

Name:

## Verbal Periphrasis (3/2/18)

Verbal periphrasis is a fancy way to talk about combining a conjugated verb with another verb, such as a verb in the infinitive. Sometimes a Spanish periphrasis will include a preposition, such as “a” or “de”.

English Examples:            I want to run.  
                                      They should study.  
                                      We tend to sleep in.  
                                      You can see the stars.

Identifying conjugated verbs and infinitive verbs is important. For example, we have learned that direct and indirect object pronouns can go before a conjugated verb or attached to an infinitive, so we should understand how to identify these verb forms.

Below you will find many phrases that combine a conjugated verb with an infinitive, and you will recognize some. Notice that the English translation doesn't necessarily use an infinitive, even though all of the Spanish phrases do.

### Verbal Periphrasis Examples:

#### **Ir + a + infinitive = Going to do something**

Yo voy a acampar.	→	I am going to camp.
Vamos a cantar ahora.	→	We are going to sing now.

#### **Tener + que + infinitive = To have to do something**

Tú tienes que ayudarme.	→	You have to help me.
Ellas tienen que borrar la pizarra.	→	They have to erase the board.

#### **Querer (e→ie) + infinitive = To want to do something**

Él quiere manejar un coche nuevo.	→	He wants to drive a new car.
Yo quiero saber más.	→	I want to know more.

#### **Poder (o→ue) + infinitive = To be able to do something**

Ella no puede oírnos.	→	She cannot hear us.
Usted puede nadar muy bien.	→	You can swim very well.

#### **Acabar + de + infinitive = To have just done something**

Acabo de terminar la prueba.	→	I have just finished the quiz.
------------------------------	---	--------------------------------

Mi madre acaba de llegar. → My mom has just arrived.

**Empezar (e→ie) + a + infinitive = To begin/start to do something**

El niño empieza a gritar. → The child begins to scream.  
El ascensor empieza a funcionar. → The elevator starts to work.

**Dejar + de + infinitive = To stop doing something**

El ascensor deja de funcionar. → The elevator stops working.  
Yo dejo de comer azúcar. → I stop eating sugar.

**Estar + a punto de + infinitive = To be about to do something**

Mi amigo está a punto de llorar. → My friend is about to cry.  
Yo estoy a punto de dormir. → I am about to sleep.

**Deber + infinitive = Something one must do**

Debes cuidar a los niños. → You must take care of the children.  
Debemos estudiar. → We must study.

**Practice:** Write 3 sentences using 3 different phrases from above (in Spanish). Keep it simple!

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_