

# Rutgers Learning Centers

At Camden Campus

## SPANISH: FORMS OF THE PRONOUN "YOU"

		SINGULAR	PLURAL
FORMAL POLITE	=	Usted (Ud.)	Ustedes (Uds.)
INFORMAL FAMILIAR	=	tú	vosotros, vosotras *

\* Many countries do not use this form of "you," especially those in Latin America.

Spanish has **four different words** which are translated "you" in English. This may seem confusing at first, but think about why:

1. When greeting **one** friend, it is common to ask, "How are you?"
2. When greeting **a group** of friends, it is also common to ask, "How are you?"

What's the difference? In the first example, you are talking to one person. In the second example, you are talking to more than one person. Yet, the word "you" is used in both cases. This is because in English there is not a different word to use when talking to one person (singular form), or when talking to a group of people (plural form). Spanish has different words for these two cases. In addition, Spanish has different forms of the word "you" to address someone formally (called the formal or polite form) or casually (called the informal or familiar form).

### TO CHOOSE A FORM OF THE PRONOUN "YOU" IN SPANISH, CONSIDER:

1. Is the subject **singular or plural?** **AND**
2. Is the use **formal or informal?**

(Please see other side for examples.)

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