SOFTWARE & TECH

How To Say Play Video Games In Spanish

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795580571066200

Unlocking the Language of Play: How To Say Play Video Games In Spanish

Video games have become a universal language, connecting players across continents and cultures. Whether you are diving into a cooperative campaign in *Valorant*, exploring the vast landscapes of *The Legend of Zelda*, or building your dream city in *SimCity*, the joy of gaming transcends borders. But when you want to invite a Spanish-speaking friend to join you, or you are reading game instructions in Spanish, knowing the right phrase becomes essential. The direct question of **how to say play video games in Spanish**might seem simple, but the answer involves verb conjugation, context, and even regional slang. This comprehensive guide will take you through every nuance, ensuring you never fumble for the right words again.

Learning to talk about gaming in Spanish does not just expand your vocabulary; it opens the door to a massive community of over 500 million Spanish speakers worldwide. From the bustling gaming cafes of Mexico City to the competitive esports arenas of Buenos Aires and Madrid, gaming culture is vibrant. Understanding how to express this simple action correctly is the first step toward deeper connection and more authentic communication. Let us dissect the phrase, explore its variations, and equip you with the linguistic tools to game like a native speaker.

The Core Phrase: Jugar Videojuegos

The most straightforward and universally understood answer to **how to say play video games in Spanish** is **"jugar videojuegos"**. This phrase is the direct translation and is recognized across all Spanish-speaking regions. Let us break it down:

- Jugar: This is the infinitive verb meaning "to play." It is a stem-changing verb (u to ue), which means it conjugates irregularly in many tenses.
- Videojuegos: This is the noun for "video games." It is a compound word combining "video" and "juegos" (games).

Using this phrase is grammatically correct and perfectly understandable. You can use it in formal writing, academic contexts, or when speaking with someone you do not know well. For example:

- "Me gusta jugar videojuegos en mi tiempo libre." (I like to play video games in my free time.)
- "¿Te gusta jugar videojuegos?" (Do you like to play video games?)

Common Variation: Jugar a los Videojuegos

In Spain, you will often encounter a slight variation: **"jugar a los videojuegos"**. The preposition **"a"** is inserted between the verb and the noun. This is a characteristic of Peninsular Spanish, where the verb "jugar" frequently

requires the preposition "a" when followed by a specific game. While both forms are understood in Spain, using "jugar a" sounds more natural to a Spaniard. In Latin America, the simpler "jugar videojuegos" is the standard. So, if you want to sound natural to a Spanish audience, you can say "jugar a los videojuegos."

Conjugating "Jugar" for Gaming Conversations

Knowing the infinitive is just the beginning. To speak fluently, you need to conjugate the verb. Here is how "jugar" changes in the present tense, which is the most common tense for discussing your gaming habits:

Pronoun	Conjugation	Example Sentence
Yo (I)	Juego	"Yo juego videojuegos todos los días." (I play video games every day.)
Tú (You, informal)	Juegas	"¿Tú juegas videojuegos?" (Do you play video games?)
Él/Ella/Usted (He/She/You formal)	Juega	"Él juega videojuegos por la noche." (He plays video games at night.)
Nosotros (We)	Jugamos	"Nosotros jugamos videojuegos en línea." (We play video games online.)
Vosotros (You all, Spain informal)	Jugáis	"¿Vosotros jugáis a los videojuegos?" (Do you all play video games?)
Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes (They/You all formal)	Juegan	"Ellos juegan videojuegos competitivos." (They play competitive video games.)

Past Tense and Future Tense Examples

To help you express yourself in different time frames, here are examples using the preterite (past) and simple future tenses:

- Past (Preterite): "Ayer jugué videojuegos con mis amigos." (Yesterday I played video games with my friends.)
- Past (Imperfect): "Cuando era niño, jugaba videojuegos todo el tiempo." (When I was a child, I used to play video games all the time.)
- Future (Simple): "Mañana jugaré al nuevo Zelda." (Tomorrow I will play the new Zelda.)
- Future (Periphrastic): "Voy a jugar videojuegos esta tarde." (I am going to play video games this afternoon.)

