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SUMMARY OF TENSES

Spanish verbs have fourteen tenses, seven simple and seven compound. The changes that a verb undergoes in different tenses and moods are accomplished by use of endings and auxiliaries. Their systematic arrangement is called conjugation.

Verbs are divided into three classes according to their infinitive endings:

-ar	-er	-ir
jugar	vender	vivir
to play	to sell	to live

The **-er** and **-ir** forms differ in four ways:

- [1] infinitive
- [2] first person plural, present indicative
- [3] second person plural, present indicative
- [4] second person plural, imperative

Spanish

English

Simple Tenses Indicative

Presente: Yo juego	<u>Present:</u> I play / I do play	Present Continuous: I am playing
Pretérito: Yo jugué	<u>Simple Past:</u> I played / I did play	
Imperfecto: Yo jugaba	<u>Imperfect:</u> I played / I used to play	Past Continuous: I was playing
Futuro: Yo jugaré	<u>Future:</u> I will / shall play I am going to play	Future Continuous: I will be playing
Condicional Simple: Yo jugaría	<u>Conditional:</u> I would play	Conditional Continuous: I would be playing

Compound Tenses Indicative

Pretérito Perfecto: Yo he jugado	<u>Present Perfect:</u> I have played	Present Perfect Continuous: I have been playing
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Pretérito Anterior:

Yo hube jugado

Past Anterior:

I had played

Pluscuamperfecto:

Yo había jugado

Past Perfect:

I had played

Past Perfect Continuous:

I had been playing

Futuro Perfecto:

Yo habré jugado

Future Perfect:

I shall have played

I will have played

Condicional Compuesto:

Yo habría jugado

Conditional Perfect:

I would have played

Simple Tenses Subjunctive**Presente:**

Yo juegue

Present Subjunctive:

[that] I may play

Imperfecto:

Yo jugara

or

Yo jugase

Imperfect Subjunctive:

[that] I might play

Compound Tenses Subjunctive**Pretérito Perfecto:**

Yo haya jugado

Past Subjunctive:

[that] I may have played

Pluscuamperfecto:

Yo hubiera jugado

or

Yo hubiese jugado

Past Perfect Subjunctive:

[that] I might have played

Related Topics:[Contents](#)[Verbs](#)

ESTAR, SER, IR, & TENER Conjugations

The Spanish **estar**, **ser**, **ir**, and **tener** are commonly used irregular verbs. They are conjugated as follows:

ESTAR (to be)

Present / Present Continuous (I am)

Singular:

1. **estoy**
2. **estás**
3. **está**

Plural:

1. **estamos**
2. **estáis**
3. **están**

Simple Past (I was)

Singular:

1. **estuve**
2. **estuviste**
3. **estuvo**

Plural:

1. **estuvimos**
2. **estuvisteis**
3. **estuvieron**

Imperfect / Past Continuous (I was / I used to)

Singular:

1. **estaba**
2. **estabas**
3. **estaba**

Plural:

1. **estábamos**
2. **estabais**
3. **estaban**

Future / Future Continuous (I will be / am going to be)

Singular:

1. **estaré**
2. **estarás**
3. **estará**

Plural:

1. **estaremos**
2. **estaréis**
3. **estarán**

Conditional / Conditional Continuous (I would be)

Singular:

1. **estaría**

Present Perfect / Present Perfect Continuous (I have been)

Singular:

1. **he estado**
2. **has estado**
3. **ha estado**

Plural:

1. **hemos estado**
2. **habéis estado**
3. **han estado**

Past Anterior (I had been)

Singular:

1. **hube estado**
2. **hubiste estado**
3. **hubo estado**

Plural:

1. **hubimos estado**
2. **hubisteis estado**
3. **hubieron estado**

Past Perfect / Past Perfect Continuous (I had been)

Singular:

1. **había estado**
2. **habías estado**
3. **había estado**

Plural:

1. **habíamos estado**
2. **habíais estado**
3. **habían estado**

Future Perfect (I will have been)

Singular:

1. **habré estado**
2. **habrás estado**
3. **habrá estado**

Plural:

1. **habremos estado**
2. **habréis estado**
3. **habrán estado**

Conditional Perfect (I would have been)

Singular:

1. **habría estado**

2. estarías
3. estaría

Plural:

1. estaríamos
2. estaríais
3. estarían

Present Subjunctive
(that I may be)

Singular:

1. esté
2. estés
3. esté

Plural:

1. estemos
2. estéis
3. estén

Imperfect Subjunctive
(that I might be)

Singular:

1. estuviera
2. estuvieras
3. estuviera

Plural:

1. estuviéramos
2. estuvierais
3. estuvieran

or

Singular:

1. estuviese
2. estuvieses
3. estuviese

Plural:

1. estuviésemos
2. estuvieseis
3. estuviesen

SER (to be)

Present / Present Continuous
(I am)

Singular:

1. soy
2. eres
3. es

Plural:

1. somos
2. sois
3. son

Simple Past

2. habrías estado
3. habría estado

Plural:

1. habríamos estado
2. habríais estado
3. habrían estado

Past Subjunctive
(that I may have been)

Singular:

1. haya estado
2. hayas estado
3. haya estado

Plural:

1. hayamos estado
2. hayáis estado
3. hayan estado

Past Perfect Subjunctive
(that I might have been)

Singular:

1. hubiera estado
2. hubieras estado
3. hubiera estado

Plural:

1. hubiéramos estado
2. hubierais estado
3. hubieran estado

Singular:

1. hubiese estado
2. hubieses estado
3. hubiese estado

Plural:

1. hubiésemos estado
2. hubieseis estado
3. hubiesen estado

Present Perfect / Present Perfect Continuous
(I have been)

Singular:

1. he sido
2. has sido
3. ha sido

Plural:

1. hemos sido
2. habéis sido
3. han sido

Past Anterior

(I was)

Singular:

1. fui
2. fuiste
3. fue

Plural:

1. fuimos
2. fuisteis
3. fueron

Imperfect / Past Continuous

(I was / I used to)

Singular:

1. era
2. eras
3. era

Plural:

1. éramos
2. erais
3. eran

Future / Future Continuous

(I will be / am going to be)

Singular:

1. seré
2. serás
3. será

Plural:

1. seremos
2. seréis
3. serán

Conditional / Conditional Continuous

(I would be)

Singular:

1. sería
2. serías
3. sería

Plural:

1. seríamos
2. seríais
3. serían

Present Subjunctive

(that I may be)

Singular:

1. sea
2. seas
3. sea

Plural:

1. seamos
2. seáis
3. sean

(I had been)

Singular:

1. hube sido
2. hubiste sido
3. hubo sido

Plural:

1. hubimos sido
2. hubisteis sido
3. hubieron sido

Past Perfect / Past Perfect Continuous

(I had been)

Singular:

1. había sido
2. habías sido
3. había sido

Plural:

1. habíamos sido
2. habíais sido
3. habían sido

Future Perfect

(I will have been)

Singular:

1. habré sido
2. habrás sido
3. habrá sido

Plural:

1. habremos sido
2. habréis sido
3. habrán sido

Conditional Perfect

(I would have been)

Singular:

1. habría sido
2. habrías sido
3. habría sido

Plural:

1. habríamos sido
2. habríais sido
3. habrían sido

Past Subjunctive

(that I may have been)

Singular:

1. haya sido
2. hayas sido
3. haya sido

Plural:

1. hayamos sido
2. hayáis sido
3. hayan sido

Imperfect Subjunctive
(that I might be)

Singular:

1. fuera
2. fueras
3. fuera

Plural:

1. fuéramos
2. fuerais
3. fueran

or

Singular:

1. fuese
2. fueses
3. fuese

Plural:

1. fuésemos
2. fueseis
3. fuesen

Past Perfect Subjunctive
(that I might have been)

Singular:

1. hubiera sido
2. hubieras sido
3. hubiera sido

Plural:

1. hubiéramos sido
2. hubierais sido
3. hubieran sido

Singular:

1. hubiese sido
2. hubieses sido
3. hubiese sido

Plural:

1. hubiésemos sido
2. hubieseis sido
3. hubiesen sido

IR (to go)

Present / Present Continuous
(I go / I am going)

Singular:

1. voy
2. vas
3. va

Plural:

1. vamos
2. vais
3. van

Present Perfect / Present Perfect Continuous
(I have gone)

Singular:

1. he ido
2. has ido
3. ha ido

Plural:

1. hemos ido
2. habéis ido
3. han ido

Simple Past
(I went)

Singular:

1. fui
2. fuiste
3. fue

Plural:

1. fuimos
2. fuisteis
3. fueron

Past Anterior
(I had gone)

Singular:

1. hube ido
2. hubiste ido
3. hubo ido

Plural:

1. hubimos ido
2. hubisteis ido
3. hubieron ido

Imperfect / Past Continuous
(I went / I used to go)

Singular:

1. iba
2. ibas
3. iba

Plural:

Past Perfect / Past Perfect Continuous
(I had gone)

Singular:

1. había ido
2. habías ido
3. había ido

Plural:

1. íbamos
2. ibais
3. iban

Future / Future Continuous
(I will go / I am going to go)

Singular:

1. iré
2. irás
3. irá

Plural:

1. iremos
2. iréis
3. irán

Conditional / Conditional Continuous
(I would go)

Singular:

1. iría
2. irías
3. iría

Plural:

1. iríamos
2. iríais
3. irían

Present Subjunctive
(that I may go)

Singular:

1. vaya
2. vayas
3. vaya

Plural:

1. vayamos
2. vayáis
3. vayan

Imperfect Subjunctive
(that I might go)

Singular:

1. fuera
2. fueras
3. fuera

Plural:

1. fuéramos
2. fuerais
3. fueran

or

Singular:

1. fuese
2. fueses
3. fuese

Plural:

1. habíamos ido
2. habíais ido
3. habían ido

Future Perfect
(I will have gone)

Singular:

1. habré ido
2. habrás ido
3. habrá ido

Plural:

1. habremos ido
2. habréis ido
3. habrán ido

Conditional Perfect
(I would have gone)

Singular:

1. habría ido
2. habrías ido
3. habría ido

Plural:

1. habríamos ido
2. habríais ido
3. habrían ido

Past Subjunctive
(that I may have gone)

Singular:

1. haya ido
2. hayas ido
3. haya ido

Plural:

1. hayamos ido
2. hayáis ido
3. hayan ido

Past Perfect Subjunctive
(that I might have gone)

Singular:

1. hubiera ido
2. hubieras ido
3. hubiera ido

Plural:

1. hubiéramos ido
2. hubierais ido
3. hubieran ido

Singular:

1. hubiese ido
2. hubieses ido
3. hubiese ido

Plural:

1. fuésemos
2. fueseis
3. fuesen

1. hubiésemos ido
2. hubieseis ido
3. hubiesen ido

TENER (to have)

Present / Present Continuous
(I have)

Singular:

1. tengo
2. tienes
3. tiene

Plural:

1. tenemos
2. tenéis
3. tienen

Simple Past
(I had)

Singular:

1. tuve
2. tuviste
3. tuvo

Plural:

1. tuvimos
2. tuvisteis
3. tuvieron

Imperfect / Past Continuous
(I had / I used to have)

Singular:

1. tenía
2. tenías
3. tenía

Plural:

1. teníamos
2. teníais
3. tenían

Future / Future Continuous
(I will have / am going to have)

Singular:

1. tendré
2. tendrás
3. tendrá

Plural:

1. tendremos
2. tendréis
3. tendrán

Conditional / Conditional Continuous
(I would have)

Present Perfect / Present Perfect Continuous
(I have had)

Singular:

1. he tenido
2. has tenido
3. ha tenido

Plural:

1. hemos tenido
2. habéis tenido
3. han tenido

Past Anterior
(I had had)

Singular:

1. hube tenido
2. hubiste tenido
3. hubo tenido

Plural:

1. hubimos tenido
2. hubisteis tenido
3. hubieron tenido

Past Perfect / Past Perfect Continuous
(I had had)

Singular:

1. había tenido
2. habías tenido
3. había tenido

Plural:

1. habíamos tenido
2. habíais tenido
3. habían tenido

Future Perfect
(I will have had)

Singular:

1. habré tenido
2. habrás tenido
3. habrá tenido

Plural:

1. habremos tenido
2. habréis tenido
3. habrán tenido

Conditional Perfect
(I would have had)

Singular:

1. tendría
2. tendrías
3. tendría

Plural:

1. tendríamos
2. tendríais
3. tendrían

Present Subjunctive

(that I may have)

Singular:

1. tenga
2. tengas
3. tenga

Plural:

1. tengamos
2. tengáis
3. tengan

Imperfect Subjunctive

(that I might have)

Singular:

1. tuviera
2. tuvieras
3. tuviera

Plural:

1. tuviéramos
2. tuvierais
3. tuvieran

or

Singular:

1. tuviese
2. tuvieses
3. tuviese

Plural:

1. tuviésemos
2. tuvieseis
3. tuviesen

Related Topics:

[Contents](#)

[Verbs](#)

Singular:

1. habría tenido
2. habrías tenido
3. habría tenido

Plural:

1. habríamos tenido
2. habríais tenido
3. habrían tenido

Past Subjunctive

(that I may have had)

Singular:

1. haya tenido
2. hayas tenido
3. haya tenido

Plural:

1. hayamos tenido
2. hayáis tenido
3. hayan tenido

Past Perfect Subjunctive

(that I might have had)

Singular:

1. hubiera tenido
2. hubieras tenido
3. hubiera tenido

Plural:

1. hubiéramos tenido
2. hubierais tenido
3. hubieran tenido

Singular:

1. hubiese tenido
2. hubieses tenido
3. hubiese tenido

Plural:

1. hubiésemos tenido
2. hubieseis tenido
3. hubiesen tenido

PRESENT TENSE

The Spanish Present Tense (Presente de Indicativo) is formed by changing the [infinitive](#) **-ar / -er / -ir** to the following endings:

	-ar verbs	-er verbs	-ir verbs
yo	-o	-o	-o
tú	-as	-es	-es
él/ella, usted	-a	-e	-e
nosotros/as	-amos	-emos	-imos
vosotros/as	-áis	-éis	-ís
ellos/as, ustedes	-an	-en	-en

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo hablo	I speak
Tú hablas	You speak [familiar]
Ud. habla	You speak [formal]
Él/ella habla	He/she/it speaks
Nosotros/as hablamos	We speak
Vosotros/as habláis	You speak [familiar pl.]
Uds. hablan	You speak [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hablan	They speak

Irregular verbs:

Yo doy	I give
Tú das	You give [familiar]
Ud. da	You give [formal]
Él/ella da	He/she/ it gives
Nosotros/as damos	We give
Vosotros/as dais	You give [familiar pl.]
Uds. dan	You give [formal pl.]
Ellos/as dan	They give

USAGE:

The Present Tense is equivalent to the English Simple Present + Present [Continuous](#) (Present Indicative). It is used to state:

1. A general fact that is permanently true:

El sol **es** la estrella más cercana a la tierra.
The sun *is* the closest star to the earth.

Dos por dos **son** cuatro.
Two times two *equals* four.

2. A present action or state of being:

Yo **trabajo** en la oficina.

I work in the office.

3. An action that will occur in the near future:

Me **voy** a las tres.
They will be leaving at three o'clock.

4. An habitual action within a specified period of time.

Estudio español todos los sábados.
I study Spanish every Saturday.

5. The English Present Continuous (most of the time):

Yo **leo** las instrucciones.
I am reading the instructions.

6. A sentiment that may extend indefinitely into the past or the future (called the universal present):

Dios **es** misericordioso.
God is merciful.

7. Using **hace**, an action that occurred in the past and continues up to the present time:

Hace dos meses que **vivo** en esta casa.
I have been living in this house *for* two months.

8. With **por poco** (almost or nearly):

¡**Por poco** me **matan**!
They nearly killed me!

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Simple Past Tense](#)

[Imperfect Tense](#)

[Future Tense](#)

[Present Subjunctive](#)

[Present Perfect Tense](#)

SIMPLE PAST TENSE

The Simple Past Tense (Pretérito) of regular verbs is formed by changing the infinitive **-ar / -er / -ir** to the following endings:

	-ar verbs	-er / -ir verbs
yo	-é	-í
tú	-aste	-iste
él/ella, usted	-ó	-ió
nosotros/as	-amos	-imos
vosotros/as	-asteis	-isteis
ellos/as, ustedes	-aron	-ieron

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo hablé	I spoke
Tú hablaste	You spoke [familiar]
Ud. habló	You spoke [formal]
Él/ella habló	He/she/it spoke
Nosotros/as hablamos	We spoke
Vosotros/as hablasteis	You spoke [familiar pl.]
Uds. hablaron	You spoke [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hablaron	They spoke

Irregular verbs:

Yo di	I gave
Tú diste	You gave [familiar]
Ud. dio	You gave [formal]
Él/ella dio	He/she/it gave
Nosotros/as dimos	We gave
Vosotros/as disteis	You gave [familiar pl.]
Uds. dieron	You gave [formal pl.]
Ellos/as dieron	They gave

USAGE:

The Simple Past Tense is equivalent to the English Simple Past. It is used to describe:

1. An action completed in the past:

Ayer **compré** un vestido nuevo.
Yesterday I *bought* a new dress.

Debra **fue** al gimnasio la semana pasada.
Debra *went* to the gymnasium last week.

2. An action completed within a definite period of time:

Estudié en la universidad entre 1981 y 1985.

I *studied* at the university between 1981 and 1985.

Viví en Estados Unidos durante tres años.

I *lived* in the United States for three years.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Present Tense](#)

[Imperfect Tense](#)

[Imperfect Subjunctive](#)

[Past Perfect Tense](#)

[Past Anterior Tense](#)

[Past Subjunctive](#)

IMPERFECT TENSE

The Imperfect Tense (Imperfecto de Indicativo) is formed by changing the **infinitive -ar / -er / -ir** to the following endings:

	-ar verbs	-er / -ir verbs
yo	-aba	-ía
tú	-abas	-ías
él/ella, usted	-aba	-ía
nosotros/as	-ábamos	-íamos
vosotros/as	-abais	-íais
ellos/as, ustedes	-aban	-ían

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo hablaba	I was speaking
Tú hablabas	You were speaking [familiar]
Ud. hablaba	You were speaking [formal]
Él/ella hablaba	He/she/it was speaking
Nosotros/as hablábamos	We were speaking
Vosotros/as hablabais	You were speaking [familiar pl.]
Uds. hablaban	You were speaking [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hablaban	They spoke

Irregular verbs:

Yo iba	I went (used to go)
Tú ibas	You went (used to go) [familiar]
Ud. iba	You went (used to go) [formal]
Él/ella iba	He/she/it went (used to go)
Nosotros/as íbamos	We went (used to go)
Vosotros/as ibais	You went (used to go)[familiar pl.]
Uds. iban	You went (used to go)[formal pl.]
Ellos/as iban	They went (used to go)

USAGE:

The Imperfect Tense is equivalent to the English **was** or **were** + **present participle (-ing)** (or **used to** + **infinitive**). It is used to describe:

1. An habitual or continuous action in the past:

Quando **estudiábamos** inglés, **íbamos** a la biblioteca todas las tardes.
When we *studied* English, we *went* to the library every afternoon.

2. Two different actions occurring simultaneously (in the past):

Él **corría** con el perro mientras su hermano **preparaba** el almuerzo.
He *ran* with the dog while his brother *prepared* the lunch.

3. An action occurring in the past that was interrupted by another action:

Estaban comiendo cuando alguien llamó a la puerta.
They *were* eating when somebody knocked the door.

4. A completed action that preceded another past action. This is equivalent to the English **had been** + present participle.

Hacía una hora que **esperaba** cuando mis amigos llegaron.
I *had been waiting* for an hour when my friends arrived.

5. Past conditions including mental, emotional, or physical states as well as age, weather, and time:

Él la **amaba** mucho.
He *loved* her very much.

Hacía mal tiempo.
The weather *was* bad.

Eran las ocho de la mañana.
It *was* eight o'clock in the morning.

Él se casó cuando **tenía** treinta años.
He married when he *was* thirty years old.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Simple Past Tense](#)

[Imperfect Subjunctive](#)

[Past Perfect Tense](#)

[Past Subjunctive](#)

FUTURE TENSE

The Future Tense (Futuro) is formed by adding the following endings to the entire [infinitive](#):

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

yo	-é
tú	-ás
él/ella, usted	-á
nosotros/as	-emos
vosotros/as	-éis
ellos/as, ustedes	-án

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo hablaré	I will speak
Tú hablarás	You will speak [familiar]
Ud. hablará	You will speak [formal]
Él/ella hablará	He/she/it will speak
Nosotros/as hablaremos	We will speak
Vosotros/as hablaréis	You will speak [familiar pl.]
Uds. hablarán	You will speak [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hablarán	They will speak

Irregular verbs:

Yo diré	I will go
Tú dirás	You will go [familiar]
Ud. dirá	You will go [formal]
Él/ella dirá	He/she/it will go
Nosotros/as diremos	We will go
Vosotros/as diréis	You will go [familiar pl.]
Uds. dirán	You will go [formal pl.]
Ellos/as dirán	They will go

VERBS WITH AN IRREGULAR STEM

Verbs with an [irregular](#) stem in the Future Tense use the same stem in the [Conditional](#):

INFINITIVE	FUTURE	CONDITIONAL
caber	cabré	cabría
decir	diré	diría
haber	habré	habría
hacer	haré	haría
poder	podré	podría
poner	pondré	pondría
querer	querré	querría
saber	sabré	sabría
tener	tendré	tendría
valer	valdré	valdría
venir	vendré	vendría

USAGE:

The Future Tense is equivalent to the English Future Tense using **will** or **shall**. It is used to describe:

1. An action that will take place at a future time:

Ella **terminará** el proyecto en marzo.
She *will finish* the project in March.

2. Present intent or determination:

Leeré el contrato hoy.
I will read the contract today.

3. Present probability:

Ya **estarán** allí.
They are probably already there.

4. Wonderment:

¿Dónde **estarán**?
I wonder where they are.

FUTURE ACTION USING **ir + a + infinitive**

The conjugated form of **ir + a + infinitive** expresses a future action. This is an alternate Future Tense and its colloquial English equivalent is **going to + infinitive**:

Voy a visitar a mis padres el mes que viene.
I am going to visit my parents next month.

Él **va a nadar** en la competición el jueves.
He *is going to swim* in the competition on Thursday.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Future Perfect Tense](#)

CONDITIONAL TENSE

The **Conditional Tense** (Condicional Simple) of regular and **irregular verbs** is formed by adding the following endings to the entire **infinitive**:

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

yo	-ía
tú	-ías
él/ella, usted	-ía
nosotros/as	-íamos
vosotros/as	-íais
ellos/as, ustedes	-ían

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo hablaría	I would speak
Tú hablarías	You would speak [familiar]
Ud. hablaría	You would speak [formal]
Él/ella hablaría	He/she/it would speak
Nosotros/as hablaríamos	We would speak
Vosotros/as hablaríais	You would speak [familiar pl.]
Uds. hablarían	You would speak [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hablarían	They would speak

Irregular verbs:

Yo diría	I would say
Tú dirías	You would say [familiar]
Ud. diría	You would say [formal]
Él/ella diría	He/she/it would say
Nosotros/as diríamos	We would say
Vosotros/as diríais	You would say [familiar pl.]
Uds. dirían	You would say [formal pl.]
Ellos/as dirían	They would say

VERBS WITH AN IRREGULAR STEM

Verbs with an **irregular** stem in the Future Tense use the same stem in the Conditional:

INFINITIVE	FUTURE	CONDITIONAL
caber	cabré	cabría
decir	diré	diría
haber	habré	habría
hacer	haré	haría
poder	podré	podría
poner	pondré	pondría
querer	querré	querría
saber	sabré	sabría
tener	tendré	tendría
valer	valdré	valdría
venir	vendré	vendría

USAGE:

The Present Conditional is equivalent to the English construction **would** + **infinitive**. It is used to describe:

1. A future action with respect to the past:

Me avisaron que él **vendría** el viernes.
They advised me he *would come* on Friday.

