

Galician (Galego)



Galicia occupies the northwestern corner of the kingdom of Spain



Descriptive Grammar of the Galician Language

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SYNTAX

- **Word Order (Orde das palabras)**

Alphabet (*Alfabeto*)

The Galician language uses a writing system modelled on the [Spanish version](#) of the [Latin alphabet](#). In the native words are used 23 letters:

- *a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, l, m, n, ñ, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, x, z*

The letters *k, y, j* and *w* appear only in loan words and foreign names.

There are also six digraphs: *ch, gu, ll, nh, qu* and *rr*; *qu* and *gu* are used only followed by vowels *e* and *i*.

As spelling symbols, the acute stress symbol (´) and the diaeresis (¨) are also used.



Phonology (*Fonoloxía*)

Vowels (*Vocais*)

The phonological system has seven vowels in stressed position. Vowels are defined according to their place of articulation and their height. The former contrast is more important and it is maintained in neutralisations. In unstressed positions, the number of units is more reduced. Phonemes [i] and [u] may appear in atonic end position only when they occur in a falling diphthong, as in **pai** father and **meu** mine.

Tonic and pretonic position			Non-initial post-tonic position			Final post-tonic position		
Sign	Value	Examples	Sign	Value	Examples	Sign	Value	Examples
a	[a]	bala ['bala]	a	[a]	páramo ['pa.ɾamo]	a	[a]	cama ['kama]
e	[ɛ]	ferro ['fɛro]	e	[e]	aéreo ['a'ɛreo]	e	[e]	case ['kase]
	[e]	mes ['mes]		i	[i]	único ['uniko]	o	[o]
i	[i]	vista ['bista]	o	[o]	cómodo ['komodo]			
o	[ɔ]	vos ['bɔs]		u	[u]			
	[o]	son ['sɔn]						
u	[u]	fume ['fume]						

Unlike in the Portuguese Galician vocalic system has not phonological contrasts based on nasality, length or tone.

The position of stress is relatively free. Though in most words the stress is in the penultimate syllable, in some it is in the antepenultimate or final syllable. Due to such a freedom, the stress in Galician does not have a demarcative aim, but a distinctive one **cantaran** they had sung vs. **cantarán** they will sing.

Diphthongs (*Ditongos*)

Galician has both falling and rising diphthongs. The only vocalic phonemes that can occur as semivowels or semiconsonants are [i] and [u], that are here realized as [j] and [w], respectively. The contrast based on height between medial vowels are neutralised when they occur in diphthongs.

Falling diphthongs			Rising diphthongs		
Signs	Value	Examples	Signs	Value	Examples
ai	[aj]	pai	ia	[ja]	diante
au	[aw]	causa	ie	[jɛ]	ciencia
ei	[ej]	teito	io	[jo]	cemiterio
eu	[ew]	meu	iu	[ju]	triufo
iu	[iw]	viviu	ua	[wa]	lingua
oi	[oj]	froito	ue	[wɛ]	frecuente
ou	[ow]	ouro	ui	[wi]	lingüista
ui	[uj]	puido	uo	[wo]	residuo

Consonants (*Consoantes*)

Signs	Position	Value	Examples
p	<i>in all positions</i>	[p]	porto port
t	<i>in all positions</i>	[t]	terra earth, land
ch	<i>in all positions</i>	[tʃ]	cheo full
c	<i>before a, o, u or consonant</i>	[k]	corno horn
qu	<i>before e, i (u being mute)</i>		queixo chin
b	<i>in all positions</i>	[b]	barco ship
v	<i>in all positions</i>		vivir to live
d	<i>in all positions</i>	[d]	dar to give
ll	<i>in all positions</i>	[λ]	ollo eye
		[j]	
g	<i>before a, o, u or consonant</i>	[g] or [ɣ]	gato cat (<i>male</i>)
gu	<i>before e, i (u being mute)</i>		guerra war
f	<i>in all positions</i>	[f]	fermoso beautiful
c	<i>before e, i</i>	[θ]	ceo sky
z	<i>before a, o, u</i>		zorro fox
s	<i>in all positions</i>	[s]	mesa table
x	<i>in all positions</i>	[ʃ]	lixo garbage
r	<i>between vowels or in the end of the words</i>	[r]	caro dear, expensive amar to love
r	<i>in the beginning of the word or after n, s</i>	[r̄]	rei king, tenro tender
rr	<i>between vowels</i>	[r̄]	ferro iron
l	<i>in all positions</i>	[l]	lume light
m	<i>in all positions</i>	[m]	mudar to change
n	<i>in all positions</i>	[n]	nadar to dive
ñ	<i>in all positions</i>	[ɲ]	año lamb
nh	<i>in all positions</i>	[ɲ]	algunha some (<i>fem.</i>)

Phonemes [g] and [θ] do not exist in some Galician dialects. Phonemes [ɣ] and [s] occur in their place, respectively. The first phenomenon is called *gheada*, the second, *seseo*.

Phoneme [λ] is today being replaced by phoneme [j] in all Galician dialects. This replacement is called *yeísmo*.

