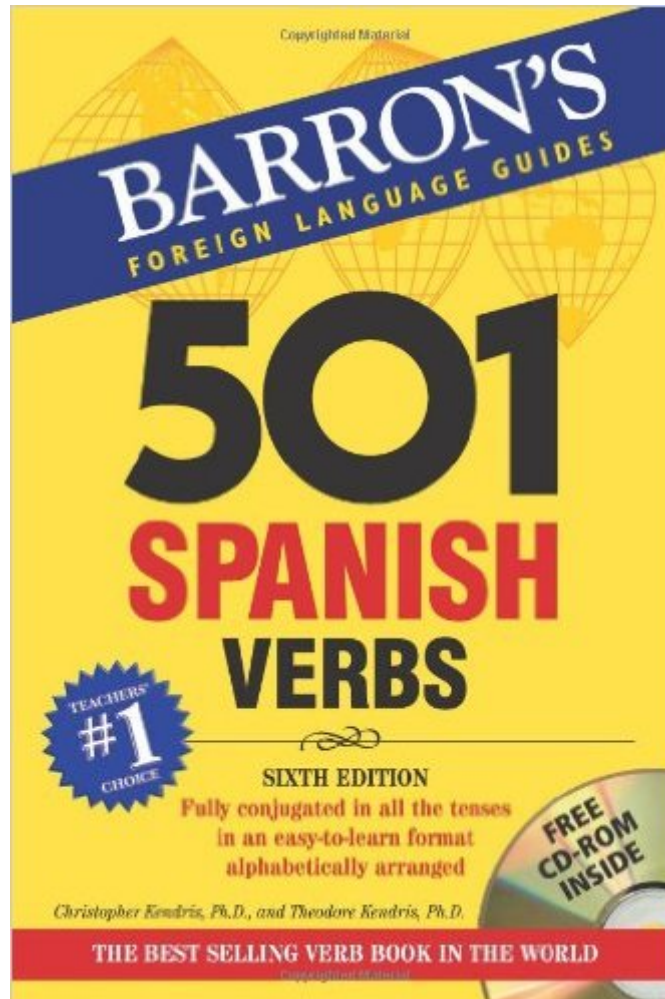


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Barron's Foreign Language Guides: 501 Spanish Verbs (Book & CD-ROM)



Synopsis

The World's Best Selling Verb Book-- and with good reason! Fluency in Spanish starts with knowledge of verbs--and Barron's 501 Spanish Verbs shows students and travelers exactly how to use the 501 most common and useful Spanish verbs in all 16 tenses and moods. Each verb is alphabetically listed in easy-to-follow chart form, one verb per page with its English translation. Important added features include--

- Formation and usage of Spanish verb tenses and moods summarized as they relate to their English equivalents
- The 55 most essential Spanish verbs specially highlighted and supplemented with sample sentences and related words and expressions
- Progressive forms of Spanish verbs
- Formation of present and past participles
- Passive and active voice formations
- Principal parts of important Spanish verbs
- Sentences demonstrating Spanish verb usage in all tenses with English translations
- 26 sets of exercises in Spanish verb usage with answers explained
- Two-color type for ease of reference
- A-to-Z page edges marked in second color for quick reference to verbs
- Plus enlightening appendixes that cover--
- Defective and impersonal verbs
- A guide to Spanish pronunciation
- Verbs used in weather expressions
- Verbs with prepositions
- An index of common irregular Spanish verb forms
- English-Spanish verb index
- List of more than 2,100 Spanish verbs! Every verb on the list is related to a model verb that's conjugated in the same way.

Enclosed with each book is a brand-new CD-ROM filled with--

- Sentence completion exercises
- Dialogue exercises
- Word Completion exercises
- Word Puzzles
- Matching Spanish and English phrases

