

## Saber vs Conocer

In Spanish, there are two verbs that express the idea "to know." These two verbs are "**saber**" and "**conocer**." The verb you choose depends upon the context in which it is used.

These verbs are **not** interchangeable.

**- To express knowledge or ignorance of a fact or information about something, use "saber."**

Juan sabe donde está María.  
Juan knows where Maria is.

Yo no sé tu número de teléfono.  
I don't know your telephone number.

**- To say that one is or is not acquainted with a person, a place, or an object, use "conocer".**

Yo no conozco a María.  
I don't know (am not acquainted with) Maria.

Alberto y Alfredo conocen Madrid.  
Alberto and Alfredo know Madrid.

**- To express knowledge or ignorance of a subject or learning discipline, use saber or conocer, depending upon the context.**

Juan no sabe nada de inglés.  
Juan doesn't know any English.

Juan conoce la literatura española.  
Juan is familiar with Spanish literature.

**- To express knowledge or ignorance of a skill, or how to do something, use saber + infinitive.**

María sabe conducir.  
Maria knows how to drive.

No sé nadar muy bien.  
I don't know how to swim very well.

**- To say that you know something by heart, use saber.**

María sabe los verbos irregulares.  
Maria knows the irregular verbs (by heart).

Ella no sabe la letra de esa canción.  
She doesn't know the words to that song.

The situation with regards to the correct use of **saber** and **conocer** can be summarized as follows:

**saber**

*to know a fact, to know something thoroughly, to know how to do something.*

**conocer**

*to be acquainted with a person, place, or thing.*

Source: studyspanish.com