2. Contrary-to-fact sentences:

Si tuviera dinero, **viajaría** a Madrid.
If I had money, I *would travel* to Madrid.

Si yo fuera usted, no lo **haría**.
If I were you, I *would not do it*.

3. Probability in past time:

Serían las cuatro cuando empezó.
It was probably four o'clock when it started.

Sería Antonio quien lo grabó.
It was probably Antonio who recorded it.

4. Conjecture regarding the past:

¿Quién **sería**?
I *wonder* who that was.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Present Tense](#)

[Future Perfect Tense](#)

[Conditional Perfect Tense](#)

[Clauses](#)

PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE

The Present **Subjunctive** (Presente de Subjuntivo) is formed by dropping the **-o** ending of the 1st person singular of the Present Indicative and adding the following endings:

	-ar verbs	-er / -ir verbs
yo	-e	-a
tú	-es	-as
él/ella, usted	-e	-a
nosotros/as	-emos	-amos
vosotros/as	-éis	-áis
ellos/as, ustedes	-en	-an

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo hable	that I may speak
Tú hables	that you may speak [familiar]
Ud. hable	that you may speak [formal]
Él/ella hable	that he/she/it may speak
Nosotros/as hablemos	that we may speak
Vosotros/as habléis	that you may speak [familiar pl.]
Uds. hablen	that you may speak [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hablen	that they may speak

Irregular verbs:

Yo ponga	that I may put
Tú pongas	that you may put [familiar]
Ud. ponga	that you may put [formal]
Él/ella ponga	that he/she/it may put
Nosotros/as pongamos	that we may put
Vosotros/as pongáis	that you may put [familiar pl.]
Uds. pongan	that you may put [formal pl.]
Ellos/as pongan	that they may put

Six verbs are **irregular** in the Present Subjunctive, that is to say, they do not follow the above-mentioned rule:

dar	to give
estar	to be
haber	to have (aux.)
ir	to go
saber	to know
ser	to be

USAGE:

The **Indicative** is used to state a fact, whereas the Present **Subjunctive** is used to express uncertainty, possibility, a feeling, or a wish.

The Spanish Present Subjunctive has an English equivalent, but it is often neglected (i.e., *if I were to go* vs. *if I was to go*).

The **subjunctive** must be used in **subordinate clauses** in which there is a change of **subject** and when there is doubt in the mind of the speaker or writer as to the absolute truth or future outcome of the action described.

If the verb in the **main clause** is in the **Present, Future, or Present Perfect Tense**, or the **Imperative Form**, then the Present Subjunctive is used in the **subordinate clause**.

The **subjunctive** is used:

1. In **subordinate clauses**, following verbs of desire, command, emotion, doubt, and uncertainty.

Quiero que tú **vayas**. [change of subject]
I want *you* to go.

Verbs of Emotion

esperar	to hope
temer	to fear
alegrarse	to be glad
estar contento de	to be pleased
sentir	to be sorry, to regret

Verbs of Doubt, Uncertainty, or Denial

no creer	not to believe, not to think
dudar	to doubt
negar	to deny
no pensar	not to think

Verbs of Command or Desire

pedir	to ask
decir	to tell [someone to do something]
querer	to want
preferir	to prefer
mandar	to order
necesitar	to need
sugerir	to suggest

2. In **subordinate clauses**, following an **impersonal expression**

Es importante que los niños **coman** verduras.
It is important that the children *eat* vegetables.

Impersonal Expressions

es importante	it's important
es imposible	it's impossible
es una lástima	it's a pity
es necesario	it's necessary
es posible	it's possible

es preciso	it's necessary
es probable	it's probable, likely
es raro	it's unusual, strange
es urgente	it's urgent

3. In subordinate clauses, after negative impersonal expressions. The subjunctive is *not* used in subordinate clauses after affirmative impersonal expressions of fact.

Negative -- Subjunctive		Affirmative -- Indicative	
no es verdad	it's not true	es verdad	it's true
no es cierto	it's not certain	es cierto	it's certain
no es evidente	it's not evident	es evidente	it's evident
no es claro	it's not clear	es claro	it's clear
no es seguro	it's not sure	es seguro	it's sure

No es verdad que Inés se **vaya**.
It's *not true* that Inez is going.

Es verdad que Inés se **va**.
It's *true* that Inez is going.

4. In subordinate clauses, when the noun modified by the subordinate clause does *not* refer to a specific person or thing.

Quiero hablar con *alguien* que **conozca** bien las computadoras.
I want to speak with *someone* who *knows* computers well.

Ella desea comprar un carro que **sea** bueno.
She wishes to buy a good car.

5. In subordinate clauses that modify words formed by adding **-quiera** (cuando, donde, quien).

cualquiera	whichever
cuandoquiera	whenever
comoquiera	however
dondequiera	wherever
quienquiera	whoever

Quienquiera que **vaya** será bienvenido.
Whoever goes, it will be welcome.

Dondequiera que te **encuentres**, llámame.
Wherever you find yourself, call me.

6. In subordinate clauses that modify a negative antecedent.

No hay nadie que lo **haga** mejor.
There is *no one* who *does* it better.

Ella *no* come *nada* que **tenga** azúcar.
She does *not* eat *anything* that *contains* sugar.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

Present Tense
Past Subjunctive
Clauses
Negation

IMPERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE

The Imperfect **Subjunctive** (Imperfecto de Subjuntivo) is formed by dropping the **-ron** ending of the 3rd person plural of the Simple Past (Pretérito) and adding the following endings:

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

or

yo	-ra	-se
tú	-ras	-ses
él/ella, usted	-ra	-se
nosotros/as	-ramos	-semos
vosotros/as	-rais	-seis
ellos/as, ustedes	-ran	-sen

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo hablara	that I might speak
Tú hablaras	that you might speak [familiar]
Ud. hablara	that you might speak [formal]
Él/ella hablara	that he/she/it might speak
Nosotros/as hablar amos	that we might speak
Vosotros/as hablar ais	that you might speak [familiar pl.]
Uds. hablar an	that you might speak [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hablar an	that they might speak

or

Yo hablase	that I might speak
Tú hablases	that you might speak [familiar]
Ud. hablase	that you might speak [formal]
Él/ella hablase	that he/she/it might speak
Nosotros/as habl asemos	that we might speak
Vosotros/as habl aseis	that you might speak [familiar pl.]
Uds. habl asen	that you might speak [formal pl.]
Ellos/as habl asen	that they might speak

Irregular verbs:

Yo diera	that I might give
Tú dieras	that you might give [familiar]
Ud. diera	that you might give [formal]
Él/ella diera	that he/she/it might give
Nosotros/as di éramos	that we might give
Vosotros/as di erais	that you might give [familiar pl.]
Uds. di eran	that you might give [formal pl.]
Ellos/as di eran	that they might give

Note the accent over the **a** or **e** of the first person plural stem of all Imperfect Subjunctives, both regular and **irregular**.

IRREGULAR PAST STEMS

Verbs with an **irregular** stem in the Past use that stem to form the Imperfect Subjunctive.

<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Irregular Stem</i>	<i>Imperfect Subjunctive</i>	
andar	to walk	anduv-	anduviera	anduviese
caber	to fit	cup-	cupiera	cupiese
dar	to give	d-	diera	diese
estar	to be	estuv-	estuviera	estuviese
haber	to have (aux)	hub-	hubiera	hubiese
hacer	to do	hic-	hiciera	hiciese
poder	to be able	pud-	pudiera	pudiese
poner	to put	pus-	pusiera	pusiese
querer	to want	quis-	quisiera	quisiese
saber	to know	sup-	supiera	supiese
tener	to have	tuv-	tuviera	tuviese
venir	to come	vin-	viniera	viniese

Ir and **ser** have the same **irregular** forms in the Imperfect Subjunctive:

ir	to go	fue-	fuera	fuese
ser	to be	fue-	fuera	fuese

STEM-CHANGING VERBS

Stem-changing verbs ending in **-ir** add **-iera** or **-iese** to the **irregular** third person **Simple Past** stem.

sentir	to regret, feel	sint-	sintiera	sintiese
morir	to die	mur-	muriera	muriese
pedir	to ask for	pid-	pidiera	pidiese

IRREGULAR PAST STEMS ENDING IN j

Verbs with **irregular** third person **Simple Past** stems ending in **j** add **-era** or **-ese**.

decir	to say	dij-	dijera	dijese
traducir	to translate	traduj-	tradujera	tradujese
traer	to bring	traj-	trajera	trajese

IRREGULAR PAST STEMS ENDING IN y

Verbs with **irregular** third person **Simple Past** stems ending in **y** add **-era** or **-ese**.

caer	to fall	cay-	cayera	cayese
creer	to believe	crey-	creyera	creyese
huir	to flee	huy-	huyera	huyese
leer	to read	ley-	leyera	leyese
oir	to hear	oy-	oyera	oyese

USAGE:

The Imperfect Subjunctive expresses uncertainty, possibility, a feeling, or a wish, as does the **Present Subjunctive**.

The **subjunctive** must be used in **subordinate clauses** in which there is a change of **subject** and when there is doubt in the mind of the speaker or writer as to the absolute truth or future fulfillment of his statement.

If the verb in the main clause is in the Imperfect Indicative, Simple Past, Conditional, or Past Perfect, the Imperfect Subjunctive is used in the subordinate clause.

The Subjunctive is used:

1. In subordinate clauses that follow verbs of desire, command, emotion, doubt, and uncertainty.

Temieron que él lo **hiciese**. [change of subject]
They feared that he *might do* it.

Ella quería que yo lo **hiciera**.
She *wanted* me to do it.

2. In subordinate clauses that follow an impersonal expression.

Era importante que ellos **escucharan** los detalles.
It was important that they *listened* to the details.

3. In subordinate clauses when the noun modified by the subordinate clause does *not* refer to a specific person or thing.

Yo quería hablar con alguien que **conociera** bien esa ciudad.
I wanted to speak with *someone* who *knew* that city well.

4. After the subordinating conjunction "**como si**," to express a contrary-to-fact condition. "**Como si**" *always* takes the Imperfect Subjunctive.

Habla como si me **conociere**.
He speaks *as if* he *knew* me.

Caminan como si **estuvieran** cansados.
They walk *as though* they *were* tired.

5. In subordinate clauses, with the following conjunctions:

a no ser que	unless
a menos que	unless
con tal (de) que	provided that
en caso de que	in case
antes de que	before
a fin de que	so that, for the purpose of
para que	so that, in order that
sin que	without
como si	as if

6. In subordinate clauses containing the following conjunctions relating to time, when the action in the subordinate clause has *not* yet taken place.

antes de que	before
cuando	when
hasta que	until
después (de) que	after
siempre que	whenever
luego que	as soon as
en cuanto	as soon as
tan pronto como	as soon as
así que	so that
a que	until

(used after **aguardar** and **esperar** [to wait until])

and after **venir** [to come in order that])

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

[Imperfect Tense](#)

[Past Subjunctive](#)

[Past Perfect Subjunctive](#)

COMPOUND TENSES

The [Compound Tenses](#) of all verbs are formed from the various tenses of the [conjugated auxiliary verb haber](#) (to have) plus the past participle of the main verb. Compound verbs are *not* separated into their component parts by the inclusion of other words.

¿ Han venido ellos?	<i>Have they come?</i>
¿ Has visto ...?	<i>Have you seen...?</i>
Hemos dicho siempre...	<i>We have always said...</i>

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

[Present Perfect Tense](#)

[Past Perfect Tense](#)

[Future Perfect Tense](#)

[Conditional Perfect Tense](#)

[Past Perfect Subjunctive](#)

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

The Present Perfect Tense (Pretérito Perfecto de Indicativo) is formed with the [Present Tense](#) of the auxiliary **haber** (to have) + **past participle** of the main verb. Used with **haber**, the past participle remains unchanged in form. Only the [auxiliary](#) is [conjugated](#).