Syllabic structure (*Estructura silábica*)

Only vowels can be a syllabic nucleus in Galician. Besides, as mentioned before, vowels [i] and [u] may appear as syllabic margin in diphthongs.

The most common syllabic structure in Galician is CV.

Most of CVC structures have their origin in inflectional morphological processes, which usually involve the attachment of a consonant in offset position:

- **a ca|sa** : **as ca|sas** **the house** : **the houses**,
- **(el) co|rre** : **(ti) co|rres** **(he) runs** : **(you) run**.

This is also the case with CVCC structures:

- **a man** : **as mans** **the hand** : **the hands**.

CCV structures are also possible, and they normally consist of an occlusive consonant followed by a liquid consonant:

- **brando** **soft**,
- **frecha** **arrow**.



Spelling (*Escrita*)

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As mentioned, Galician uses six digraphs: **ch**, **gu**, **ll**, **nh**, **qu** and **rr**; **qu** and **gu** are used only followed by vowels **e** and **i**.

As spelling symbols, the acute stress symbol (´) and the diaeresis (¨) are also used.

The letter **h**, when it does not occur in digraphs **ch** and **nh**, is mute, i.e., it does not represent any phoneme. In spelling it can have a diacritic value or serve the purpose of distinguishing pairs such as

- **ora** / **hora** **whether** / **hour**.

Letter **r** represents phoneme [r] when it is in initial position (**rápido**) or in medial position preceded by letters **s** (**Israel**) and **n** (**tenro** **tender**).

When it occurs in intervocalic medial position it represents phoneme [r]:

- **caro** : **cara** **expensive**,
- **raro** **strange**.

The digraph **rr** represents, when it is in intervocalic medial position, phoneme [r]:

- **carro** **cart**.

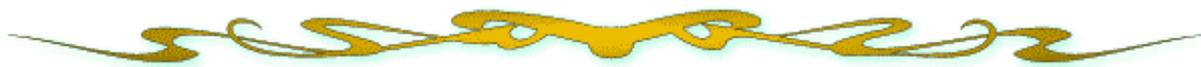
Letter **x** can represent phoneme [ʃ], as in **xente** **people**; or the sequence of phonemes [ks], as in **exacto**, **exact**.

The digraph **nh** represents phoneme [ɲ] in intervocalic position, as in **unha a** (fem.).

The acute accent (´) is used to stress syllables following certain rules:

- **mazá** apple,
- **fácil** easy,
- **médico** doctor.

Sometimes it is also used to differentiate formally identical words.



Noun (*Substantivo*)

Galician nouns have number and gender. The system of gender consists of *masculine* and *feminine* genders and the system of number of *singular* and *plural*.

All nouns have these two categories:

- **o mar** the sea (*masculine, singular*);
- **a vida** life (*feminine, singular*);
- **os anteollos** the spectacles (*masculine, plural*);
- **as gafas** the glasses (*feminine, plural*).

Gender (*Xénero*)

Some nouns can only have one gender, i.e., they are either masculine (**o mar** the sea, **o sangue** the blood) or feminine (**a ponte** the bridge, **a vida** life).

Other nouns can be both masculine and feminine (**o rei** : **a raíña** the king : the queen; **o pozo** : **a poza** the little puddle : the puddle).

Gender, in the latter case, can be marked by means of

- inflectional endings: **o pozo** : **a poza**,
- derivational endings: **o galo** : **a galiña** the cock : the hen or
- a different word: **o home** : **a muller** the man : the woman.

Gender is not formally predictable, but there are general correspondences:

- the endings **-o** and **-e** are associated with masculine gender: **o dote** the dowry, **o carballo** the oak,
- while the ending **-a** is associated with feminine gender: **a cama** the bed.

There are, however, exceptions:

- **a ponte** the bridge, *feminine*;
- **a moto** the motorbike, *feminine*;
- **o día** the day, *masculine*.

Gender in Galician may convey information relating to oppositions such as:

- *male / female*: **boi** : **vaca** ox : cow,
- *big / small*: **cesto** : **cesta** little basket : big basket,
- *individual / collective*: **madeiro** : **madeira** log : wood.

Number (*Número*)

Though most nouns have number distinctions, some lack a singular form (as **gafas** the glasses, **os víveres** the provisions).

The information conveyed by the category number refers to the opposition one *vs.* more than one (**o can** : **os cans** the dog : the dogs).

Inflectional plural is normally formed by attaching the morpheme {s}, which has the following allomorphs, depending on the context:

- words ending in vowel + /s/: **casa** + s > **casas** houses;
- words ending in **-n** + /s/: **corazón** + s > **corazóns** hearts;
- polysyllabic words with stress on the last syllable ending in **-l** > **Ø** + /is/: **xornal** + is > **xornais** newspapers;
- other words ending in **-l** + /es/: **túnel** + es > **túneles** tunnels;
- monosyllabic words ending in **-l** + /es/: **sol** + es > **soles** suns;
- words ending in another consonant + /es/: **cor** + es > **cores** colours.



