

Impersonal constructions with "se"

"Se" can be used in sentences where it does not refer to any specific person

- **Se** habla español en España.
They (people, one) speak(s) Spanish in Spain.
- **Se** necesita estudiar mucho en esta clase.
People (you, we, one) need(s) to study a lot in this class.

"Se" is commonly used in signs and postings.

- **Se** prohíbe fumar.

There are 3 possible English translations:

- *Smoking is prohibited.*
- *People cannot smoke.*
- *No smoking.*

“Se” is also used in sentences which refer to a specific object(s):

- **Se necesita** una secretaria bilingüe.
*A bilingual secretary **is needed**.*
- **Se necesitan** dos secretarias bilingües.
*Two bilingual secretaries **are needed**.*

The verb changes depending on whether the object is singular or plural. Either the **él** or **ellos** form is used.

All tenses can be used in this type of sentence.

- **Se hace** mucho trabajo hoy.
*A lot of work **is done** today.*
- **Se hizo** muy poco ayer.
*Very little **was done** yesterday.*