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

yo	he	+ past participle
tú	has	+ past participle
él/ella, usted	ha	+ past participle
nosotros/as	hemos	+ past participle
vosotros/as	habéis	+ past participle
ellos/as, ustedes	han	+ past participle

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo he hablado	I have spoken
Tú has hablado	you have spoken [familiar]
Ud. ha hablado	you have spoken [formal]
Él/ella ha hablado	he/she/it has spoken
Nosotros/as hemos hablado	we have spoken
Vosotros/as habéis hablado	you have spoken [familiar pl.]
Uds. han hablado	you have spoken [formal pl.]
Ellos/as han hablado	they have spoken

Irregular verbs:

Yo he dicho	I have said
Tú has dicho	you have said [familiar]
Ud. ha dicho	you have said [formal]
Él/ella ha dicho	he/she/it has said
Nosotros/as hemos dicho	we have said
Vosotros/as habéis dicho	you have said [familiar pl.]
Uds. han dicho	you have said [formal pl.]
Ellos/as han dicho	they have said

USAGE:

The Present Perfect Tense is used to express a simple action or state of affairs. It refers to an indefinite time in the past or a time in the past that is closely related to the present.

¿ Ha comido Ud.?	<i>Have you eaten?</i>
Han ido a la playa.	<i>They have gone</i> to the beach.
¿ Has leído la noticia?	<i>Have you read</i> the news?
He comprado muchos libros.	<i>I have bought</i> a lot of books.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

[Present Tense](#)

[Past Perfect Tense](#)

[Future Perfect Tense](#)

[Conditional Perfect Tense](#)

[Past Perfect Subjunctive](#)

[Passive Voice](#)

PAST PERFECT TENSE

The Past Perfect Tense (Pluscuamperfecto de Indicativo) is formed with the [Simple Past Tense](#) of the auxiliary **haber** (to have) + **past participle** of the main verb. Used with **haber**, the past participle remains unchanged in form. Only the [auxiliary](#) is [conjugated](#).

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

yo	había	+ past participle
tú	habías	+ past participle
él/ella, usted	había	+ past participle
nosotros/as	habíamos	+ past participle
vosotros/as	habíais	+ past participle
ellos/as, ustedes	habían	+ past participle

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo había hablado	I had spoken
Tú habías hablado	you had spoken [familiar]
Ud. había hablado	you had spoken [formal]
Él/ella había hablado	he/she/it had spoken
Nosotros/as habíamos hablado	we had spoken
Vosotros/as habíais hablado	you had spoken [familiar pl.]
Uds. habían hablado	you had spoken [formal pl.]
Ellos/as habían hablado	they had spoken

Irregular verbs:

Yo había dicho	I had said
Tú habías dicho	you had said [familiar]
Ud. había dicho	you had said [formal]
Él/ella había dicho	he/she/it said gone
Nosotros/as habíamos dicho	we had said
Vosotros/as habíais dicho	you had said [familiar pl.]
Uds. habían dicho	you had said [formal pl.]
Ellos/as habían dicho	they had said

USAGE:

The Spanish Past Perfect Tense is used to express an action that occurred in the past before another past action. The other past action is usually expressed in the [Simple Past Tense](#).

No **había escrito** la carta.
He *had not written* the letter.

¿**Habías ido** a Portugal?
Had you gone to Portugal?

Había estudiado la lección.
He *had studied* the lesson.

Cuando llegó al estudio, ya **habíamos rodado** la película.
When he arrived at the studio, we *had already shot* the film.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

[Simple Past Tense](#)

[Imperfect Tense](#)

[Present Perfect Tense](#)

[Future Perfect Tense](#)

[Conditional Perfect Tense](#)

[Past Perfect Subjunctive](#)

[Passive Voice](#)

PAST ANTERIOR TENSE

The Past Anterior (Pretérito Anterior) is formed with the [Simple Past Tense](#) of the [auxiliary haber](#) (to have) + **past participle** of the main verb. Used with **haber**, the past participle remains unchanged in form. Only the [auxiliary](#) is [conjugated](#).

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

yo	hube	+ past participle
tú	hubiste	+ past participle
él/ella, usted	hubo	+ past participle
nosotros/as	hubimos	+ past participle
vosotros/as	hubisteis	+ past participle
ellos/as, ustedes	hubieron	+ past participle

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo hube hablado	I had spoken
Tú hubiste hablado	you had spoken [familiar]
Ud. hubo hablado	you had spoken [formal]
Él/ella hubo hablado	he/she/it had spoken
Nosotros/as hubimos hablado	we had spoken
Vosotros/as hubisteis hablado	you had spoken [familiar pl.]
Uds. hubieron hablado	you had spoken [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hubieron hablado	they had spoken

Irregular verbs:

Yo hube dicho	I had said
Tú hubiste dicho	you had said [familiar]
Ud. hubo dicho	you had said [formal]
Él/ella hubo dicho	he/she/it had said
Nosotros/as hubimos dicho	we had said
Vosotros/as hubisteis dicho	you had said [familiar pl.]
Uds. hubieron dicho	you had said [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hubieron dicho	they had said

USAGE:

The Past Anterior Tense expresses a simple action or state of affairs that occurred in the past from the point of view of the past. This tense is used in literary style and only when introduced by subordinating conjunctions relating to time. In conversation, either the [Simple Past Tense](#) or the [Past Perfect Tense](#) is preferred.

The Past Anterior is used after certain [conjunctions](#) relating to time:

apenas	no sooner than, as soon as
apenas si	scarcely, hardly
cuando	when, though, even though
después que	after
en cuanto	as soon as, while
luego que	as soon as

Luego que **hubo salido**...
As soon as he had left...

Rafaél continuó manejando después que **hubo estudiado** el mapa.
Rafael continued driving *after he had studied* the map.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Simple Past Tense](#)

[Present Perfect Tense](#)

[Past Perfect Tense](#)

[Passive Voice](#)

[Declarative Sentences](#)

[Adverbs and Adverbial Phrases](#)

[Clauses](#)

FUTURE PERFECT TENSE

The Future Perfect (Futuro Perfecto) is formed with the [Future Tense](#) of **haber** (to have) + **past participle** of the main verb. Used with **haber**, the past participle remains unchanged in form. Only the [auxiliary](#) is [conjugated](#). In Spanish and English, the Future Perfect is used to express the fact that one action will happen before another one which is projected to be completed in the future.

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

yo	habré	+ past participle
tú	habrás	+ past participle
él/ella, usted	habrá	+ past participle
nosotros/as	habremos	+ past participle
vosotros/as	habréis	+ past participle
ellos/as, ustedes	habrán	+ past participle

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo habré hablado	I will have spoken
Tú habrás hablado	you will have spoken [familiar]
Ud. habrá hablado	you will have spoken [formal]
Él/ella habrá hablado	he/she/it will have spoken
Nosotros/as habremos hablado	we will have spoken
Vosotros/as habréis hablado	you will have spoken [familiar pl.]
Uds. habrán hablado	you will have spoken [formal pl.]
Ellos/as habrán hablado	they will have spoken

Irregular verbs:

Yo habré dicho	I will have said
Tú habrás dicho	you will have said [familiar]
Ud. habrá dicho	you will have said [formal]
Él/ella habrá dicho	he/she/it will have said
Nosotros/as habremos dicho	we will have said
Vosotros/as habréis dicho	you will have said [familiar pl.]
Uds. habrán dicho	you will have said [formal pl.]
Ellos/as habrán dicho	they will have said

Note the written accent occurs in both [Future](#) and [Future Perfect Tenses](#) over all final strong vowels except for the first person plural (**habremos**).

USAGE:

The Future Perfect Tense is used to express a simple action or state of affairs in the past from the point of view of the future.

The Future Perfect also expresses probability or conjecture regarding recent past time:

Mercedes **habrá salido**.
Mercedes has *probably left*.

Habrá estado enfermo.

He *must have been* ill.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Future Tense](#)

[Passive Voice](#)

CONDITIONAL PERFECT

The **Conditional Perfect** (Condicional Compuesto) is formed with the **Conditional** of the **auxiliary haber** (to have) + **past participle** of the main verb. Used with **haber**, the past participle remains unchanged in form. Only the **auxiliary** is **conjugated**.

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

yo	habría	+ past participle
tú	habrías	+ past participle
él/ella, usted	habría	+ past participle
nosotros/as	habríamos	+ past participle
vosotros/as	habríais	+ past participle
ellos/as, ustedes	habrían	+ past participle

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo habría hablado	I would have spoken
Tú habrías hablado	you would have spoken [familiar]
Ud. habría hablado	you would have spoken [formal]
Él/ella habría hablado	he/she/it would have spoken
Nosotros/as habríamos hablado	we would have spoken
Vosotros/as habríais hablado	you would have spoken [familiar pl.]
Uds. habrían hablado	you would have spoken [formal pl.]
Ellos/as habrían hablado	they would have spoken

Irregular verbs:

Yo habría dicho	I would have said
Tú habrías dicho	you would have said [familiar]
Ud. habría dicho	you would have said [formal]
Él/ella habría dicho	he/she/it would have said
Nosotros/as habríamos dicho	we would have said
Vosotros/as habríais dicho	you would have said [familiar pl.]
Uds. habrían dicho	you would have said [formal pl.]
Ellos/as habrían dicho	they would have said

USAGE:

The Conditional Perfect is used to express an action that *would* have occurred *if* something else had been possible.

Manuel **habría llamado** a las seis, pero no fue posible.
Manuel *would have called* at six o'clock, but it was not possible.

Habríamos salido más tarde si hubiéramos sabido que la tienda cerraba a las ocho.
We would have left later if we had known (that) the store closed at eight o'clock.

The Conditional Perfect also expresses probability or conjecture about the past:

Habrían preferido quedarse en casa.
They *probably would have preferred* to stay at home.

¿Quién **habría sido**?
Who *could that have been*?

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Conditional Tense](#)

[Present Perfect Tense](#)

[Passive Voice](#)

[Clauses](#)

PAST SUBJUNCTIVE

The Past **Subjunctive** (Pretérito Perfecto de Subjuntivo) is formed with the **Present Subjunctive** of the auxiliary **haber** (to have) + **past participle** of the main verb. Used with **haber**, the past participle remains unchanged in form. Only the **auxiliary** is **conjugated**.

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

yo	haya	+ past participle
tú	hayas	+ past participle
él/ella, usted	haya	+ past participle
nosotros/as	hayamos	+ past participle
vosotros/as	hayáis	+ past participle
ellos/as, ustedes	hayan	+ past participle

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo haya hablado	that I may have spoken
Tú hayas hablado	that you may have spoken [familiar]
Ud. haya hablado	that you may have spoken [formal]
Él/ella haya hablado	that he/she may have spoken
Nosotros/as hayamos hablado	that we may have spoken
Vosotros/as hayáis hablado	that you may have spoken [familiar pl.]
Uds. hayan hablado	that you may have spoken [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hayan hablado	that they may have spoken

Irregular verbs:

Yo haya dicho	that I may have said
Tú hayas dicho	that you may have said [familiar]
Ud. haya dicho	that you may have said [formal]
Él/ella haya dicho	that he/she may have said
Nosotros/as hayamos dicho	that we may have said
Vosotros/as hayáis dicho	that you may have said [familiar pl.]
Uds. hayan dicho	that you may have said [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hayan dicho	that they may have said

USAGE:

The Past Subjunctive of the **auxiliary** verb **haber** is used in a **subordinate clause** when the **verb** in the **main clause** is in the **Present**, **Future**, or **Present Perfect** Tense and the action in the **subordinate clause** has already taken place.

The **Indicative** is used to state a fact, and the **Subjunctive** is used to express uncertainty, possibility, a feeling, or a wish.

The **Subjunctive** must be used in **subordinate clauses** in which there is a change of **subject** and when there is doubt in the mind of the speaker or writer as to the absolute truth or outcome of the situation his statement describes.

Me alegro que María **haya venido**.
I am happy that Maria *has come*.

No creo que ellos **hayan salido** todavía.
I don't believe they *have left* yet.

