

## The five verbs in Spanish meaning **TO BECOME**

**Hacerse** (literally: “to make oneself”) + noun

It means to take on new status, usually in a natural way; often used with professions, appointments, or elected positions.

**Ejemplos:**

- Los Varela **se hicieron** vecinos nuestros.

The Varelas became neighbors of ours.

- El Sr. Rojas **se hizo** director de la compañía el año pasado.

Mr. Rojas became director of the company last year.

- La niña dice que quiere **hacerse** presidente algún día.

The little girl says she wants to become president someday.

**Llegar a ser** (literally: to arrive to be) + noun or adjective.

Emphasizes the time/effort it took to arrive at the new state.

**Ejemplos:**

- El pintor Van Gogh **llegó a ser** famoso sólo después de morir.

The painter Van Gogh became famous only after his death.

- Además de talento, se requiere mucho entrenamiento para **llegar a ser** cantante de ópera.

Besides talent, it takes a lot of training to become an opera singer.

- ¿Por qué le costó tantos años para **llegar a ser** bilingüe?

Why did it take him (cost him) so many years to become bilingual?

(because he didn't plug into Adiós Gringo Lingo!)

**Convertirse en** (literally: to convert oneself into) + noun  
It indicates a change *in substance* from one thing to another.

**Ejemplos:**

- **De noche, el doctor Jekyll se convertía en el señor Hyde.**  
At night, Dr. Jekyll became Mr. Hyde.
- **El agua del lago se convirtió en una sólida capa de hielo.**  
The lake water became a solid layer of ice.
- **A veces, una desgracia puede convertirse en una bendición.**  
Sometimes, a misfortune can become a blessing.

**Ponerse + adjective**

It indicates a change in physical or mental condition, and is often translated *get/got* nervous, sick, suspicious, excited, etc.

**Ejemplos:**

- **Me puse nerviosa cuando la profe dijo “prueba de sorpresa.”**  
I got nervous when the teacher said “pop quiz.”
- **Los dos se pusieron enfermos durante el vuelo de vuelta.**  
They both got sick during the return flight.
- **Los niños van a ponerse contentos con los regalos de Navidad.**  
The kids are going to be happy with the Christmas presents.
- **Mi tía flaca se puso bien gordita durante la cuarentena de Covid.** My skinny aunt got really chubby during the Covid quarantine.

## **Volverse** + adjective or noun

This indicates a drastic or involuntary psychological change, but its most frequent use is with the adjective *loco*, whether its meaning is literal or figurative.

### **Ejemplos:**

- **Mamá dijo, “¡Me estoy volviendo loca con tus quejas!”**  
Mom said, “I’m going crazy with your complaints!”
- **El soldado se volvió loco por lo que sufrió en la guerra.**  
The soldier went crazy from what he suffered in the war.
- **Al ganar la lotería, los vecinos se han vuelto arrogantes.**  
Upon winning the lottery, the neighbors have become arrogant.

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