Unlike software enclosed with verb books from other publishers, Barron's CD-ROM concentrates exclusively on teaching verb usage that applies to reading, writing, and speaking in Spanish. The instructive and fun-to-do exercises and puzzles come with an audio option that demonstrates correct Spanish pronunciation. Barron's CD-ROM is also more adaptable than the others because you can download it on any PC[®] or Mac[®]. 501 Spanish Verbs plus CD-ROM--a great language learning program! It's an invaluable classroom supplement for students and teachers, a self-teaching guide for international travelers, and a handy reference volume for translators. Students quickly discover that learning Spanish becomes easier with this book/CD-ROM combination because it teaches verbs and verb usage systematically. In addition to the 501 verb tables, the authors have provided a wealth of additional features that will help students develop a truly comprehensive command of Spanish for speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension. There's a reason other publishers imitate 501 Spanish Verbs. After almost 50 years on the market, Barron's verb books are still the best! Choose the original!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've owned 501 Spanish Verbs paper edition for years and found it very helpful. When it looked like it was formatted for Kindle I bought that one too. It's good but it has some flaws. The complete introductory grammar discussion is easy to read. The "501" verbs are easy to access and easy to read. But the other two indices have been a problem. In the paper book you can use the English Spanish verb index to look up English verbs, find the equivalent in Spanish and see where the conjugation is. Also you can use the 2,200 verb index to look up Spanish verbs not included in the 501 for a short definition and a similar 501 dictionary entry to help you conjugate it. In the Kindle edition it's easy to use the Table of Contents to get to the first page of these indices. But to actually use them you would have to page through, page by page, until you found the word you want.

There's no way to search for anything except the 501 verbs. I got around this problem by creating a "Note" at the beginning of each letter in the two indices. When I want to look up an English verb, I "View Notes & Marks" and can page through quickly to the right area. What the book really needs is two more searchable "dictionaries". I hope that if it's ever developed the upgrade will be available to us, the pioneer users. Note: I've made my Notes public so you may be able to use them to access these indices with having to enter them yourself.

Without a doubt, 501 Spanish Verbs is the most useful book available to a student of the Spanish language. It is not just for students, however. I have heard that even fluent professors have had to consult this book at one time or another because they were confused about how a word was

conjugated. Verbs are the backbone of the Spanish language, and if you don't know how to conjugate them, people won't understand you. I take this book with me whenever I go on vacation to Spanish speaking countries, and it has proved infinitely useful during conversations where I didn't know how to say a verb. Spanish speakers are incredibly patient if you don't understand them and need to look something up, and this book is definitely the most helpful. I should also add one thing: This book unfortunately does not distinguish between verbs commonly used in Spain, and other verbs used in Latin America that mean the same thing. An example is *abrasar* (to burn or light) and *abrazar* (to hug). I was telling a Colombian security guard that I was lighting fireworks, and he was confused. Turns out I was saying that I was hugging fireworks. *Abrasar* is only used in Spain. In Latin America the word for lighting or burning something is *Encender*. I hope this book helps you as much as it did for me.

I bought my first copy of this book in 1987 and I wore it out! One could not ask for a more complete and comprehensiver verb reference book. It is put together in an easy to follow, comprehensive manner. It begins with a concise explanation of each tense (simple and compound) with examples for each. That alone is reason enough to warrant owning this reference. It then goes on to fully conjugate 501 verbs in each tense, with one verb per page, listed alphabetically. So, for example, if you forget the irregular command for of the verb "dar," no problem, just look it up under "d." And there it is along with the verb's meanings, all its conjugations, and examples of idioms commonly associated with this verb. I studied Spanish for ten years and used it all the time. Now I am a Spanish professor, myself, and I still keep it on top of my reference books and reccommend it to all my students.

Kudos to 501 for being the bible on Spanish verbs for so long, but it is in dire need of an overhaul. Obviously, what's happened is the publisher feels it can just coast on this books notoriety and rake in the dough. I assume profits are good as the book is rather poorly printed on cheap paper. Imagine a book typed with an old 1940s manual typewriter and you'd be close. Another weakness is that the book does not have example sentences, so there is no way to see the listed verbs in context. This combines with rather short definitions to cause a problem. An example: I looked up the verb 'colegir' and it says 'to gather.' Every other dictionary I own says that the primary definition is 'to infer.' Worse, the facing page has 'coger' which it says means 'to sieze, grab', etc. No mention that in much of the Spanish speaking world this is actually an extremely vulgar word for 'to fornicate.' At the end of 501 there are a few verbs listed with idiomatic expressions but it looks like

kind of an afterthought, much like the included phrasebook (why would you lug this tome around when you can just buy a pocket-sized phrasebook for a few dollars?) I would give this book a miss and instead buy The Big Red Book of Spanish Verbs, which is essentially a heavily updated version of 501. It gives numerous sample sentences for each verb, provides you with a full extra page of idioms etc. on the 'top 50' verbs, is a much higher quality printing, includes many more verbs, better explanations and definitions, etc.

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