Espero que el taxi no se **haya ido**.
I hope the taxi *has not departed*.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Simple Past Tense](#)

[Present Subjunctive](#)

[Past Perfect Subjunctive](#)

PAST PERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE

The Past Perfect Subjunctive is formed with the [Imperfect Subjunctive](#) of the [auxiliary haber](#) (to have) + [past participle](#) of the main [verb](#). Used with **haber**, the past participle remains unchanged in form. Only the [auxiliary](#) is [conjugated](#).

-ar / -er / -ir verbs

yo	hubiera	+ past participle
tú	hubieras	+ past participle
él/ella, usted	hubiera	+ past participle
nosotros/as	hubiéramos	+ past participle
vosotros/as	hubierais	+ past participle
ellos/as	hubieran	+ past participle

EXAMPLES:

Regular verbs:

Yo hubiera hablado	that I might have spoken
Tú hubieras hablado	that you might have spoken [familiar]
Ud. hubiera hablado	that you might have spoken [formal]
Él/ella hubiera hablado	that he/she might have spoken
Nosotros/as hubiéramos hablado	that we might have spoken
Vosotros/as hubierais hablado	that you might have spoken [familiar pl.]
Uds. hubieran hablado	that you might have spoken [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hubieran hablado	that they might have spoken

Irregular verbs:

Yo hubiera dicho	that I might have said
Tú hubieras dicho	that you might have said [familiar]
Ud. hubiera dicho	that you might have said [formal]
Él/ella hubiera dicho	that he/she might have said
Nosotros/as hubiéramos dicho	that we might have said
Vosotros/as hubierais dicho	that you might have said [familiar pl.]
Uds. hubieran dicho	that you might have said [formal pl.]
Ellos/as hubieran dicho	that they might have said

USAGE:

The Past Perfect Subjunctive is used in a [subordinate clause](#) when the verb in the [main clause](#) is in a past tense (see [Summary of Tenses](#)) and the action in the subordinate clause has already taken place.

The [Indicative](#) is used to state a fact, and the [Subjunctive](#) is used to express uncertainty, possibility, a feeling, or a wish.

The [Subjunctive](#) must be used in [subordinate clauses](#) in which there is a change of [subject](#) and when there is doubt in the mind of the speaker or writer as to the absolute truth or outcome of the situation his statement describes.

Si me **hubiera tocado** la lotería, habría comprado un descapotable.
If I *had won* the lottery, I would have bought a convertible.

El jefe dudó que los empleados **hubieran llegado** a tiempo.
The boss doubted that the employees *had arrived* on time.

Era maravilloso que María **hubiera aprobado** el examen.
It was wonderful that Maria *had passed* the test.

Related Topics:

[Simple Past Tense](#)

[Imperfect Tense](#)

[Imperfect Subjunctive](#)

[Past Perfect Tense](#)

[Passive Voice](#)

PASSIVE VOICE

The Active Voice is a construction in which the **subject** performs the action described by the **verb**. In the **Passive Voice**, the **subject** receives the action of the **verb**. The person or entity performing the action is called the agent. The Passive Voice *always* involves an action that is being done *to* the **subject**.

Active Voice: La universidad **concederá** una beca.
The university *will grant* a scholarship.

Passive Voice: Una beca **será concedida por** la universidad.
A scholarship *will be granted* by the university.

In Spanish the Passive Voice construction parallels that of English. The **past participle** agrees with the **subject** in **gender** and number.

Subject	+ ser	+ Past Participle	+ por	+ Agent
La canción	fue	escrita	por	Mario Gareña.
The song	<i>was</i>	written	<i>by</i>	Mario Gareña.

When the agent is *not* mentioned but strongly implied, the true Passive may be used:

La iglesia **fue construida** en 1852.
The church *was built* in 1852.

Maritza **será enviada** a Miami.
Maritza *will be sent* to Miami.

The impersonal *they* may be used as an alternate to the true Passive Voice:

Dicen **que el vivir es caro hoy día**.
It is said (*they say*) that living is expensive these days.

Le **dieron** un nuevo trabajo a José.
Joe was given (*they gave Joe*) a new job.

A **reflexive verb** construction is often used in place of true Passive when the doer of the action is not stated.

Se vendió la casa hace un año.
The house *was sold* one year ago.

Se han dado muchas ofertas para estos objetos antiguos.
Many offers *have been given* for these antiques.

Verbs other than **ser** that are sometimes joined with the **past participle** in the formation of the Reflexive are:

quedar(se)
hallarse
encontrarse
verse
irse

Queda explicado en la página 12.
It is explained on page 12.

Se vio obligado a mentir.
She was forced to lie.

Van incluídas muchas explicaciones en el libro.
Many explanations *are included* in the book.

USAGE:

Passive Voice creates a sense of objectivity and is therefore often employed in journalistic and other factual or technical writing.

EXAMPLE:

Los que quieren poner freno a la educación bilingüe no se han percatado aún que el bilingüismo es una de las más preciadas características del mundo moderno, vale decir, de las sociedades multiculturales.

Those who want to put the brakes on bilingual education *have not yet realized* that bilingualism is one of the most precious characteristics of the modern world, that is, of multicultural societies.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

[Present Perfect Tense](#)

[Past Perfect Tense](#)

[Reflexive Verbs](#)

REFLEXIVE VERBS

A [reflexive verb](#) adds [reflexive pronouns](#) to the regular form of the [verb](#) . In the reflexive construction the [subject](#)

does the action to itself, therefore, the reflexive pronoun agrees with the subject. Here are some of the most common:

aburrirse	to be bored, grow tired, grow weary
acercarse	to approach, draw near
acordarse	to remember
acostarse	to go to bed, lie down
alegrarse	to be glad, rejoice
apresurarse	to hasten, hurry, rush
aprovecharse	to take advantage, avail oneself
apurarse	to fret, grieve, worry
bañarse	to bathe oneself, take a bath
burlarse	to make fun of, ridicule
caerse	to fall, fall down, tumble
callarse	to be silent, keep quiet
cansarse	to become tired, weary, get tired
casarse	to get married
desayunarse	to breakfast, have breakfast (Amer.)
despedirse	to take leave of, to say good-bye to
despertarse	to wake up oneself
encontrarse	to find oneself (in a place or situation)
equivocarse	to be mistaken
esforzarse	to endeavor, do, make an effort
irse	to leave
lavarse	to wash oneself
levantarse	to get up, rise
limpiarse	to clean oneself
llamarse	to be called, to be named
marcharse	to go away, to leave
mirarse	to look at oneself, to look at each other
peinarse	to comb oneself
ponerse	to put on (clothes)
quedarse	to stay, remain
quitarse	to take off
sentarse	to sit down

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Passive Voice](#)

[Imperative Form](#)

IMPERATIVE FORM

The Spanish [Imperative Form](#) is used to give a command or make a suggestion.

FORMAL COMMANDS

The third person singular and plural forms of the [Present Subjunctive](#) are used with **usted** and **ustedes** in formal or polite commands. Note that the affirmative and negative forms of formal commands are the same.

REGULAR VERBS:

<i>Aff. Sing.</i>	<i>Neg. Sing.</i>	<i>Aff. Pl.</i>	<i>Neg. Pl.</i>
abra Ud.	no abra Ud.	abran Uds.	no abran Uds.
coma Ud.	no coma Ud.	coman Uds.	no coman Uds.
compre Ud.	no compre Ud.	compren Uds.	no compren Uds.
hable Ud.	no hable Ud.	hablen Uds.	no hablen Uds.
venda Ud.	no venda Ud.	vendan Uds.	no vendan Uds.

IRREGULAR VERBS:

Verbs with an [irregular Present Subjunctive](#) form also use this form in the Imperative. Some of the more common irregular formal command forms include:

<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
dar	to give	dé usted	den ustedes
decir	to say	diga usted	digan ustedes
estar	to be	esté usted	estén ustedes
hacer	to do	haga usted	hagan ustedes
ir	to go	vaya usted	vayan ustedes
oír	to hear	oiga usted	oigan ustedes
poner	to put	ponga usted	pongan ustedes
saber	to know	sepa usted	sepan ustedes
salir	to leave	salga usted	salgan ustedes
ser	to be	sea usted	sean ustedes
venir	to come	vuelva usted	vuelvan ustedes

NOTE: There are written accents over **dé**, **esté**, and **estén**.

STEM-CHANGING VERBS

<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
cerrar (ie)	to close	cierre usted	cierren ustedes
contar (ue)	to count	cuenta usted	cuenten ustedes
dormir (ue)	to sleep	duerma usted	duerman ustedes
pedir (i)	to request	pida usted	pidan ustedes
volver (e)	to return	venga usted	vengan ustedes

STEM-CHANGING VERBS

<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
buscar (qu)	to look for	busque usted	busquen ustedes
coger (j)	to pick up	coja usted	cojan ustedes

empezar (ce)	to begin	empiece usted	empiecen ustedes
llegar (u)	to arrive	llegue usted	lleguen ustedes
seguir (i)	to follow	 siga usted	 sigan ustedes

INFORMAL OR FAMILIAR COMMANDS

The third person singular form of the Present Tense is used with **tú** in familiar or informal commands. The plural affirmative **vosotros (-as)** command is formed by replacing the final **r** of the infinitive with **d**. Both the singular and the plural negative familiar command forms are the same as the Present Subjunctive forms.

REGULAR VERBS:

<i>Aff. Sing.</i>	<i>Neg. Sing.</i>	<i>Aff. Pl.</i>	<i>Neg. Pl.</i>
abre	no ab ras	abrid	no ab ráis
come	no com as	comed	no com áis
compra	no compr es	comprad	no compr éis
escribe	no escrib as	escribid	no escrib áis
habla	no hab les	hablad	no hab léis
vende	no vend as	vended	no vend áis

NOTE: The pronouns **tú** and **vosotros(-as)** are generally *not* used with familiar command forms. They are used only for emphasis.

IRREGULAR VERBS:

There are nine verbs with an irregular affirmative singular form. The remaining three command forms of these verbs are regular.

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Affirmative Singular</i>	<i>Negative Singular</i>	<i>Affirmative Plural</i>	<i>Negative Plural</i>
decir to say	di	no dig as	decid	no dig áis
hacer to do	haz	no hag as	haced	no hag áis
ir to go	ve	no vay as	id	no vay áis
poner to put	pon	no pong as	poned	no pong áis
salir to leave	sal	no salg as	salid	no salg áis
ser to be	sé	no seas	sed	no se áis
tener to have	ten	no teng as	tened	no teng áis
valer to be worth	val	no valg as	valed	no valg áis
venir to come	ven	no veng as	venid	no veng áis

REFLEXIVE VERBS

Reflexive verbs have the same command forms as other verbs except for the placement of the reflexive pronoun. In affirmative commands in the **tú**, **usted**, and **ustedes** forms, the reflexive pronoun is attached to the end of the verb.

Tú	párate	stand up	[you, familiar singular]
Ud.	párese	stand up	[you, formal singular]
Él/ella	párese	stand up	
Uds.	párense	stand up	[you, formal pl.]
Nosotros/as	parémonos	stand up	[let us stand up]
Vosotros/as	paraos	stand up	[you, familiar pl.]

Participles

In English, there are two different participle forms, present (-ing) and past participle (-ed in regular forms). In Spanish, there is the equivalent to present participle, which is called gerund (gerundio), and just one participle (participio), which is the equivalent to past participle.

Present Participle

In Spanish, the present participle or gerundio is formed as follows:

ar - bailar, drop the ending **ar**, and add **ando**: *bailando* / *dancing*.

er - beber, drop the ending **er**, and add **iendo**: *bebiendo* / *drinking*.

ir - escribir, drop the ending **ir**, and add **iendo**: *escribiendo* / *writing*.

In Spanish, the more common use of present participle or gerundio is to form the Progressive Tenses. These tenses are formed by using **estar** plus the present participle of the main verb that we are using.

El perro **está ladrando**.
The dog *is barking*.

Ella **estuvo llorando** toda la noche.
She *was crying* the whole night.

Mis amigos **estaban cantando** cuando llegaron mis padres.
My friends *were singing*, when my parents came.

