many conjugations since we can skip all the informal conjugations. Not only that, but the second person plural command form has different conjugations for affirmative and negative, so that's not just one, but an extra two conjugations we can just skip.

That said, this style of conjugating is the Latin America style of conjugation, so mileage will vary. But, this style will still work in Spain. It just sounds a bit more refined there, and that's not so bad.

Anyway, here are some examples for changing third person plural present into plural command form.

Examples:

“Usan las espadas.” = They use the swords.”

“¡Usen las espadas!” = “Use the swords! (All of you!)”

“¡No usen las espadas!” = “Don’t use the swords! (None of you!)”

So, we’ve covered affirmative and negative commands for both singular and plural, what other evil twin could there be? Well, in Spanish “Let’s” is considered a command form too. And honestly, it’s not a command - in English or in Spanish - but in Spanish it behaves like one grammatically. Just roll with it, it’ll be OK. Evil twins unite!

As expected, “Let’s” form is the evil twin of the first person plural. And just like the second evil twin, it works for both affirmative and negative. (Well, except for “ir”, which has “vamos” for affirmative and “vayamos” for negative.)

Examples:

“Entramos a la casa de Bansom.” = “We enter Bansom’s house.”

“Entremos a la casa de Bansom.” = “Let’s enter Bansom’s house.”

“No entremos a la casa de Bansom.” = Let’s not enter Bansom’s house.”

Unfortunately, not all twins are identical. Some Spanish command forms are fraternal twins. But, even though they look a bit different, they still share some DNA, and the endings show this similar DNA off the most. The front may change but the ends are all the same, and this includes the irregulars. All the “ar” verbs end in “-es”, “-en”, and “-emos” for these three command forms, and all the “er” and “ir” verbs end in “-as”, “-an”, and “-amos”.



Here's a full list of all the conjugations for the 3 evil command form twins in Crystal Hunters.

Dictionary Form	Negative Tú	Plural form (+/-)	Let's Form (+/-)
Caer	Caigas	Caigan	Caigamos
Correr	Corras	Corran	Corramos
Detener	Detengas	Detengan	Detengamos
Entrar	Entres	Entren	Entremos
Esperar	Esperes	Esperen	Esperemos
Estar	Estés	Estén	Estemos
Golpear	Golpees	Golpeen	Golpeemos
Gustar	Gustes	Gusten	Gustemos
Haber	Hayas	Hayan	Hayamos
Ir	Vayas	Vayan	Vamos (+) / Vayamos (-)
Llamar	Llames	Llamen	Llamemos
Pensar	Pienses	Piensen	Pensemos
Poder	Puedas	Pueden	Podamos
Querer	Quieras	Quieran	Queramos
Saber	Sepas	Sepan	Sepamos
Ser	Seas	Sean	Seamos
Tener	Tengas	Tengan	Tengamos
Usar	Uses	Usen	Usemos
Ver	Veas	Veán	Veamos



The Wanderers

There are words in Spanish that are wanderers. They travel all over Spanish sentences, and they do not act like they do in English at all. These words are “object pronouns”. In English, object pronouns are words like “me”, “you”, “him”, or others like “myself”, “yourself”, “herself”. These are the pronouns that come at the end of sentences in English.

In Crystal Hunters, we almost exclusively use singular pronouns, so we’ll focus on those. Let’s start with the simplest ones. The first kind of “object pronouns” are the “regular” ones. These are also called “direct object pronouns”. “Regular” object pronouns are like the “you” in “I see you.” They’re the “object” that we’ve been using in this guide so far. Here are the singular forms of “regular” object pronouns.

First person: “me”

Second person: “te”

Third person: “lo” (masculine/neutral), “la” (feminine)

Because object pronouns are wanderers, they often don’t come at the end of a sentence. Instead of normal objects, they get out from behind the verb and they cut in front of it.

So, using “I see you” as an example, we’ll see the “te” move before the verb.

“Yo te veo.”

Also, we’ve already learned that we can omit subjects since they’re part of the verb conjugation, so “Yo” can go away.

“Te veo.”

We can do this in negative form too. Examples:

“Kal no lo quiere.” = “Kal doesn’t want him/it.”

