

GUSTAR AND SIMILAR VERBS

I. **Gustar:** To say that you like something in Spanish using *gustar*, you have to rearrange the words. You have to say that the thing is pleasing to you. So instead of saying, "I like pizza", you would say "Pizza is pleasing to me." "I like tacos" would be "Tacos are pleasing to me."

Check out the table below to see how you would say someone likes something. Notice that the form of *gustar* is singular if the thing liked is singular and plural if the thing liked is plural. Otherwise, *gustar* doesn't change - just the object pronouns (me, te, le, nos, and les) change.

If what you like is singular (it is pleasing to ...) If what you like is plural (they are pleasing to ...)

ME GUSTA (I like)	NOS GUSTA (We like)	ME GUSTAN (I like)	NOS GUSTAN (We like)
TE GUSTA (You familiar like)	OS GUSTA (You all familiar like)	TE GUSTAN (You familiar like)	OS GUSTAN (You all familiar like)
LE GUSTA (He, she, it likes) (You formal like)	LES GUSTA (They like) (You all like)	LE GUSTAN (He, she, it likes) (You formal like)	LES GUSTAN (They like) (You all like)

To say that you do not like something, just put a *no* in front of the object pronoun (me, te, le, nos, or les). **Modelo: No me gusta la pizza. I don't like pizza. No me gustan los tacos. I don't like tacos.**

II. **Encantar:** *Encantar* works the same way, it's just a stronger emotion than *gustar*. *Gustar* means that someone likes something, *encantar* means that someone *loves* something. A better way to put it is, something is *really* pleasing to someone. For example, instead of saying, "I love pizza", you would say "Pizza is *very* pleasing to me."

Now check out how you would say someone loves something.

If what you love is singular (it is very pleasing to ...) If what you love is plural (they are very pleasing to ...)

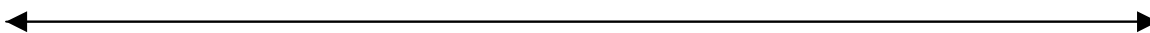
ME ENCANTA (I love)	NOS ENCANTA (We love)	ME ENCANTAN (I love)	NOS ENCANTAN (We love)
TE ENCANTA (You familiar love)	OS ENCANTA (You all familiar love)	TE ENCANTAN (You familiar love)	OS ENCANTAN (You all familiar love)
LE ENCANTA (He, she, it loves) (You formal love)	LES ENCANTA (They love) (You all love)	LE ENCANTAN (He, she, it loves) (You formal love)	LES ENCANTAN (They love) (You all love)

Here is a scale to demonstrate which words you would use to express the way you feel. We will use the examples of pizza and tacos.

DISLIKE

LIKE

LOVE



No me gusta la pizza.
No me gustan los tacos.

Me gusta la pizza.
Me gustan los tacos.

Me encanta la pizza.
Me encantan los tacos.

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III. Emphasis and Clarity: If you want to either emphasize or clarify who likes, loves, or does not like something, add the following to the beginning of the sentence.

A MÍ	A NOSOTROS
A TI	A VOSOTROS
A ÉL A ELLA A USTED	A ELLOS A ELLAS A USTEDES

You can use these with *gustar*, *no gustar*, or *encantar*.

Modelo: You and Andrés are talking about your friend Ana. You are trying to find out who likes Coke and who doesn't.

Andrés:	Le gusta Coca-Cola.	He/She/You like(s) Coke. (Coke is pleasing to him/her/you.)
Tú:	No, a mi me gusta la Coca-Cola. A ella no le gusta la Coca-Cola.	No, I like Coke. She does not like Coke.

Here you are emphasizing who likes it. **I** like it, **she** does not.

Modelo: You and Andrés are talking about your friends Ana and Pepe and what they don't like.

Andrés:	No le gusta jugar al tenis.	He/she/you do(es) not like to play tennis. (Playing tennis is not pleasing to him/her/you)
Tú:	¿ A ella no le gusta jugar al tenis?	She doesn't like to play tennis?
Andrés:	No, a él no le gusta.	No, he doesn't like to.

This time you include *a ella* and *a él* because you're clarifying who you're talking about. When Andrés says, "No le gusta jugar al tenis" he could be saying "*She* doesn't like to play tennis," "*He* doesn't like to play tennis," or "*You* don't like to play tennis." So you take a guess and say "*She* (meaning Ana) doesn't like to play tennis?" But he meant *Pepe* doesn't like it, so he says, "No, *he* (meaning Pepe) doesn't like it."

IV. Other Verbs: Other verbs which function like *gustar* and *encantar* include *interesar* (to interest), *aburrir* (to bore, be boring), *quedar* (to remain, be left) and *faltar* (be lacking, need).

Le interesan los carros.	Cars interest him (or her or you - usted).
Nos aburre la clase de matemáticas.	Math class bores (is boring to) us.
Me queda un taco.	I have one taco left. (Lit. – One taco remains to me)
Te faltan dos dólares.	You need two dollars. (Lit. – Two dollars are lacking to you)