Adjective (*Adxectivo*)

As was the case with nouns, adjectives also have gender and number. In contrast with nouns, adjectives do not have an inherent gender and number, but must agree with the noun they modify:

- un home **santo** a saint man;
- unha muller **santa** a saint woman;
- un **bo** amigo a good friend;
- uns **bos** amigos some good friends.

Adjectives form their plural in the same way as nouns.

As regards their position with respect to nouns, adjectives normally follow nouns:

- casa **nova** (*house new*) new house;
- agasallo **caro** (*present expensive*) expensive present;
- cadro **fermoso** (*picture beautiful*) beautiful picture.

Adjectives are less commonly found before nouns, and this position may affect the meaning of the adjective:

- muller **pobre** (*woman poor*) poor woman, she has no money;
- **pobre** muller *poor woman, she is miserable.*

Gradation (Gradación)

Gradation in Galician is normally analytic:

- A) Superiority: particles **máis ... que / ca** more ... than are used:
Este libro é máis barato ca ese. *This book is cheaper than that one.*
- B) Inferiority: particles **menos ... que / ca** less + than are used:
Hoxe o coche é menos rápido có (có < ca + o) tren. *Today the car is less fast than the train.*
- C) Equality: particles **tan ... como / coma** as + as are used:
Xela é tan alta coma ti. *Xela is as tall as you.*



Adverb (*Adverbio*)

Adverbs are invariable forms that can modify a verb, an adjective, another adverb or a whole clause or utterance. This word class expresses:

- **manner**: como *how*, ben *well*, mal *badly*;
- **time**: hoxe *today*, mañá *tomorrow*, pasadomañá *the day after tomorrow*, onte *yesterday*, antesdantonte *the day before yesterday*, xa *already*, agora *now*, despois *afterwards*, nunca *never*;
- *etc.*

Among place adverbs, most worthy of note are the deictic adverbs. These adverbs locate objects with respect to the three grammatical persons:

- aquí (*1st person*) *here*;
- aí (*2nd person*) *there*;
- alí (*3rd person*) *there*.

There are also adverbial locutions:

- de repente *suddenly*;
- de vagar / a modo / ó xeito *slowly, carefully, etc.*



Personal Pronouns (*Pronomes Personais*)

There are two types of personal pronouns in Galician: the first are stressed forms, the second are unstressed forms. The latter only occur with verbs.

Stressed forms (*Pronomes tónicos*)

Subjective forms

	Singular		Plural	
	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>
First person	eu I you		nós / nosoutros we	nós / nosoutras we
Second person	ti you		vós / vosoutros you	vós / vosoutras you
Third person	el he	ela she	eles they	elas they

They normally function as [subject](#).

There is no neutral third person pronoun, or a pronoun that acquires a special form when it refers to an inanimate entity.

The so-called exclusive forms *nosoutros* and *vosoutros* are used when the speaker wants to refer to a closed group of people that excludes some elements from the general reference; the inclusive forms *nós* and *vós* represent a wider group that is not subdivided:

- Todos nós somos de Muros, pero só nosoutros tres nacemos na vila.
We are all from Muros, but only we three were born in the village.

The pronoun *vostede* is used as second person courtesy form. With this form, the verb appears in third person:

- Vostede sabe o meu nome.
You know my name.
- Vostedes non están convidados ó casamento.
You are not invited to the wedding.

Accusative forms

	Singular		Plural	
	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>

<i>First person</i>	min me		nós / nosoutros us	nós / nosoutras us
<i>Second person</i>	ti you		vós / vosoutros you	vós / vosoutras you
<i>Third person</i>	el him	ela her	eles them	elas them
	si himself / herself		si themselves	

These are the forms that stressed pronouns have when they are preceded by a preposition.

The form *si* is used as a reflexive form:

- Antonio[a] deu[a]lle[b] un pouco de pastel a seu irmán[b] e quedou[a] con outro tanto para si[a].
Antonio[a] gave[a] (him[b]) a piece of cake to his brother[b] and kept[a] another for himself[a].

The following forms are used when the above-mentioned pronouns are preceded by the preposition **con** with:

- **First person:** *sing.* **comigo with me**; *pl.* **connosco** or **con nós** or **con nosoutros / con nosoutras with us**;
- **Second person:** *sing.* **contigo with you**; *pl.* **convosco** or **con vós** or **con vosoutros / vosoutras with you**;
- **Third person:** *sing.* **consigo with himself / herself** and **con el / ela with him / her**; *pl.* **consigo with themselves** and **con eles / elas with them**.

Examples:

- Xulio, ¿vés **comigo** ó recado?
Xulio, are you coming with me?
- Susana dixo que non quería nada **contigo**.
Susana said she did not want to have anything to do with you.
- Vai **con ela**, está vella e pode caer.
Go with her, she is old and might fall down.

In third person, the form *consigo* is not interchangeable with *con el / con ela*, because the form *consigo* can only be used as a reflexive.

The forms like *comigo*, *contigo* etc. are inherited from *Classical Latin* and are used also in modern *Spanish* and *Portuguese*, while in Italian they occur in the old poetic texts.