“No lo quiere.” = “He/She doesn’t want him/it.”



Narcissistic Wanderers

That was fairly easy, so let's move on to the next group. Narcissistic pronouns only like to talk about themselves, and as such are the “myself/yourself/itself” or “reflexive” versions of pronouns. Here are the singular forms of “narcissistic” object pronouns.

First person: “me”

Second person: “te”

Third person “se” (this can be singular and plural!!)

Narcissistic pronouns need to have matching outfits, so they always have matching conjugations. That is, if the pronoun is first person singular, so is the conjugation. If the pronoun is third person singular, so is the conjugation, etc. They are also wandering pronouns.

For example:

“Ella se detiene.” = “She stops herself.”

“Me golpeo.” = “I punch myself.”

“¿Cómo te llamas?” = “What do you call yourself?”

(“Cómo” usually means “How”, but it's used like “What” in the example above)

A Friend and a Lover

So our wandering object pronouns usually cut in before the verb, but in certain situations they enjoy going back behind the verb. In Crystal Hunters, there are two situations where our wanderers move back.

The first situation is the “friend” situation. This happens when there is a verb in dictionary form. Because a dictionary form verb is only the wanderer's friend, the wanderer can decide where it wants to be. It can be either before the verb or behind the verb. Both are OK. But, if it goes behind the verb, it stays in the friend's house, and they become one word.



Examples:

“Bansom lo puede usar.” = “Bansom puede usarlo.” =

“Bansom can use it.”

“Kal no te puede detener.” = “Kal no puede detenerte.” =

“Kal can’t stop you.”

Narcissistic wanderers do this too.

Examples:

“Me puedo ver.” = “Puedo verme.” = “I can see myself.”

“No te puedes llamar un hombre.” =

“No puedes llamarte un hombre.” = “You can’t call yourself a man.”

The next situation is the “lover” situation. But our wanderers are picky lovers. They only love the affirmative command form, the negative command form just isn’t good enough for them. Because they’re lovers, both “regular” and “narcissistic” wandering pronouns always stay in the affirmative command form’s house. But, neither of them ever moves back for the negative command form.

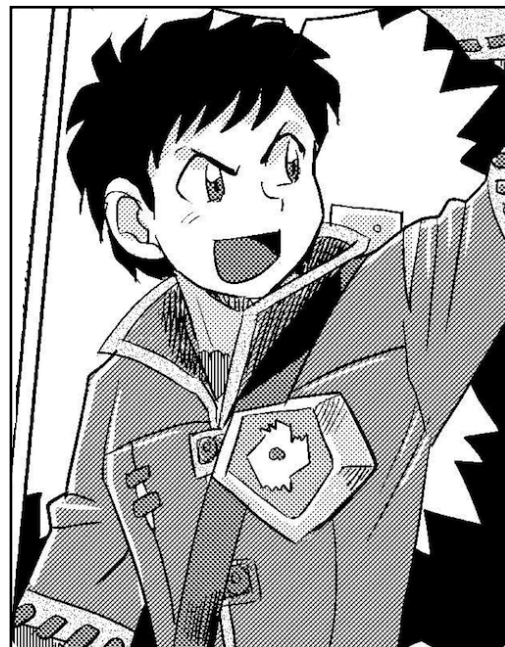
Examples:

“¡Llamalo ahora!” = “Call him now!”

“¡Deténganse!” = “Stop yourselves!”

“¡No me golpees!” = Don’t punch me!

“No te detengas ahora.” = “Don’t stop yourself now.”



The Family Man

Wandering object pronouns can move all over the place, but only when they are the object of the sentence. As such, it is important to know that there are times when an object pronoun isn't the object of a sentence.

We do this in English too. For example: "It is nice to meet you." The subject, verb, and object of this sentence are "It is nice", which means the "you" is not the object of this sentence even though it's an object pronoun.

Spanish does this too. And when it does, the object pronoun settles down with the dictionary verb and they have a nice family together. It never moves out, and it always remains faithful.

Example:

"Es un gusto en conocerte." = "It's a pleasure to meet you."

The object is "gusto", so the "te" isn't a wandering pronoun. It's a family man.

