

11. La familia de Esther - The Learning Section

Grammar

SAYING 'YOU': TÚ, USTED

'Tú' and 'usted' are both ways of saying 'you' when talking to one person

'Tú' is used mostly with friends, family or by adults when they speak to children

tú	you (informal)
¿Tú dónde vives?	Where do you live? (informal)

'Usted' is formal. It's used with elderly people, people you don't know very well and often in business relationships

usted	you (formal)
¿Usted dónde vive?	Where do you live? (formal)

The verb endings for 'usted' are the same as the ones for 'tú' but without the final 's'

¿Dónde vives (tú)?	Where do you live? (informal)
¿Dónde vive (usted)?	Where do you live? (formal)
¿Cómo estás (tú)?	How are you? (informal)
¿Cómo está (usted)?	How are you? (formal)

More often than not, Spanish people don't actually say 'usted' or 'tú'

They rely on these verb endings to convey the difference