Unstressed forms (*Pronomes átonos*)

	<i>Singular</i>				<i>Plural</i>			
	<i>Accusative</i>		<i>Dative</i>		<i>Accusative</i>		<i>Dative</i>	
	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>
<i>First person</i>	me		me		nos		nos	
<i>Second person</i>	te		che		vos		vos	
<i>Third person</i>	o lo	a la	lle		os los	as las	lles	

	no	na		nos	nas	
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Examples:

- Desde aquí véxote ben.
I see you well from here.
- ¿Deiche o libro ou non?
Did I give you the book or not?

The distribution of the third person allomorphs is the following:

A) The form **o** / **a** occurs after verbs ending in a vowel or the consonant **-n**:

- Ámao (*ama* + *o*) She loves him.
- Ámano (*aman* + *o*) They love him.
- Cóllea (*colle* + *a*) Take her.
- Cólleo (*collen* + *o*) They take him.

B) The form **lo** / **la** occurs after verbs ending in the consonants **-s** or **-r**:

- Cóllelo (*colles* + *o*) You take him.
- Collelo (*coller* + *o*) To take him.
- Pártela (*partes* + *a*) You split it.
- Partila (*partir* + *a*) To split it.

C) The form **no** / **na** occurs after verbs ending in diphthong:

- Amouno (*amou* + *o*) She loved him.
- Colleuna (*colleu* + *a*) He took her.
- Partiuono (*partiu* + *o*) He split (past) it (masc.).

Though unstressed pronouns normally have central functions in clauses, they are sometimes syntactically optional. For example, in

- Dóecheme a cabeza. My head aches.

che is a so-called solidarity dative (optional) and **me** is the indirect object. In

- Déronlleme un premio ó cativo. They gave a prize to my child.

lle is the indirect object and **me** is a so-called dative of interest (optional).

The forms used as reflexive and reciprocal pronouns are: **me**, **te**, **se** (for the singular) and **nos**, **vos**, **se** (for the plural).

Unstressed reflexive pronouns can only function as direct objects:

- Antonio[a] lavouse[a].
Antonio[a] washed himself[a].

The form **se** is also used to avoid mentioning the agent of an action:

- Véndese esta casa.
This house is sold / is for sale.

The sequences of unstressed pronouns have a fixed order and some can be contracted with others:

- **Deicho** = *dei + che + o* I gave it to you;
- **Déillelo** = *dei + lles + lo* I gave it to them;
- **Dóuvolo** = *dou + vos + lo* I give it to you.

Pronoun Order (*Orde pronominal*)

In simple declarative or interrogative clauses, the pronoun usually follows the verb:

- Levoute de paseo.
He took you for a walk.
- Túa irmá tróuxovos un regalo.
Your sister brought you a present.
- Déronlle o caderno?
Did they give him the notebook?

In all other clauses, i.e., negative, subordinate, etc., the pronoun precedes the verb:

- A vendedora non me devolveu os cartos.
The saleswoman did not give me the money back.
- Alberte dixo que lle levases un vaso de auga.
Alberte said that you should bring take him a glass of water.
- Ogallá lle dean un premio.
I wish they would give him a prize.



Articles (*Artigos*)

Articles always precede the noun. They have inflections of number and gender, and they agree with the noun they determine. Articles can be used as pronouns:

- A saia de cor vermella séntache ben; **a** de cor azul estache grande.
The red skirt fits you; the blue one (=the skirt) is big for you.
- Helena foi cun vestido novo á festa; eu fun **cun** vello.
Helena wore a new dress in the party; I wore an old one (=a dress).

Articles can be either definite or indefinite:

Definite articles

Definite articles have two allomorphs in complementary distribution. The allomorph called *second form of the article* appears after words ending in *-s* or *-r*:

		Definite article		Contracted forms with prepositions				
		First form	Second form	a	ca	con	de	en
Masculine	Sg.	o	a	ó	có	co	do	no
	Pl.	os	as	ós	cós	cos	dos	nos
Feminine	Sg.	lo	la	á	cá	coa	da	na
	Pl.	los	las	ás	cás	coas	das	nas

Examples of the first form:

- Dáme **o** libro.
Give me the book.
- Cantan **os** rapaces.
The children sing.

Examples of the second form:

- ¿Laváche-**lo** coche?
Did you wash the car?
- Ela fai ximnasia tódalas mañás.
She takes exercise every morning.

In spelling, the second form of the article (*lo, la, los, las*) is used as follows:

- A dash is used after verb forms ending in *-s* or *-r*:
Ve-**lo** rapaz [= Ves + o rapaz]. You see the child.
Abri-**la** porta [= Abrir + a porta]. To open the door.
- A dash is used also after personal pronouns ending in *-s*:
Dálle-**las** gracias [= Dálles + as gracias]. Thank them.
- The dash is not used after the prepositions **por** for, through; **des** from; **tras** behind:
Vén **polo** camiño. He comes through the path;
Véxoo **dela** torre. I see him from the tower;
- The dash is not used after the plural indefinite adjective **todos** every, all:
Tódalas nenas coñecen ese conto. All the girls know that story.

The graphic representation of second forms is obligatory only when they follow the prepositions *por* and *tras*:

- pola mañá (*por a mañá) in the morning.

