

Understanding "Doler" in Spanish

The Spanish verb "**doler**" (to hurt) can be tricky for English speakers. It works more like "**gustar**" (to like). The pain-causing thing is the subject, not the person experiencing pain.



The Structure of "Doler"

Like "Gustar"

"**Me gusta el helado**" (The ice cream is pleasing to me)

With "Doler"

"**Me duele la cabeza**" (The head hurts me)

¿Qué Duele? (Sujeto de la Oración)

Singular

La cabeza duele. (The head hurts.)

Plural

Los pies duelen. (The feet hurt.)



To Whom Does it Hurt?



Me (To me)

Me duele el estómago.



Te (To you - familiar)

Te duelen los pies.



Le (To him/her/you - formal)

Le duele la rodilla.



Nos (To us)

Nos duelen las espaldas.

These indirect object pronouns show who experiences the pain.

Putting it Together

1

To me + hurts + the head

Me duele la cabeza.

2

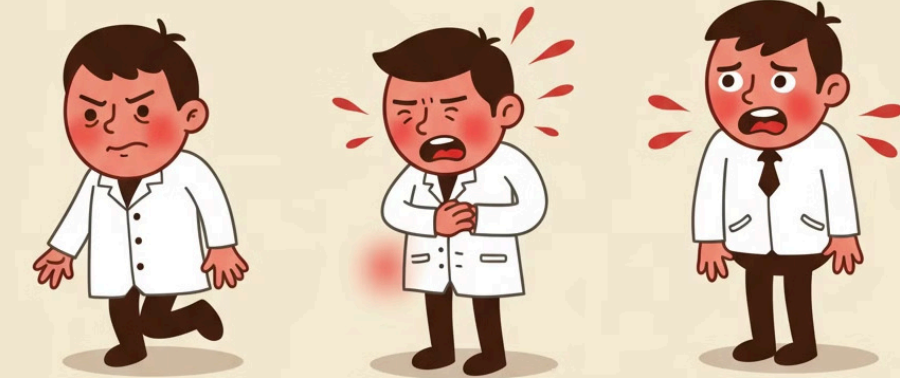
To you + hurt + the feet

Te duelen los pies.

3

To him/her + hurts + the throat

Le duele la garganta.



Simple Examples

Me duele la mano.

My hand hurts.

Te duele el ojo.

Your eye hurts.

Le duele la pierna.

His/Her leg hurts.

Key Points to Remember

- 1 Don't say "Yo duelo"**
Focus on what hurts (the body part).
- 2 Use "duele" or "duelen"**
"Duele" for one body part, "duelen" for more than one.
- 3 Always use pronouns**
Use "me," "te," "le," "nos," "os," or "les."

Using "Tener" (To Have)

"Tener dolor de..."

Closer to "I have a pain in..."

- **Tengo dolor de cabeza.** (I have a headache.)
- **Tiene dolor de estómago.** (He/She has a stomachache.)

Remember

"**Doler**" is about something hurting you, not you hurting. Focus on the body part and use the correct pronoun.