The Infinitive

An infinitive is a verb that means “to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” In Spanish, we know that all infinitives are categorized by their last two letters.

-ar infinitives (cantar, dibujar, patinar, nadar)

-er infinitives (correr, comer, leer, hacer)

-ir infintives (escribir, decidir, vivir)

In English an infinitive always starts with “to.” In Spanish an infinitive always ends with –ar, -er, or –ir.

Examples:

Jugar: to play

Hacer: to do, to make

Escribir: to write

When you say someone likes an activity, you are saying that the person likes an infinitive. Always use gusta, not gustan, to tell activities people like/dislike.

A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me gusta \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 (person/people) te (infinitive)

 le

 nos

 os

 les

Compare these sentences:

A Carla le gusta la novela.

A Carla le gustan las novelas.

A Carla le gusta leer novelas.

Why is gusta used in two sentences and gustan is used in one sentence?

Gusta is used for liking singular things or activities.

Gustan is only used for liking plural things.