

Reverse Construction Verb: *Gustar*

Models: Nos gusta el helado. Nos gustan las papas fritas.
 Nos gusta el queso. Nos gustan los guisantes.

Explanation:

In English we say: We like ice cream.
In Spanish we say: Ice cream pleases us.

- There are two reasons for the name: reverse construction.
 1. The wording is reversed, with the English subject (we) corresponding to the Spanish object (us).
 2. The order of the sentence is reversed: object, verb, subject instead the English normal order: subject, verb, object.

Object	verb	subject
Nos	gusta	el helado.
Subject	verb	object
We	like	ice cream.

- (Although this seems a backward construction to us, it seems very natural to a native speaker).
- In Spanish this object is an indirect object. If an indirect object noun is used (see the **a-phrase** at the beginning of the examples), the indirect object pronoun must also be used: **me, te, le**
nos os les

Example: **A Julio le gusta el helado.**
A las chicas les gusta el helado.

- If the subject is a pronoun, the *a* phrase is used to STRESS who is being pleased:
Example: **A mí me gusta el helado.** Ice cream is pleasing to **me**.
A nosotros nos gusta el helado. Ice cream is pleasing to **us**.
- The **subject** of *gusta* usually **follows** *gusta*; *helado* is the subject.
Example: **A mí me gusta el helado.**
A nosotros nos gusta el helado.
- As with all other verbs, *gusta* agrees with its subject; here, *helado*.
Ice cream pleases us.
A nosotros nos gusta **el helado.**
- If the subject of the verb is an infinitive, always use the singular form of the verb.
Example: **Nos gusta comer y beber.**