




Gustar and Verbs Like Gustar

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We use the verb “gustar” to express what we like or what we like to do. Be careful though: “Gustar” literally means “to be pleasing”, and therefore we have to be careful with the subject and object of the verb.

In English: I like apples. → “I” is the subject; “like” is the verb; “apples” is the direct object

In Spanish: Me gustan las manzanas. → Literally, “Apples are pleasing to me.”

“Apples” is the subject; “are pleasing” is the verb; “me” is the indirect object

In Spanish, whoever is doing the “liking” is the indirect object, while the thing that is being “liked” is the subject of the verb “gustar.” Make sure to decide if you need to make the conjugation singular or plural.



Examples: (**Refer to your notes on Indirect Object Pronouns)

Me gusta la clase. → I like the class. (*The class is pleasing to me.*)

Te gusta la clase. → You (familiar) like the class. (*The class is pleasing to you.*)

Le gusta la clase. → He/she/you (formal) likes the class. (*The class is pleasing to him/her/you.*)




Examples: (**Refer to your notes on Indirect Object Pronouns)

Nos gusta la clase. → We like the class. (*The class is pleasing to us.*)

Os gusta la clase. → You all (Spain) like the class. (*The class is pleasing to you all.*)

Les gusta la clase. → They/you all like the class. (*The class is pleasing to them/you all.*)

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- When talking about an action that one likes to do, use the infinitive verb, and the third-person singular form of “gustar”.


Examples:

Me gusta manejar el coche. → I like to drive the car. (Driving is pleasing to me.)

Te gusta cocinar. → You like to cook. (Cooking is pleasing to you.)


Nos gusta bailar. → We like to dance. (Dancing is pleasing to us.)

etc...



In order to clarify or emphasize the person to whom an object or action is pleasing, use the prepositional pronouns that we have learned already:

<u>Prepositional Pronouns</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
1st Person	a mí (me)	a nosotros (us)
2nd Person	a ti (you familiar)	a vosotros (you all - Spain)
3rd Person	a él, a ella, a usted (you formal/him/her)	a ustedes, a ellos (you all, them)



***You will never use subject pronouns, like “yo” or “tú”, to indicate the person that is doing the “liking.” We will always use the indirect object pronouns, along with the optional prepositional pronouns if needed.

In recap: The IOP is mandatory, and the prepositional pronoun is optional. But the subject pronouns are forbidden!


Example: Me gusta la cena. → I like dinner. (Dinner is pleasing to me.)

A mí me gusta la cena. → I like dinner. (emphasis added)

*Yo me gusta la cena.** → **(DON'T DO THIS!!!)**

More examples, where the subject (the thing being “liked”) is a plural object:

- A mí me gustan los videojuegos. → I like video games. (*Video games are pleasing to me.*)
- A ti te gustan los videojuegos. → You like video games. (*Video games are pleasing to you.*)
- A él le gustan los videojuegos. → He likes video games. (*Video games are pleasing to him.*)
- A ella le gustan los videojuegos. → She likes video games. (*Video games are pleasing to her.*)
- A usted le gustan los videojuegos. → You like video games. (*Video games are pleasing to you.*)
- A Humberto le gustan los videojuegos. → Humberto likes video games. (*Video games are pleasing to Humberto.*)

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- A nosotros nos gustan los videojuegos. → We like video games. (*Video games are pleasing to us.*)
- A vosotros os gustan los videojuegos. → You all like video games. (*Video games are pleasing to you all.*)
- A ellos les gustan los videojuegos. → They like video games. (*Video games are pleasing to them.*)
- A ustedes les gustan los videojuegos. → You all like video games. (*Video games are pleasing to you all.*)
- A mis amigas les gustan los videojuegos. → My friends like video games. (*Video games are pleasing to my friends.*)

Other verbs like “Gustar”



Encantar - to love (in the sense that you really, really like something; not romantic love); literally, “to be enchanting”

Las ballenas me encantan → I love whales. (Whales are enchanting to me.)

Fascinar - to fascinate/to be fascinated by

La biología te fascina. → You are fascinated by biology. (Biology is fascinating to you.)

Interesar - to interest/to be interested in

A Sandra le interesa mucho subir la montaña. → Sandra is really interested in climbing the mountain.