Regional Slang and Alternative Expressions

While "jugar videojuegos" is correct, the gaming community has developed its own vibrant slang. If you want to sound like a local, learning these alternatives is key to mastering **how to say play video games in Spanish**in a more casual or regional way:

Viciar (Spain)

In Spain, the verb **"viciar"**is incredibly popular among gamers. It literally means "to become addicted" or "to viciate," but in gaming slang, it means "to play a lot" or "to be hooked on a game." It carries a connotation of playing obsessively or for long hours. For example:

- "Este fin de semana voy a viciar al Call of Duty." (This weekend I am going to play Call of Duty obsessively.)
- "Dejé de viciar tanto porque me dolía la espalda." (I stopped playing so much because my back hurt.)

The noun form is **"un vicio"** (an addiction/hobby), and a person who plays excessively is called **"un viciado"** or **"una viciada"**.

Jugar al Vicio (Latin America, informal)

In some Latin American countries, particularly in the Caribbean and parts of Central America, you might hear "jugar al vicio". This is another colloquial way to say "play video games," often implying a casual, fun, or slightly addictive session. It is less common than "viciar" in Spain but is recognized regionally.

Echar Partida / Echar una Partida

This phrase translates to "to throw a match" or "to have a game." It is used across many Spanish-speaking countries when referring to a specific session or match of a video game. It is especially common for competitive games like FIFA, League of Legends, or fighting games.

- "¿Quieres echar una partida al FIFA?" (Do you want to play a match of FIFA?)
- "Vamos a echar unas partidas rápidas." (Let's play a few quick matches.)

Meterle / Darle (Mexico and Central America)

In Mexican and Central American slang, you will often hear the verbs **"meterle"** or **"darle"**used in the context of playing video games. They mean "to get into it" or "to go at it."

- "Voy a meterle al Fortnite toda la noche." (I'm going to play Fortnite all night.)
- "Dale al Call of Duty." (Go play Call of Duty / Get into Call of Duty.)

How to Say Specific Gaming Actions

Beyond the basic phrase, you will need to describe specific actions. Here is a vocabulary list that will help you navigate gaming conversations in Spanish:

Common Gaming Verbs

- Desbloquear: To unlock (a level, character, or achievement).
- Subir de nivel / Level up: To level up.
- Salvar / Guardar: To save (the game).
- Pausar: To pause.
- Morir: To die.
- Revivir / Respawn: To respawn or revive.
- Completar / Pasar: To complete or beat (the game). "Pasé el juego." (I beat the game.)
- Farmear: To farm (grind for resources). This is a widely accepted anglicism.
- Trolear: To troll.
- Hacer trampa: To cheat.

Gaming Genres in Spanish

- Aventura gráfica: Adventure game.
- Juego de rol (JRPG / RPG): Role-playing game.
- Juego de disparos en primera persona (FPS): First-person shooter.
- Juego de estrategia en tiempo real (RTS): Real-time strategy.
- Juego de deportes: Sports game.
- Juego de carreras: Racing game.
- Videojuego indie: Indie game.
- Battle Royale: Battle royale (used as is).

Phrases for Inviting Others to Play

Knowing **how to say play video games in Spanish**is most useful when you want to invite someone to join you. Here are some natural phrases you can use:

1. "¿Quieres jugar conmigo?" (Do you want to play with me?) - Simple and direct.
2. "¿Te animas a echar una partida?" (Are you up for a game?) - Casual and friendly.

3. "Vamos a viciar un rato." (Let's play for a while.) - Very casual, Spain.
4. "¿Jugamos algo?" (Let's play something?) - A common, informal invitation.
5. "Conéctate y jugamos." (Log in and let's play.) - Perfect for online gaming.
6. "Te invito a jugar." (I invite you to play.) - More polite and formal.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Even with the best vocabulary, learners often make small errors. Here are some pitfalls to watch out for when learning **how to say play video games in Spanish**:

- Using "jugar" without the correct preposition in Spain: In Spain, "jugar a" is often required. Saying "jugar videojuegos" instead of "jugar a los videojuegos" can sound slightly off to a Spaniard.

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