The present participle is also used:

1. To express clearly an action in the past.
La madre salió **corriendo** / The mother left *running*.
2. To express the English use of by and present participle.
Estudiando, apruebas seguro / **By studying**, you pass the exam for sure.
3. To form the Perfect Participle: **habiendo** comido / *having* eaten

Past Participle

In Spanish, a past participle is regularly formed as follows:

ar - bailar, drop the ending **ar**, and add **ado**: *bailado* / *danced*.

er - beber, drop the ending **er**, and add **ido**: *bebido* / *drunk*.

ir - escribir, drop the ending **ir**, and add **ido**: *escribido* / *written*.

The past participle is used:

1. To form compound tenses.
Ella ha **comido** / She has *eaten*.

2. To form the Perfect Infinitive.
Haber **comido** / to have *eaten*.
3. To express the passive voice with **ser**.
Las joyas **fueron robadas** por un ladrón experto.
The jewels *were stolen* by an expert thief.
4. To form the Perfect Participle.
Habiendo **comido** / having *eaten*.
5. To modify a noun as an adjective.
Un coche **usado** / A used *car*.
6. To express the result of an action with **estar** and **quedar**.
La ventana **está cerrada** / The window *is closed*.

Related Topics:

[Contents](#)

[Verbs](#)

DEFINITE ARTICLE

The Definite Article in Spanish (equivalent to the English **the**) is inflected as follows:

<i>SINGULAR</i>		<i>PLURAL</i>	
Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
el	la	los	las

FEMININE NOUNS & STRESSED "a"

If a feminine **noun** begins with the sound of stressed **a** (written **a** or **ha**), the singular definite article that precedes it is **el**.

el h acha	the axe
el á guila	the eagle
el a lma	the soul

CONTRACTIONS

The definite article is frequently combined with certain **prepositions** to yield the following **contractions**:

a	+	el	=	al
de	+	el	=	del

a = personal "a", to, at.

de = out of, because of, on, in, made of, about, on, than, from, through, out of, because

OMISSION OF DEFINITE ARTICLE

1. With the use of *some, any, a certain quantity or number of, etc.*, before a **noun**, the definite article is *not* used.

Las granjeros producen **trigo**.
The farmers produce *wheat*, too.

2. The trend is to omit the definite article after familiar verbs such as **saber** (to know), **aprender** (to learn), and **enseñar** (to teach).

El profesor **sabe** japonés.
The professor *knows* Japanese.

OMISSION OF DEFINITE ARTICLE WITH **NOUN**

The definite article is frequently omitted in factual discussions, e.g., in textbooks.

Aquí se halla **Teherán**, **capital** de Irán.
Here is *Teheran*, *the capital* of Iran.

TITLES

The definite article is used with certain titles, including the following:

el señor	el capitán	el doctor	el rey
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la señora	el general	la doctora	la reina
la señorita	la generala	el conde	el profesor

TITLES & SPEAKING

In speaking to an individual, the definite article is *never* used with the person's title:

Don	Mr.	Fray	friar	San	Saint
Doña	Mrs.	Sor	sister	Santo	Saint
				Santa	Saint

NOTE: **San** is a shortened form of **Santo**, used before all masculine names of saints, except Tomás, Tomé, Toribio, and Domingo, which take **Santo**.

NAMES OF LANGUAGES

The definite article is used with unmodified names of languages, except after **en**, **de** (with some exceptions), and **hablar**. After the **verbs** **comprender**, **estudiar**, **aprender**, **leer**, **oír**, **saber**, and **escribir**, the article may be used or omitted.

¿**Habla** usted **español**?
Do you *speak Spanish*?

¿**Habla** bien **el francés**?
Does he *speak French well*?

Fue escrito **en alemán**.
It was written *in German*.

El alemán es difícil.
German is difficult.

NAMES OF COUNTRIES & CITIES

The definite article is used with names of certain countries and cities:

la Argentina	el Japón
el Brasil	la República de Panamá
el Canadá	el Paraguay
la China	el Perú
el Ecuador	el Salvador
la India	el Uruguay
el Cairo	la Habana

MODIFIED & UNMODIFIED NAMES OF COUNTRIES & CITIES

Names of countries *not* modified by **adjectives** usually take no definite article.

En **Brasil** hay muchas plantas raras.
In *Brazil* there are many rare plants.

Names of countries and cities modified by an **adjective** are accompanied by the definite article.

Mi hermana vive en **el viejo San Juan**.
My sister lives in *old San Juan*.

Related Topics:

[Indefinite Article](#)

[Neuter Article](#)

[Gender](#)

INDEFINITE ARTICLE

The indefinite article in Spanish (equivalent to the English **a / an / one**) is declined as follows:

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
un	una	unos	unas

FEMININE NOUNS & STRESSED "a"

If a feminine noun begins with the sound of stressed **a** (written **a** or **ha**), the singular indefinite article that precedes it is **un**.

un hacha	an / one axe
un águila	an / one eagle
un alma	a / one soul

PLURAL UNOS / UNAS

The plurals **unos** and **unas** have the meanings **some, a few, a pair of, about**.

¿Deseas comer **unas** uvas?
Do you wish to eat *some* grapes?

Unos ojos muy hermosos.
A fine *pair of* eyes.

Dista de aquí **unas** cien millas.
It is *about* one hundred miles from here.

OTHER / CERTAIN

Otro is *never* accompanied by the indefinite article. **Cierto** is *ordinarily not*.

Voy a comprar **otro** carro.
I am going to buy *another* car.

Todo esto pasó en **cierto** pueblo andaluz.
All this happened in *a certain* Andalusian village.

THE SAID / THE AFORESAID

El tal and **la tal** have the meaning of **the said, the aforesaid, that**. **Un, una, + tal** means **a certain** and is used *only* with the name of a person.

El tal niño era alto y flaco.
The aforesaid boy was tall and thin.

El tal D. Vázquez es arquitecto.
That Don Vazquez is an architect.

Un tal Reyes ha hecho el descubrimiento.
A certain Reyes has made the discovery.

OCCUPATION / RACE / NATIONALITY / SOCIAL STATUS / RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL BELIEFS

If the speaker intends to classify the **subject** according to occupation, race, nationality, social status,

religious or political beliefs, the indefinite article is omitted.

Antonio no es **español**, es **boliviano**.
Anthony is not Spanish (a Spaniard) he is Bolivian.

Ser **católico** o **protestante**.
To be a Catholic or a Protestant.

La cólera es mala **consejera**.
Anger is a poor counselor.

Es **abogada**.
She is a lawyer.

Soy **ingeniero**.
I am *an* engineer.

INDEFINITE ARTICLE FOR EMPHASIS

When some feeling is expressed by the speaker (e.g., admiration, disgust) the indefinite article is used.

Era **un** espía doble.
He was *a* double agent.

¡Es usted **un** artista!
You are *an* artist!

Es **un** cobarde.
He is *a* coward.

Related Topics:

[Definite Article](#)

[Neuter Article](#)

[Gender](#)

NEUTER ARTICLE

Lo, the neuter article in Spanish (equivalent to the English *the / that / what / which*), is combined with adjectives (including past participles), adverbs, and prepositional phrases to form a kind of *neuter noun*. The translation of **lo** varies with the context.

lo que	what, which, a thing which, how (much)
lo dicho	what was said
lo convenido	what was agreed on
a lo lejos	in the distance
lo de menos	the least important part of it
lo de siempre	the customary thing
lo del	all about (that matter)
lo alto	the top
lo más bonito	the prettiest part
lo más cómico	the most comical

La profesora preguntó a los estudiantes **lo que** (or *qué*) habían hecho.
The professor asked her students *what* they had done.

La joven no sabe **lo que** la quieren sus padres.
The young girl doesn't know *how much* her parents love her.

Hay que mezclar **lo salado** y **lo dulce**.
One must combine *the salty* and *the sweet*.

No hay nada de **lo dicho** (or **lo convenido**)
What was agreed upon is called off.

Lo de menos era el trabajo.
The least important part of it was the work.

Sucedió **lo de siempre**.
The customary thing happened.

Quiere saber **lo de la** entrevista.
He wants to know *all about* the interview.

Lo + ADJECTIVES / ADVERBS

Lo + inflected adjective or adverb + que is equivalent to the English **how**.

¡**Lo agrias que** están estas naranjas!
How sour these oranges are!

Lo + Ser / Estar

Lo is used with **ser** and **estar** to repeat the idea of a previous adjective or noun:

Ud. debe (de) *estar muy cansado*. **Lo estoy**.
You must *be very tired*. *I am (tired)*.

Parece *buena oportunidad*, pero **no lo es**.
It seems to be *a good opportunity*, but **it isn't**.

POSSESSION

Lo + masculine singular possessive pronoun form is used as a neuter noun meaning *what is mine (yours, his, etc.)*, *my (your, his, etc.) property*, *my (your, his, etc.) share*:

Si le damos **lo suyo**, nos dejará en paz.

If we give him *his share*, he will leave us alone.

Lo mío, mío, y **lo tuyo**, de los dos.

What is mine (is) mine, and *what is yours* (belongs to us) both.

Related Topics:

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

[Definite Article](#)

[Indefinite Article](#)

[Gender](#)

[Plural Forms of Nouns](#)

[Descriptive Adjectives](#)

[Comparative and Superlative Forms](#)

[Adverbs](#)

NEGATIVE STATEMENTS

NINGUNO / NINGÚN / NI

NINGUNO

The Spanish [adjective](#) **Ninguno** (equivalent to the English **no / none / not any / not one / neither**) is declined as follows:

<i>SINGULAR</i>	
<u>Masculine</u>	<u>Feminine</u>
ninguno	ninguna

NOTE: The [adjective](#) **ninguno** has no plural form.

NINGÚN

Ninguno drops the final **o** when it modifies a masculine singular [noun](#):

Ningún hombre entre ellos pudo levantar el peso.
Not a man among them could lift the weight.

NI

ni	not even
ni...ni	neither...nor
no...ni	neither...nor
ni bien	not quite, not altogether
ni que	as if
ni siquiera	not even, not a single

Ni chicha **ni** limonada.
Neither fish **nor** fowl.

¡**Ni que** fuera yo tan tonto!
As if I were fool enough!

Related Topics:

[Definite Article](#)

[Indefinite Article](#)

[Neuter Article](#)

[Gender](#)

GENDER

All Spanish nouns are either masculine or feminine.

MASCULINE / FEMININE NOUNS

Most nouns ending in **o** are masculine and most ending in **a** are feminine.