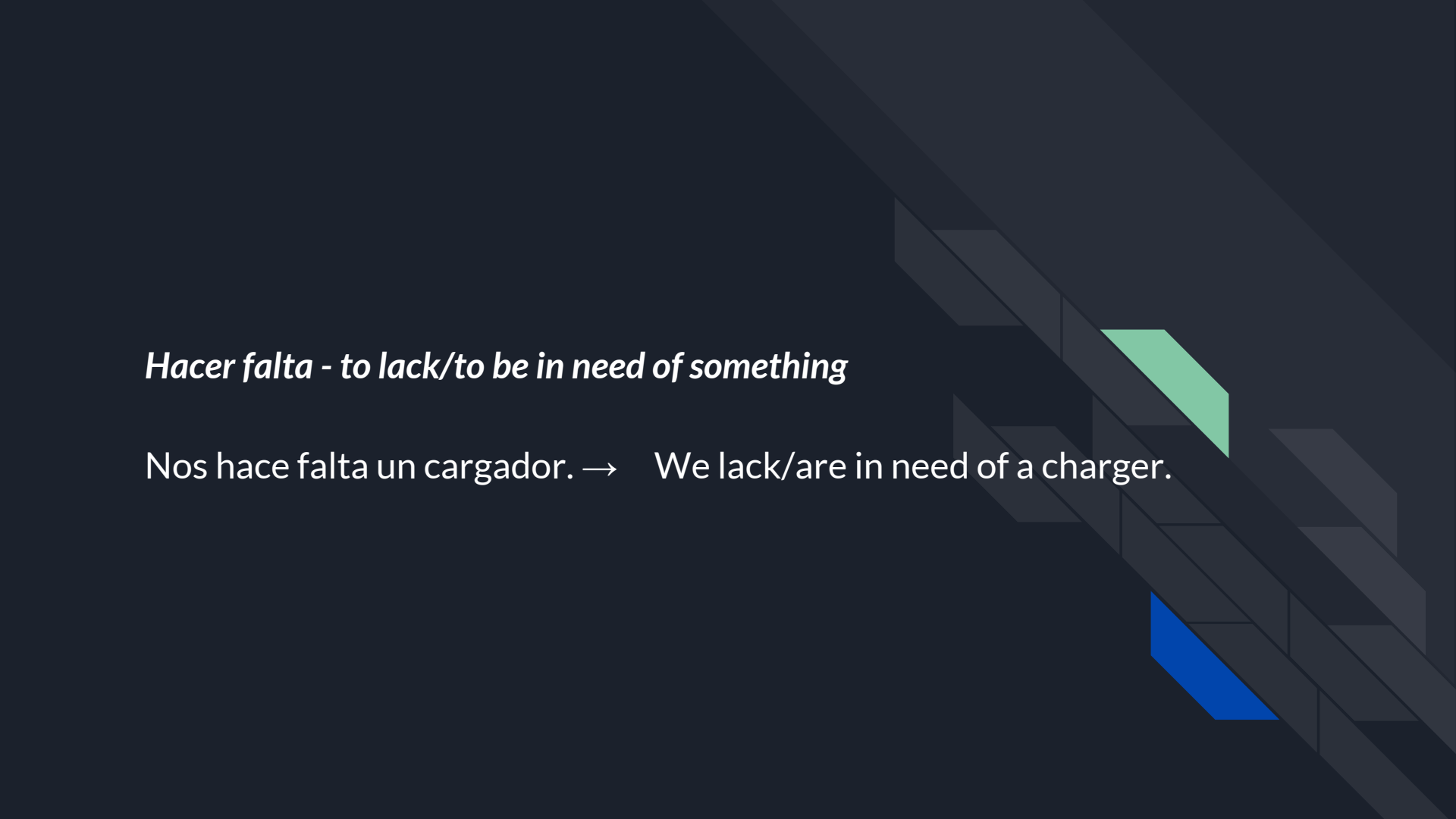
A Ricardo no le interesa tocar el piano. → Playing the piano doesn't interest Richard./Richard isn't interested in playing the piano.

Sobrar - to have more than enough of something

Nos sobran galletas.

→ We have have more than enough cookies.





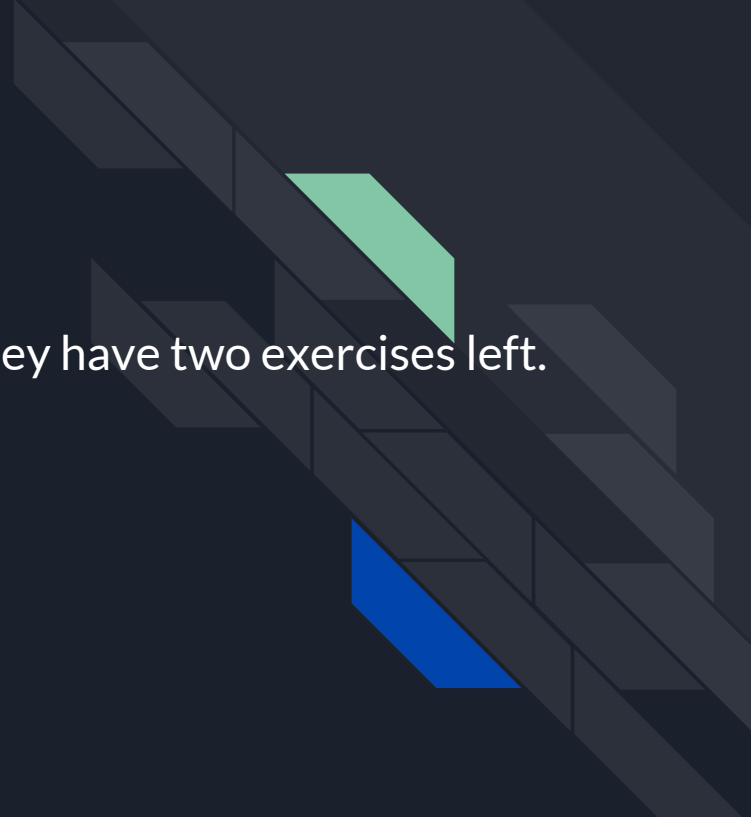
Hacer falta - to lack/to be in need of something

Nos hace falta un cargador. → We lack/are in need of a charger.

Quedar - to be left over

A ellos les quedan dos ejercicios más.

→ They have two exercises left.



Importar - to be important

A Bob y Lois no les importa comer sano. → Bob and Lois don't care about eating healthy. (Eating healthy is not important to Bob and Lois.)

PRACTICE:

Write three original sentences using gustar and two of the other verbs listed above.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____