(Also, side note, just like we can simplify "It's a pleasure to meet you." to "Pleasure to meet you." in English, we can also simplify "Es un gusto en conocerte." to "Gusto en conocerte." in Spanish.)



The Inside-Out Zone

This may seem a little sudden, but some verbs in Spanish are just really weird. They just completely do their own thing. And they accomplish this by casting a magic spell called the “Inside-Out Zone”. Now this zone is only big enough for 3 words (2 when conjugated), but everything inside this zone is inside-out.

The “Inside-Out Zone” does two things, and the first thing it does is change all the subject pronouns into indirect pronouns. This means:

“Yo” changes to “Me”.

“Tú” changes to “Te”.

“Él” & “Ella” change to “Le”.

The second thing the “Inside-Out Zone” does is conjugate with the word after it. Yes, instead being a normal verb and conjugating with the word before it, it conjugates with the word after it.

Crystal Hunters only has one “Inside-Out Verb” and that verb is “gustar”. Let’s look at an example of it in action:

“Me gustas” = I like you.

From the example above, we can see that “Yo” changed to “Me”, and “gustar” conjugated with “te” to become “gustas”.

Here are a couple more examples: “Te gustamos” = “You like us.”

“Le gustan” = “He/she likes them.”

So the “Inside-Out Zone” is just a pronoun + a conjugated verb. It’s a bit weird, but it’s not too bad. That said, even though it’s small, the “Inside-Out Zone” is powerful magic, and it refuses to change its form even when we add things.

For example:

“Me gustan los monstruos.” = “I like them, the monsters.”



In English, we would just say “I like monsters”, but this is just how we do things in the “Inside-Out Zone”.

Adding things in front of the “Inside-Out Zone” is the final step for understanding verbs like “gustar”. Just like when we add things to the end of the “Inside-Out Zone”, it remains unchanging when we add things to the front too. Not only that, but if we add a name before it, we have to add an extra “A” too.

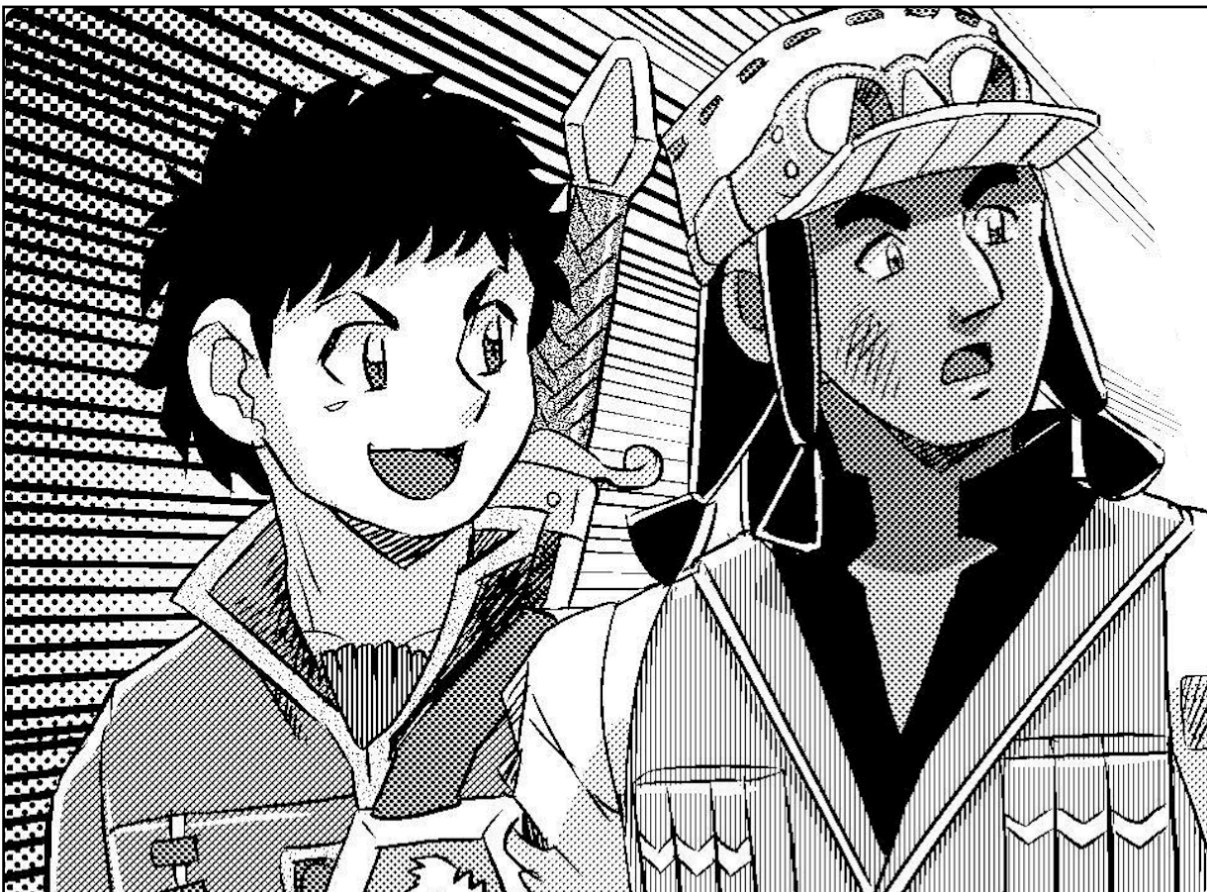
For example:

“No te gusta su máquina.” = “You don’t like it, his machine.”

“A Kal le gustan las colas.” = “As for Kal, he likes them, the tails.”

(“A Kal” actually translates to “To Kal”, but it’s used like “As for Kal” here.)

What a weird way to say “Kal likes tails”. But again, that’s just how things are done in the “Inside-Out Zone”.



Spanish Quirks

Phew! Object and indirect object pronouns are almost as hard as conjugating in Spanish! But we're past that now! We're in the endgame! Last spurt and then you'll be 100% prepared for manga in Spanish!

You Better Check Yourself!

There are some words in Spanish that don't line up 100% with their English translations. We have three of these situations in Crystal Hunters, and they all involve needing an object.

First, we have "Detener". In English, it's perfectly normal to say "Stop!" or "The truck stops", but in Spanish it feels incomplete. The reason why it's OK in English is because the default meaning of "Stop!" in English is "You stop yourself".

However, "Detener" does not have that default meaning, and if nothing else is said, no one knows what you need to stop. Are you stopping yourself? Are you stopping something else? Who knows.

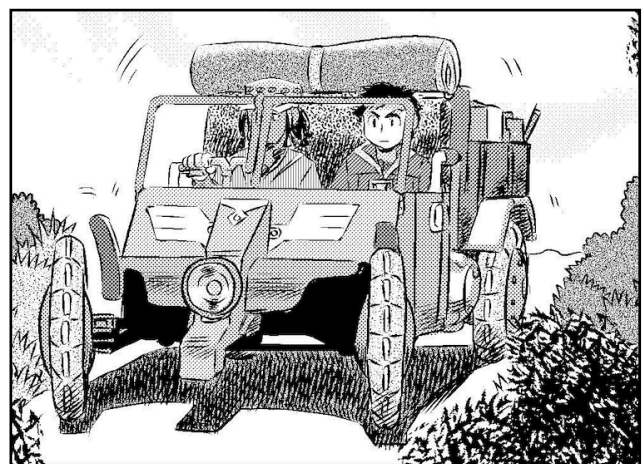
To solve this problem, we need to add narcissistic or "reflexive" pronouns to our sentences to give it the meaning of "stop yourself".

Examples:

"Deténte!" = "Stop yourself!" or "Stop!"

"El camión se detiene." = "The truck stops itself." or "The truck stops."

Next, there's "Ir", and it's very similar to "Detener". Saying something like "You can go." to indicate you're OK with someone leaving is normal in English, but in Spanish it feels incomplete. It's like "I can go... where?" But, by adding a narcissistic or "reflexive" pronoun in Spanish, it's like adding "away" to give it the necessary clarity.



Examples:

“Puedes irte.” = “You can go yourself (away).” =
“You can go away.” & “You can leave.”