Masculine	English	Feminine	English
el carro	car	la blusa	blouse
el pollo	chicken	la camisa	shirt
el queso	cheese	la candela	candle
el sombrero	hat	la casa	house
el teléfono	telephone	la falda	skirt
el trabajo	work	la niña	girl
el templo	temple	la lotería	lottery / raffle
el maestro	teacher	la maestra	teacher
el muchacho	boy	la muchacha	girl
el dinero	money	la moneda	coin

EXCEPTIONS

A few nouns that end in **o** are feminine:

la mano	hand	
la foto	photo	(abbreviation of la fotografía)
la radio	radio	

Some nouns ending in **a** are masculine. Some frequently used nouns belonging to this group are:

el cometa	comet	el día	day
el mapa	map	el planeta	planet

Many nouns ending in **ma** are masculine:

el clima	climate	el drama	drama
el sistema	system	el tema	theme / subject
el poema	poem	el idioma	language
el problema	problem	el teorema	theorem

However, the following common words ending in **ma** are always feminine:

la broma	joke	la forma	form
la cama	bed	la víctima	victim

Sometimes the **o** or **a** denoting a masculine or feminine noun is absent:

el bailarín	dancer	la bailarina	dancer
el rey	king	la reina	queen
el conde	count	la condesa	countess
el señor	gentleman	la señora	lady
el tigre	tiger	la tigresa	tigress
el león	lion	la leona	lioness

INFINITIVES AS NOUNS

Where the infinitive is used as a noun it is always masculine:

el viajar	traveling	el contribuir	contributing
el caminar	walking	el pensar	thinking

NOUNS ENDING IN **-ción + -umbre**

Nouns ending in **-ción** and **-umbre** are always feminine:

la acción	action	la costumbre	custom
la audición	audition	la cumbre	peak
la bendición	blessing	la legumbre	vegetable
la lección	lesson	la lumbre	fire
la constitución	constitution	la muchedumbre	crowd
la función	function	la pesadumbre	burden
la liberación	liberation	la podredumbre	rot

NOUNS ENDING IN **-tad, -dad, + -tud**

Nouns ending in **-tad**, **-dad**, and **-tud** are always feminine. Note the correlation between Spanish **-dad** and English **-ty**:

la amistad	friendship	la libertad	liberty
la bondad	goodness	la maldad	wickedness
la caridad	charity	la plenitud	abundance
la ciudad	city	la sanidad	health
la comunidad	community	la santidad	holiness
la dificultad	difficulty	la movilidad	mobility
la exactitud	exactness	la soledad	solitude
la igualdad	equality	la universidad	university
la juventud	youth	la vanidad	vanity

NOUNS DENOTING PERSONS / ANIMALS

Nouns denoting persons or animals can be masculine or feminine and are formed by adding **o** or **a** to a common stem:

el abuelo	grandfather	la abuela	grandmother
el esposo	husband	la esposa	wife
el hermano	brother	la hermana	sister
el novio	bridegroom	la novia	bride
el primo	cousin	la prima	cousin
el gato	cat	la gata	cat

NOUNS DENOTING PROFESSION / SOCIAL POSITION

Nouns denoting a person's profession or social position often end in **-ista**, **-ante**, or **-ente**. Gender is indicated by the article preceding the noun and the noun endings do not change:

el artista	artist	la artista	artist
el cantante	singer	la cantante	singer
el dentista	dentist	la dentista	dentist
el estudiante	student	la estudiante	student
el poeta	poet	la poeta	poet
el taxista	taxi driver	la taxista	taxi driver

NOUNS WITH COMMON STEM

Some **nouns** have a common stem to which **o** or **a** is added. Note the meanings of common-stem **nouns**

may *not* be related.

Related Pairs of Common-Stem Nouns:

el manzano	apple tree	la manzana	apple
el político	politician	la política	politics / policy
el músico	musician	la música	music
el pimiento	red / green pepper	la pimienta	black pepper

Unrelated Pairs of Common-Stem Nouns:

el puerto	port	la puerta	door
el caso	case	la casa	house
el cuento	story	la cuenta	bill

Gender for some common-stem [nouns](#) is indicated only by their articles. Note the meanings of common-stem [nouns](#) may *not* be related.

el cura	priest	la cura	cure
el capital	capital (money)	la capital	capital city
el guía	guide	la guía	guidebook
el frente	military front	la frente	forehead
el orden	order / opposite of disorder	la orden	religious order / command

Related Topics:

[Definite Article](#)

[Indefinite Article](#)

[Plural Forms of Nouns](#)

PLURAL FORMS OF NOUNS

The plural of a **noun** is formed by adding either **-s** or **-es**. The formation of the plural can affect the spelling and accenting of the word.

NOUNS ENDING IN A VOWEL

Add **-s** to **nouns** ending in a vowel:

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
el gato	cat	los gatos	cats
la mano	hand	las manos	hands
la silla	chair	las sillas	chairs
el barco	boat / ship	los barcos	boats / ships
la tribu	tribe	las tribus	tribes
la fuente	fountain / spring	las fuentes	fountains / springs
el puente	bridge	los puentes	bridges

NOUNS ENDING IN AN ACCENTED VOWEL

Most **nouns** ending in a vowel end in **o**, **a**, or **e**. Add **-es** to those few nouns that end in an accented vowel, for example:

tisú	lamé	tisúes
tabú	taboo	tabúes
carmesí	crimson	carmesíes

NOUNS ENDING IN A CONSONANT

Add **-es** to **nouns** ending in a consonant:

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
el automóvil	automobile	los automóviles	automobiles
el camión	truck	los camiones	trucks
el mes	month	los meses	months
el pintor	painter	los pintores	painters
la verdad	truth	las verdades	truths

NOUNS ENDING IN -n + -s

If a **noun** has more than one syllable, ends in an **-n** or an **-s**, and takes an accent on the last syllable, the accent is dropped in the plural:

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
el avión	airplane	los aviones	airplanes
la exhibición	exhibition	las exhibiciones	exhibitions
la misión	mission	las misiones	missions
la relación	relationship	las relaciones	relationships
el compás	beat / measure	los compases	beats / measures

If a **noun** has more than one syllable, ends in an **-n**, and takes no accent on its last syllable, the stressed syllable retains its stress. A written accent is added in the plural:

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
el crimen	crime	los crímenes	crimes

el examen	examination	los exámenes	examinations
la orden	religious order / command	las órdenes	religious orders / commands

NOUNS ENDING IN -z

If a [noun](#) ends in **-z**, change the **z** to **c** and add **-es** to form the plural:

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
la cruz	cross	las cru ces	crosses
la luz	light	las lu ces	lights
la vez	time, instance	las ve ces	times, instances
el lápiz	pencil	los lápi ces	pencils
el pez	fish	los pe ces	fish

Related Topics:

[Definite Article](#)

[Indefinite Article](#)

[Gender](#)

GROUP NOUNS

The masculine plural form can include both the female and male members of a group:

- los padres** = fathers / father + mother / fathers + mothers / parents
- los niños** = boys / boy + girl / boys + girls / children
- los hijos** = sons / son + daughter / sons + daughters
- los reyes** = kings / king + queen / kings + queens
- los señores** = gentlemen / Mr. and Mrs.

Related Topics:

[Definite Article](#)

[Indefinite Article](#)

[Gender](#)

COMPOUND NOUNS

The article preceding [compound nouns](#) changes from singular to plural to indicate a change in number, but the [noun](#) itself does not change its ending. [Compound nouns](#) are always masculine.

Singular

el cumpleaños	birthday
el lavaplatos	dishwasher
el paraguas	umbrella
el paracaídas	parachute
el parabrisas	windshield
el rascacielos	skyscraper
el rompecabezas	jigsaw puzzle
el tocadiscos	record player

Plural

los cumpleaños	birthdays
los lavaplatos	dishwashers
los paraguas	umbrellas
los paracaídas	parachutes
los parabrisas	windshields
los rascacielos	skyscrapers
los rompecabezas	jigsaw puzzles
los tocadiscos	record players

Related Topics:

[Definite Article](#)

[Indefinite Article](#)

[Gender](#)

DIMINUTIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE FORMS

Adding a [diminutive](#) or [augmentative ending](#) to the noun stem changes the connotation of Spanish nouns:

DIMINUTIVE FORMS

The [diminutive ending](#) on a [noun](#) implies a smaller size or form. It is also used to express endearment. The most common diminutive endings are **-ito(a)**, **-cito(a)**, **-illo(a)**, and **-cillo(a)**.

If a noun ends in **a** or **o**, **-ito(a)** is added to the noun stem:

bocado	mouthful	bocadito	tidbit / morsel
libro	book	librito	a little book
gato	cat	gatito	a little cat / kitten
rosa	rose	rosita	a little rose

If a noun ends in **l**, the **-ito(a)** ending is added to the complete noun:

animal	animal	animalito	a little animal
papel	paper	papelito	a little paper
chaval	boy	chavalito	a little boy

If a noun ends in **e**, **r**, or **n**, the **-cito(a)** or **-cillo(a)** ending is added directly to the complete noun:

amor	darling / love	amorcito	little darling / love
parte	part	partecita	a small part
ratón	mouse	ratoncito	a little mouse

Some noun stems are changed to accommodate the diminutive ending:

chico	boy	chiquito	a little boy
pedazo	piece	pedacito	a little piece
poco	little / few / not many	poquito	a little / few / small amount

AUGMENTATIVE FORMS

The [augmentative ending](#) on a [noun](#) implies a larger size or form. It can also imply disrespect or scorn. The most common augmentative endings are **-ote(a)**, **-on(a)**, and **-azo(a)**.

árbol	tree	arbolazo	a large tree
cara	countenance / presence	carota	a wise guy
gigante	giant / huge	gigantón	huge / enormous
libro	book	librote	a large book
muchacho	boy	muchachote	a big child
perro	dog	perrazo	a large dog

NOUNS + -azo

The **-azo** ending may also be added to the name of an object to denote the idea of a physical blow from that object. The derived noun is always masculine regardless of the noun's original [gender](#).

la estaca	big stick	el estacazo	blow from a big stick
el hacha	axe	el hachazo	blow from an axe
el martillo	hammer	el martillazo	blow from a hammer

Related Topics:

[Definite Article](#)

Indefinite Article
Gender

SUBJECT PRONOUNS

The Subject Pronouns are usually omitted since the verb ending sufficiently indicates the person and number. The Subject Pronouns are:

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
yo	I	nosotros -as	we
tú	you (familiar)	vosotros -as	you (familiar pl.)
usted	you (formal)	ustedes	you (formal pl.)
él	he, it	ellos	they
ella	she, it	ellas	they
ello	it		

USAGE

Tú and **vosotros** are used to address children, an intimate friend, people whom one treats in a familiar way, animals, and the public (usually). They are also used in prayers.

Usted, a contraction of **Vuestra Merced**, *your grace*, was formerly used in polite conversation and conveys a certain formality and respect. The forms **usted** and **ustedes** are abbreviated respectively **Vd.**, **V.**, or **Ud.** and **Vds.**, **VV.**, or **Uds.** Among families the use of **tú** or **usted** to address older members varies with the degree of formality observed.

With the exception of **usted** and **ustedes**, which are used regularly, subject pronouns are used *only when the emphasis is on the doer of the action, rather than on the action itself*:

¿Tiene **él** mi libro?
Does *he* have my book?

To mark a contrast between two persons:

Él es colombiano pero **ella** es norteamericana.
He is Colombian but *she* is North American.

When no verb is expressed:

¿Quién es?	Who is it?
Soy yo .	It is <i>I</i> . (or It is <i>me</i> .)
Somos nosotros .	It is <i>we</i> .
¿Es Vd. ?	Is it <i>you</i> ?
¿Son ellos ?	Is it <i>they</i> ?
Es él .	It is <i>he</i> .

ELLO

The neuter third person singular form **ello** refers to a previous proposition or statement rather than to a noun, as there are *no neuter nouns in Spanish*. **Ello** (*it*) is almost invariably omitted as the subject of a sentence.

para ello = for it (referring to an entire idea)

Quería ser doctor. **Para ello** estudió varios años.
He wanted to be a doctor. *For it* he studied for several years.

"*It*" is almost always expressed by the verb form.

Es larga.	<i>It is</i> long.
Llueve.	<i>It is</i> raining.
No funciona.	<i>It doesn't</i> work.

PLURAL SUBJECT

When a **subject** consists of a combination of **nouns** and **pronouns**, they combine as follows:

tú + yo	=	nosotros
tú + Ud.	=	ustedes
tú + él, ella	=	ustedes (Amer.)
tú + él, ella	=	vosotros (Spain)

tú + yo = nosotros

él + yo = nosotros

Tú y yo *podemos* ir al campo el viernes.
You and I can go to the countryside on Friday.

tú + él = vosotros	in Spain
tú + él = ustedes	in Latin America

Tú y Esteban *estudiáis* juntos, ¿verdad?
You and Steven study together, right?

COMPARE:

Tú y Esteban *estudian* juntos, ¿verdad?
You and Steven study together, right?

tú + usted = ustedes

Tú y usted vengan por aquí, por favor.
You and you (formal) come this way, please.

SUBJECT PRONOUNS FOR EMPHASIS

The **adjective mismo** (-ma), *self*, is used with the **subject pronouns** to add emphasis:

yo mismo -ma	I myself
tú mismo -ma	you yourself
él mismo	he himself
ella misma	she herself
Ud. mismo -ma	you yourself
nosotros -tras mismos -mas	we ourselves
vosotros -tras mismos -mas	you yourselves
ellos mismos	they themselves (masc.)
ellas mismas	they themselves (fem.)
Uds. mismos -mas	you yourselves

Yo mismo reparé el carro.
I, myself, repaired the car.