Indefinite articles

		Indefinite article	Contracted forms with prepositions		
			con	de	en
Masculine	Sg.	un	cun	dun	nun
	Pl.	unha	cuns	duns	nuns
Feminine	Sg.	uns	cunha	dunha	nunha
	Pl.	unhas	cunhas	dunhas	nunhas

Examples:

- Chegou de viaxe **dun** país europeo.
He arrived from a trip around a European country.
- Helena foi á festa **cun** vestido novo.
Helena went to the party with a new dress.
- O gato está **nunha** caixa.
The cat is in a box.



Determiners

(Determinantes)

Demonstratives *(Demonstrativos)*

Demonstratives can function as adjectives or nouns. The neutral pronoun can only have a nuclear function; it always is singular and hasn't plural form:

	<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>	
	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>
<i>First person</i>	este this	esta	esto isto	estes these	estas
<i>Second person</i>	ese that	esa	eso iso	eses those	esas
<i>Third person</i>	aquel that	aquela	aquelo aquilo	aqueles those	aquelas

Demonstratives are contracted with the prepositions *de* and *en*:

- deste / dese / daquel of + this, of + that;
- neste / nese / naquel in + this, in + that.

Examples:

- **Niso** non estamos de acordo.
About that we do not agree.
- Marchou **desa** casa para nunca volver.
He left that house for good.
- Dáme **eses** e queda ti con **estes**.
Give me those and you keep these.

Possessives *(Posesivos)*

Possessives agree in number and gender with the noun they determine, which expresses the thing that is possessed:

- o meu coche (*the + my + car*) my car;
- os meus coches (*the + my + cars*) my cars;
- a miña casa (*the + my + house*) my house;
- as miñas casas (*the + my + houses*) my houses.

Possessives also agree in person and number with the noun expressing the possessor:

- o meu coche (*possessor 1st person singular: the + my + car*) my car;
- o teu coche (*possessor 2nd person singular: the + your + car*) your car;
- o noso coche (*possessor 1st person plural: the + our + car*) our car;
- o voso coche (*possessor 2nd person plural: the + your + car*) your car.

	Single owner		Many owners	
	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i>
First person	meu my, mine	miña	noso our, ours	nosa
Second person	teu your, yours	túa	voso your, yours	vosa
Third person	seu his / his	súa her / hers	seus their, theirs	súas

Possessives must be preceded by a determiner:

- o meu can (*the + my + dog*) my dog;
- este meu can (*this + my + dog*) this dog of mine;
- un meu can (*a + my + dog*) a dog of mine;
- o can meu (*the + dog + mine*) my dog;
- este can meu (*this + dog + mine*) this dog of mine;
- un can meu (*a + dog + mine*) a dog of mine.

There is a possessive with distributive value: *cadanseu / cadanseus / cadansúa / cadansúas* each his.

Examples:

- Os nenos ían con cadanseu paraugas [= Os nenos ían cada un co seu paraugas].
The children had each his own umbrella.
- Fumade cadanseu cigarro e nada máis [= Fumade cada un o voso cigarro].
Smoke each of you your own cigarette.

The locutions *de meu, de teu, de seu, de noso, de voso, de seu* are used to express exclusive possession. They are invariable as regards gender and number, but they agree in person and number with the possessor:

- Dende hai cinco anos xa vivimos nunha casa de noso.
We have lived in a house of ours (in a house of our own) for five years.

Indefinites (*Indefinidos*)

Some indefinites have central functions, others function as determiners and others can have both functions. Depending on the meaning of the indefinites, there are two groups: *quantifiers* (they express quantity) and *identifiers* (they identify an element).

Quantifiers:

- máis **more**;
- menos **less**;
- nada **nothing**;
- pouco **a little**;

- todo **all**.

Identifiers:

- algún **some**;
- outro **another**;
- calquera **any**;

- tal **such**.

Examples:

- Dáme máis.
Give me more.
- ¿Queres unha pouca auga?
Do you want some water?

- Comeu toda a comida.
He ate all the food.

Examples:

- Algún dos presentes sabe quen fixo o crime.
Someone here knows who committed the crime.

- Non foi ese, foi outro que non digo.
It was not that one, it was another I will not mention.

Interrogatives, exclamatives and relatives

The pronouns that are used as interrogatives, exclamatives and relatives are:

- que **what, that**;
- quen **who, whom, that (only for persons)**;
- cal **which, that**.

The forms

- canto **how much / how many**;
- cando **when**;
- onde **where**;
- como **how**

can be used as interrogatives and relatives:

- ¿Quen sabe onde está?
Who knows where it is?
- ¿Cando vas?
When are you going?
- ¿Cantas queres?
How many do you want?
- ¿De que falas?
What are you talking about?

- ¡Que caro!
How expensive!
- ¡Canto falas!
How much you talk!
- A muller que me gusta é esa
The woman I like is that one
- O rapaz con quen falo non veu
The boy I talk to did not come

- ¿Como se fai iso?
How is that made?

- A casa á cal lle plantaron lume quedou derruída
The house they set on fire was ruined.



Numerals (*Numerais*)

See the [Latin numerals](#).