“Me voy.” = “I go myself (away).” =
“I’m going away.” & “I’m off.” & “I’m leaving.”

Finally, there’s “Saber”. In English, we can interchange “I know that” or “I know” to suit our fancy, and depending on the situation we can even say “I know it”, but in Spanish there is only “I know it”. “Saber” needs that object, and that object needs to be “it”.

Example:

“No lo sé.” = “I don’t know it.” = “I don’t know.”

Estar vs Ser

Both of these translate to “to be” in English, but in Spanish they are completely different words, and we need to learn to treat them that way. There are many ways to separate these words, but the easiest way to conceptually differentiate these two words is to pin them to other words in English.

Estar = state of being

Ser = essence of being

Because a state of being is often more fluid, “estar” is what is used for emotions. Locations of things also often change, so it is also used for places. A good test to see if “estar” is a good fit for a word is to try to say the sentence in English and add “state of being” to see if it makes sense. If it does, then “estar” is the correct choice.





Here are some examples:

“Subasa está feliz.” =

“Subasa is happy.” (Subasa is in a state of being happy.)

“Aquí está tu dinero.” =

“Here is your money.” (Your money is in a state of being here.)

On the opposite side, the essence of something is often more permanent, so “ser” is used for things which are less likely to change. A good test to see if “ser” is a good fit for a word is to say the sentence in English and try to add “a” or “the” and see if it makes sense.

Here are some examples:

“Este es un camión.” = “This is a truck.”

(didn’t even have to try to add “a”, it’s already there!)

“¡Somos los cazadores de cristales!”

“We are the crystal hunters!” = “We are crystal hunters!”

(again, “the” was already there! Easy!)

Sometimes though, adjectives can be grammatically correct with both “estar” and “ser”. But we can use the “state of being” and the “a/the” tests to see how the meaning of the sentence changes when we use “estar” or “ser”.

“El monstruo está poderoso.” =

“The monster is in a state of being strong.”

(The monster has strength now, but who knows if it did before or if it will later. Maybe it just got a power up.)

“El monstruo es poderoso.” = “The monster is a strong (monster).”

(The default state of this monster is strength.)

Tener vs. Haber

Although both “Tener” and “Haber” can mean “to have”, they are completely different versions of “have” and are easily distinguishable.

“Tener” is what we normally think of when we think “have”. Someone is in possession of something.

Example:

“Kal tiene una espada.” = “Kal has a sword.”



“Haber” is the “supporting have” or “auxiliary have”. We use this in English for phrases like “I have to work tonight.” or “I haven’t been sleeping well recently.” The “have” is not the main verb in these sentences, “work” and “sleeping” are.

Crystal Hunters doesn’t use any advanced grammar like this, so we’ll avoid giving examples in Spanish for now. But as we’ve explained before, “Haber” also has an additional role that the “auxiliary have” doesn’t have in English. “Haber” has the super special conjugation of “Hay” (existential “there is”), which is the only way we use “Haber” in **Crystal Hunters**.

But hey, since we’re already talking about “Hay”...

Allí vs Hay

Both “Allí está” and “Hay” can mean “There is”. The difference is that “Allí está” is when you’re referring to a specific location, and “Hay” is when you’re saying that something exists somewhere.

Examples:

“Allí está un monstruo.” = “There is a monster.” (You went looking for monsters and you finally see one and it’s not so far away)

“Hay un monstruo.” = “There is a monster.” (You can’t see the monster now, but you are warning someone of its existence.)

You can even combine “Allí” and “Hay” for a double “there” combo!

Example:

“Allí hay un monstruo.” = “There is a monster there.” (You can not see the monster now, but you know where it is, and you don’t want your friend to go there.)

In the translation, the “there” from “hay” is the one at the beginning, showing existence. The “there” from “Allí” is the one at the end, showing location. This is a bit confusing because the order is different in Spanish, but that’s just how it is.



TUTORIAL COMPLETE!!

You are now ready to read Crystal Hunters! Have fun being bilingual enough to be able read an over 100-page manga in Spanish! This is an accomplishment, be proud of yourself! Go start reading the manga.



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<https://amzn.to/30r79ja>

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Book 2 of Crystal Hunters is available now!

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