	Cardinal Numerals (<i>Numerais Cardinais</i>)	Ordinal Numerals (<i>Numerais Ordinais</i>)
1.	un, unha	primeiro
2.	dous, dúas	segundo
3.	tres	terceiro
4.	catro	cuarto
5.	cinco	quinto
6.	seis	sexto
7.	sete	sétimo
8.	oito	oitavo
9.	nove	noveno
10.	dez	décimo
11.	once	undécimo (décimo primeiro)
12.	doce	duodécimo (décimo segundo)
13.	trece	décimo terceiro
14.	catorce	<i>etc.</i>
15.	quince	
16.	dezaseis	
17.	dezasete	
18.	dezaeito	
19.	dezanove	
20.	vinte	vixésimo
21.	vinteún, vinteúnha	vixésimo primeiro
22.	vintedous, vintedúas	...
23.	vintetrés	...
30.	trinta	trixésimo
31.	trinta e un, trinta e unha	...

32.	trinta e dous, trinta e dúas	...
40.	corenta	cuadraxésimo
50.	cincuenta	quincuaxésimo
60.	sesenta	sesaxésimo
70.	setenta	septuaséximo
80.	oitenta	octoxésimo
90.	noventa	nonaxésimo
100.	cen	centésimo
200.	douscentos, -as	<i>etc.</i>
300.	trescentos, -as	
400.	catrocentos, -as	
500.	cincocentos, -as (quiñentos, -as)	
1,000.	mil	
1,100.	mil cen	
10,000.	dez mil	
100,000.	cen mil	
1,000,000.	un millón	

Number 34.987 is written *trinta e sete mil oitocentos noventa e sete*.

All cardinal numbers have gender and number, and they agree with the noun they modify:

- Chegou no vixésimo sétimo lugar
He arrived in twentieth place.



Verb (Verbo)

The verbal system has three different conjugations:

1. verbs with conjugation-vowel (a vowel between the root and grammatical suffixes that indicates the conjugation to which the verb belongs) **-a-** (first conjugation),
2. verbs with conjugation-vowel **-e-** (second conjugation)
3. and verbs with conjugation-vowel **-i-** (third conjugation).

Most verbs belong to one of these three regular models of conjugation, but some have various exceptions.

Within each paradigm, there are personal and impersonal forms (or non-finite forms: infinitive, gerund and participle).

Personal forms have all inflectional endings for person, number, mood and tense.

Impersonal forms do not have number nor person.

The infinitive is an exception, since it has a personal and an impersonal form, as in [Portuguese](#):

- Para **faceres** [2nd person singular] iso, non precisabas tanto ruído.
In order to [you] do that you did not have to do so much noise.
- Cómpre **comermos** [1st person plural] ben.
It is necessary to [we] eat well, we must eat well.
- Queremos **marchar** [impersonal form] antes das cinco da tarde.
We want to leave before 5.00 in the afternoon.

The morphological structure of Galician verbs is: root + conjugation-vowel + mood and tense suffix + number and person suffix.

For example: **comeremos** we will eat = **com** (root) + **-e-** (2nd conjugation) + **-re** (future and indicative suffix) + **mos** (1st person plural suffix).

There are two moods, namely indicative and subjunctive. The subjunctive mood includes the imperative.

The indicative includes 6 tenses:

Tenses of Indicative	Singular			Plural		
	1st person	2nd person	3rd person	1st person	2nd person	3rd person
Present	como I eat	comes	come	comemos	comedes	comen
Future	comerei I will eat	comerás	comerá	comeremos	comeredes	comerán
Past Simple	comín I ate	comiches	comeu	comemos	comestes	comeron
Imperfect	comía I was eating	comías	comía	comíamos	comiades	comían
Pluperfect	comera I had eaten	comeras	comera	comeramos	comerades	comeran
Future Perfect	comería I would eat	comerías	comería	comeríamos	comeriades	comerían

1. **Present** indicates simultaneity:
Hoxe non como na casa. Today I do not eat at home.
2. **Future** indicates future time:
Mañá non comerei na casa. Tomorrow I will not eat at home.
3. **Past simple** indicates past time:
Onte non **comín** na casa. Yesterday I did not eat at home.

4. **Imperfect** indicates that the action is simultaneous to another action that took place in the past:
Eu **comía** cando el chegou. **I was eating when he arrived.**
5. **Pluperfect** indicates that the action took place before a past action:
Eu **comera** cando el chegou. **I had eaten when he arrived.**
6. **Future Perfect** indicates that the action takes place after a past action:
Eu **comería** cando el chegase. **I would eat when he arrived.**

In the subjunctive there are only two tenses. They both depend on another temporal reference:

	<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>		
	<i>1st person</i>	<i>2nd person</i>	<i>3rd person</i>	<i>1st person</i>	<i>2nd person</i>	<i>3rd person</i>
Present	coma	comas	coma	comamos	comades	coman
Past	comese	comeses	comese	comesemos	comesedes	comesen
Imperative	--	¡come!	¡que coma!	--	¡comedede!	¡que coman!

Examples:

1. **Present Subjunctive:**
Mándoche que o **comas**. **I command you to eat it.**
Quizais hoxe **coman** polbo. **Perhaps they will eat octopus today.**
2. **Past simple Subjunctive:**
Mandouche que o comeses. **He told you to eat it.**
Se o comeses a modo non che facía mal. **If you ate it slowly it would not do you any harm.**

The imperative is included in the present subjunctive. It has forms of its own for the *2nd person sg. and pl.*, while for the other persons is expressed by means of the present subjunctive:

- ¡Come! **Eat!**
- ¡Que coman! **They must eat!**

Verbal periphrases express aspectual, modal or temporal meanings:

1. **imperfective aspect:**
Agora está a chover *or* Agora está chovendo.
Now it is raining.
2. **reiterative perfective aspect** (an action that is done more than once in the past):
Teño feito moitas trasnadas cando era neno.
I used to do many pranks when I was a child.
3. **passive perphrases:**
O ladrón foi visto polos veciños.
The thief was seen by the neighbours.
As sardiñas foron pescadas ó mencer.
The sardines were caught at dawn.

4. **future time:**
Ha de saír cando el queira.
He will go out when he wants to.

There are no compound tense forms in Galician.



Negation (*Negación*)

To express negation, the particle **non not** is used before the verb:

- Non quero que veñas.
I do not want you to come.
- Hoxe non é mércores.
Today it is not Wednesday.
- María non mercou o pan.
María did not buy the bread.

Double negation is obligatory in Galician:

- **Non** vexo **nada** raro.
I do not see anything strange (*literally*: I do not see nothing strange).
- Dentro do cine **non** había **ninguén**.
Inside the cinema there was not anybody (*literally*: Inside the cinema there was not nobody).
- **Non** vin xente **ningunha**.
I did not see any people (*literally*: I did not see no people).



Prepositions (*Preposicións*)

There are some basic simple prepositions:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • a to | • coma as, like | • durante during, for |
| • ante before | • con with | • en in |
| • ata until | • contra against, near | • onda in, where |
| • baixo under | • de of | |

- **ca** than
- **deica** from here to
- **para** for
- **canda** together with
- **des (desde/dende)** since, from
- **por** through, by
- **sobre** on *etc.*

Examples:

- **Contra** o río vai moito frío.
Near de river it is very cold.
- Ven **canda** min ó (**ao**) río.
Come with me to the river.
- Vou **deica** o río.
I am going from here to river.

There also some prepositional locutions (complex prepositions), which combine prepositions and other adverbial or nominal particles:

- **á beira de** beside
- **ó lado de** near
- **a través de** through
- **cara a** towards
- **antes de** before
- **en vez de** instead of
- **a prol de** in favour of
- **amais de** apart from
- **xunto de** beside *etc.*

Examples:

- Van descansar **á beira do** mar.
They are going to have a rest near the sea / on the seaside.
- **Antes de** ti estou eu.
I am before you.
- Traballan **a prol dunha** causa xusta.
They are in favour of a fair cause.



Conjunctions (*Conxuncións*)

There are some basic simple conjunctions:

- **e (e mais)** and
- **nin** neither ... nor
- **ou** or
- **mais** however, but
- **pero** but
- **que** that
- **se** if *etc.*

Examples:

- Se vas a Lugo, avísame.
If you go to Lugo, let me know.
- ¿Queres pan **ou** queixo?
Do you want bread or cheese?
- Díxome **que** non viña.
He told me he did not come.

Most conjunctive locutions are formed with a preposition or with a prepositional locution together with the conjunction *que*:

- **Desde** que chegou anda raro.
Since he arrived he behaves in a strange way.
- **Antes de que** saias fala comigo.
Before you go, talk to me.



Word Order (*Orde das palabras*)

The most common word-order is *Subject-Verb-Object*, though other are also possible.

Examples:

Subject-Verb-Object

- A miña veciña levou o coche ó taller.
My neighbour took her car to the garage.
- Os paxaros escondéronse entre as pólas da árbore.
The birds hid among the branches of the tree.
- O tren chegou con moito retraso.
The train arrived with much delay.

Object-Verb-Subject

- Este peixe comprouno teu irmán na praza.
Your brother bought this fish in the market. (*literally*: This fish bought it your brother in the market.)

Verb-Subject-Object

- ¿Xa trouxo María os nosos regalos?
Has María already brought our presents? (*literally*: Already brought María our presents?)

Adverbial elements can appear at the beginning of the utterance:

- Onte fomos de excursión pola montaña.
Yesterday we went on a trip to the mountain.
- Naquel armario está a roupa de inverno.
In that wardrobe are the winter clothes.



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A

Aeroplane	Avión
Afternoon	Serán
Agent	Axente
Alcohol	Alcohol
Animal	Animal



Up

B

Bagpiper	Gaiteiro
Bagpipes	Gaita
Barnacle	Percebe
Beach	Praia
Bed	Cama
Beer	Cervexa
Before	Antes
Bicycle	Bicicleta
Bill	Conta
Bird	Paxaro
Blond	Roxo
Boarding-house	Pensión
Border	Beiravía
Bread	Pan
Bridge	Ponte
Broth, galician soap	Caldo
Bus	Bus
Buy	Comprar

⤴ Up

C

Camp	Acampar
Castle	Castelo
Cathedral	Catedral
Caw	Vaca
Celtic village	Castro
Century	Século
Clam	Ameixa
Clean	Limpar
Closed	Pechado
Clothing	Roupa
Cod	Bacallao
Cold	Carraspeira
Corn bread	Broa
Corridor	Corredor
Counter	Mostrador
Crayfish	Langosta
Crêpe	Filloa
Crossroads	Encrucillada
Cup	Cunca
Customs-house	Alfândega
Chair	Cadeira
Change	Troco
Chapel	Capela
Cheese	Queixo
Chemist's	Farmacia
Chicken	Polo

⤴ Up

D

Danger	Perigo
Dark	Moreno
Day	Día
Difficult	Difícil
Disco	Discoteca
Dish	Prato
Ditch	Foxo
Doctor	Doutor
Dog	Can
Dolmen	Dolmen
Door	Porta
Down	Abaixo

⤴ Up

E F

Easy	Doado
Egg	Ovo
Eight	Oito
Employee	Empregado

Far	Lonxe
Find	Atopar
Fire	Lume
First aid kit	Botiquín
Fish	Peixe
Five	Cinco
Flight	Voo
Fog	Brétema
Fork	Garfo
Four	Catro
Friend n.f.	Amiga
Friend n.m.	Amigo
Fruit	Froita

⤴ Up

G

Galician spirit "burning water"	Augardente
Galician traditional tune	Muiñeira
Garbage	Lixo
Garlic	Allo
Get up	Erguerse
Glass	Vaso
Go to bed	Deitarse
Granary	Hórreo
Green	Verde

⤴ Up

H

Hake	Pescada
Ham	Xamón
Hand	Man
Handkerchief	Pano
Have breakfast	Almorzar
Have dinner	Cear
Have lunch	Xantar
Here	Aquí
Horse	Cabalo
Hot	Quente
Hotel	Hotel
How much?	Canto?
Hundred	Cen

⤴ Up

I J

Ice	Xeo
Inside	Dentro
Island	Illa
Jewel	Xoia

⏪ Up

K L

Key	Chave
Knife	Coitelo
Land	Terra
Late	Tarde
Laugh	Rir
Left	Esquerda
Left luggage office	Consigna
Less	Menos
Letter	Carta
Light	Luz
Lost	Perdido
Love	Amar
Luggage	Equipaxe

M

Magazine	Revista
Man	Home
Map	Mapa
Match	Misto
Message	Mensaxe
Milk	Leite
Money	Cartos
Moon	Lua
More	Máis
Morning. Tomorrow	Mañá
Motorway	Autoestrada
Much	Moito
Mushroom	Cogumelo
Mussel	Mexillón

⏪ Up

N O

Name	Nome
Needle	Agulla
Newspaper	Xornal
Night	Noite
Nine	Nove
Noble house	Pazo
Nothing	Nada
Oakwood	Carballeira
Octopus	Polbo
One	Un
Open	Aberto

⏪ Up

P

Party	Festa
Passage	Pasaxe
Passport	Pasaporte
Phone	Teléfono
Pie (meat)	Empanada
Pig	Cocho
Pin	Alfinete
Platform	Plataforma
Pocket	Peto
Policeman	Policía
Pork	Porco
Pork sausage	Chourizo
Port	Porto
Present, gift	Agasallo
Priest	Crego
Private	Privado

⬆️ Up

Q R

Quay	Peirao
Rain	Chover
Read	Ler
Red-haired	Rubio
Rent	Alugar
Repeat	Repetir
Rest	Descansar
Right	Dereita
River	Río
Road	Estrada
Roast	Asado
Room	Cuarto
Route	Rota

⬆️ Up

S

Sand	Area
School	Escola
Sea	Mar
Seafood	Marisco
Sell	Vender
Send	Mandar
Seven	Sete
Sheet	Saba
Ship	Barco
Shoulder of pork	Lacón
Show	Espectáculo
Sign	Sinal
Six	Seis
Sleep	Durmir
Slow	Amodo

Smile	Sorriso
Soap	Xabron
Soon	Cedo
Spoon	Culler
Squid	Chipiron
Stamp	Selo
Station	Estacion
Stone	Pedra
Strawberry	Morango
Street	Rua
Sun	Sol
Sweet	Doce
Switch	Interruptor

⤴ Up

T

Tap	Billa
Taxi	Taxi
Ten	Dez
Thousand	Mil
Three	Tres
Ticket collector	Revisor
Today	Hoxe
Train	Tren
Tree	Arbore
Turnip tops	Grelos
Twenty	Vinte
Two	Dous

⤴ Up

U W Y

Umbrella	Paraugas
Walk	Andar
Warm	Morno
Water	Auga
Waterfall	Fervenza
Wave	Onda
When?	Cando?
Where?	Onde?
Wind	Ar
Window	Fiestra
Wine	Viño
Witch	Meiga
Woman	Muller
Wood, forest	Fraga
Yesterday	Onte