Tú misma tienes que ir a obtener la licencia de conducir.
You, yourself, have to go to obtain the driver's license.

Related Topic:

[Prepositional Pronouns](#)

PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS

Prepositional pronouns are used after prepositions. Except for the first and second person singular, the prepositional forms are the same as the subject pronouns, the exceptions being *mí*, *tí*.

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
mí	me	nosotros -as	us
tí	you	vosotros -as	you (familiar)
él	him	ellos	them
ella	her	ellas	them
usted	you	ustedes	you (formal)

Sí is used to mean *himself*, *herself*, *yourself*, and *themselves*. The written accent over **mí** and **sí** avoids confusion with **si** (*if*), and **mi** (*my*).

When the preposition **con** is used with **mí**, **tí**, or **sí**, a single word is formed by adding **-go**:

conmigo	=	with me
contigo	=	with you
consigo	=	with him, with her, with you, with them

Juan va **conmigo**.
John is going *with me*.

Ella quiere estudiar **contigo**.
She wants to study *with you*.

Nos lleva **consigo**.
He is taking us *with him*.

The subject pronouns are usually used after **entre**, *except* in the phrase **entre sí**.

entre sí = between themselves, between yourselves, between one another

Va a sentarse **entre tú y yo**.
He is going to sit down *between you and me*.

The subject pronouns are used after **excepto**, **menos**, and **salvo** when meaning *except*.

Todo el mundo lo cree **menos yo**.
Everybody believes it *except me*.

Excepto tú, nadie lo sabe.
Except you, nobody knows it.

Todos vinieron **salvo él**.
Everybody came *except him*.

Related Topics:

[Subject Pronouns](#)

[Prepositions](#)

DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES

All [adjectives](#) must agree in number with the nouns they modify. The plurals of adjectives are formed in the same manner as that of [nouns](#), namely by adding either **-s** or **-es**.

If the adjective ends in a *vowel*, add **-s**.

If the adjective ends in a *consonant*, add **-es**.

If the adjective ends in **-z**, change the **z** to **c** and add **-es**.

Related Topics:

[Plural Forms of Nouns](#)

[Group Nouns](#)

[Compound Nouns](#)

[Adverbs](#)

GENDERED ADJECTIVES

Some [adjectives](#) must agree in [gender](#) with the [nouns](#) they modify. The classes of adjectives that change their form to indicate a difference between masculine and feminine [gender](#) include:

1. ADJECTIVES ENDING IN **-o**

Adjectives ending in an **-o** change to a feminine form by replacing the **-o** with an **-a** ending.

alto(s)	alta(s)	high
flaco(s)	flaca(s)	thin
gordo(s)	gorda(s)	fat
pequeño(s)	pequeña(s)	small
rojo(s)	roja(s)	red

2. ADJECTIVES ENDING IN **-or, -an, -on, + -in**

Adjectives ending in **-or, -an, -on,** or **-in** change to a feminine form by adding **-a** to the final consonant. Accented masculine endings drop the accent in the feminine form.

Catalán(es)	Catalana(s)	Catalonian
consolador(es)	consoladora(s)	consoling
holgazán(es)	holgazana(s)	idle, lazy
trabajador(es)	trabajadora(s)	hard-working

3. ADJECTIVES OF NATIONALITY

Adjectives of nationality ending in a consonant change to a feminine form by adding **-a** to the final consonant. Adjectives of nationality ending in **-o** follow the same rules as for all adjectives ending in **-o**.

alemán(es)	alemana(s)	German
francés(es)	francesa(s)	French
inglés(es)	inglesa(s)	English
japonés(es)	japonesa(s)	Japanese

Related Topic:

[Gender](#)

UNGENDERED ADJECTIVES

All [adjectives](#) ending in **-e** and many adjectives ending in a consonant are ungendered in both their singular and plural forms.

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>English</i>
alegre	alegres	cheerful
grande	grandes	large
pobre	pobres	poor
triste	tristes	sad
verde	verdes	green
difícil	difíciles	difficult
fácil	fáciles	easy
feliz	felices	happy
gris	grises	gray

Related Topics:

[Contents](#)

[Adjectives](#)

FEMININE NOUNS + MASCULINE ARTICLE

Feminine [nouns](#) such as **el hacha** and **el agua** that begin with a stressed **a** or **ha** are preceded by the masculine article **el** in the singular form, but are always preceded by the feminine article **las** in the plural form. Since these nouns are feminine, they must be modified by a feminine [adjective](#) if one exists.

el agua	las aguas sucias	the dirty water
el águila	las aguilas negras	the black eagles
el hacha	las hachas duras	the strong axes

Related Topics:

[Adjectives](#)

[Gender](#)

SHORTENED ADJECTIVES

Some [adjectives](#) drop the final -o in the masculine singular form when they precede the [noun](#) they modify.

primero	first	malo	bad
primer libro	first book	mal olor	bad odor
primera lección	first lesson	mala fama	bad name or reputation
bueno	good	alguno	some
buen médico	good doctor	algún mercado	some market
buena vista	good view	algunas cucharas	some spoons
ninguno	none		
ningún hombre	no (not one) man		
ninguna persona	no (not one) person		

The adjective **grande** changes to **gran** before both feminine and masculine singular nouns.

un gran piloto	a great pilot
una gran mujer	a great woman

Related Topics:

[Adjectives](#)

[Gender](#)

POSITION OF ADJECTIVES

Descriptive [adjectives](#) generally follow the [noun](#) they modify. The meanings of some [adjectives](#) change depending on whether they precede or follow the [noun](#).

<i>Adjective</i>	<i>Before Noun</i>	<i>After Noun</i>
<i>cierto</i>	cierta promesa (a certain)	promesa cierta (definite/sure)
<i>grande/gran</i>	un gran libro (great)	un libro grande (large/big)
<i>medio</i>	media población (half)	la población media (average)
<i>pobre</i>	un pobre hombre (miserable, pitiful)	un hombre pobre (poor, needy)
<i>puro</i>	pura agua (total, complete)	agua pura (pure, unadulterated)
<i>único</i>	la única mujer only	una mujer única unique
<i>viejo</i>	un viejo manuscrito antique	un manuscrito viejo old

PREDICATIVE ADJECTIVES

[Adjectives](#) can follow the verbs **ser** or **estar** (to be) and serve as a [subject complement](#). The [adjective](#) always agrees in number and [gender](#) with the [subject](#) it modifies.

El libro es antiguo .	The book <i>is old</i> .
La sopa está sabrosa .	The soup <i>is delicious</i> .
Los vestidos son bonitos .	The dresses <i>are pretty</i> .
Ellos están listos .	They <i>are ready</i> .

ADJECTIVE PRECEDES NOUN

Sometimes the [adjective](#) precedes the [noun](#), an order that emphasizes the adjective over the noun.

¡Está picante <i>la salsa</i> !	The <i>sauce is hot!</i>
¡Es brillante <i>la idea</i> !	The <i>idea is brilliant!</i>

ADJECTIVES AS NOUNS

[Adjectives](#) can be used as [nouns](#). The noun is dropped and the article is retained.

el automóvil antiguo	the old car
el antiguo	the old one
la puerta verde	the green door
la verde	the green one
los libros buenos	the good books
los buenos	the good ones

TWO OR MORE ADJECTIVES

When two [adjectives](#) follow a [noun](#), they are separated by the [conjunction](#) **y** (and).

Es una ciudad **vieja y majestuosa**.
It is an *old, majestic* city.

Rodolfo es un hombre **juicioso y trabajador**.
Rudolf is a *mature and hard-working* man.

When more than two [adjectives](#) follow a [noun](#), the first adjectives are separated by a comma, and the last is separated by the [conjunction y](#).

La gente es **inteligente, amable, complaciente y trabajadora**.
The people are *intelligent, kind, accommodating, and hard-working*.

Es un médico **excelente, dedicado y cuidadoso**.
He is an *excellent, dedicated, and careful* doctor.

ADJECTIVE + NOUN IN SEPARATE SENTENCES

An [adjective](#) can modify a [noun](#) in a previous sentence. The adjective must agree with the noun it modifies, even though the noun is not present in the same sentence.

¿De que color es *la paloma*? Es **blanca**.
What color is the dove? It's *white*.

¿Qué te parece *la silla*? Es **cómoda**.
How does the chair seem to you? It's *comfortable*.

Related Topics:

[Gender](#)

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

[Adverbs](#)

ADJECTIVES OF QUANTITY

Adjectives of quantity indicate *how much* or *how many*. They almost always precede the noun they modify.

Singular	English	Plural	English	Note
algún(a)	some	ambos(as)	both	<i>Only a plural form</i>
cada	each, every	algunos(as)	some	<i>Only one form</i>
demasiado(a)	too much	demasiados(as)	too many	
mucho(a)	a lot of, much	muchos(as)	lots of, many	
ningún(a)	not...any			<i>Only singular</i>
otro(a)	other, another	otros(as)	other	
poco(a)	only a little, not much	pocos(as)	only a few, not many	
todo (el)	all, all the	todos (los)	every, all	
toda (la)	all, all the	todas (las)	every, all	

Related Topics:

[Adjectives](#)

[Negative Statements; Ninguno/Ningún/Ni](#)

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

The [possessive adjective](#) changes form in order to agree with the [noun](#) they modify. **Nuestro** and **vuestro** agree in number and [gender](#) and **mi**, **tu**, and **su** agree in number only.

Singular	English	Plural	English
mi cuaderno	my notebook	mis cuadernos	my notebooks
mi herramienta	my tool	mis herramientas	my tools
tu plato	your plate	tus platos	your plates
tu camisa	your shirt	tus camisas	your shirts
su carro	his, her, their, your car	sus carros	his, her, their, your car
su casa	his, her, their, your house	sus casas	his, her, their, your house
nuestro loro	our parrot	nuestros loros	our parrots
nuestra carta	our letter	nuestras cartas	our letters
vuestro libro	your book	vuestros libros	your books
vuestra pluma	your pen	vuestras plumas	your pens

SU + SUS

The meaning of **su** and **sus** can be *his, her, their, or your*. If the meaning is *not* clear from the context of the sentence, a [prepositional phrase](#), **de + proper noun** or [subject pronoun](#), is used to clarify the meaning. If the [prepositional phrase](#) is used, **su** is generally replaced by the [definite article](#).

Marco quiere leer **su** libro.
Marco wants to read *his* book.

Marco quiere leer **el** libro **de ella**.
Marco wants to read *her* book.

When the plural form includes both masculine and feminine [direct objects](#), **ellos** is used. The preposition **de** is usually repeated before each proper name and [object pronoun](#) in a series.

Es el libro **de** Antonio y **de** María.
It is *Antonio's* and *Maria's* book.

Es la casa **de ellos**.
It is *their* house.

Related Topics:

[Definite Article](#)

[Subject Pronouns](#)

[Prepositions](#)

Possessive Pronouns

A **POSSESSIVE PRONOUN** is a pronoun that answers the question "**Whose...?**".

EXAMPLE: ¿Quieres tomar el almuerzo en **mi** casa o en **la tuya**?
Do you want to eat lunch at *my* house or at *yours*?

Related Topics:

[Contents](#)

[Pronouns](#)

DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES

The [demonstrative adjectives](#) are as follows:

	<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>		
<i>Masc</i>	este	this	estos	these	(near me)
<i>Fem</i>	esta	this	estas	these	(near me)
<i>Masc</i>	ese	that	esos	those	(near you)
<i>Fem</i>	esa	that	esas	those	(near you)
<i>Masc</i>	aquel	that	aquellos	those	(yonder)
<i>Fem</i>	aquella	that	aquellas	those	(yonder)

USAGE

Este(a) and **estos(as)** refer to objects or persons close to the speaker.

este lápiz	this pencil
estos lápices	these pencils

Ese(a) and **esos(as)** refer to objects or persons at a physical or temporal distance from the speaker.

ese vaso	that glass
esos vasos	those glasses

Aquel(la) and **aquellos(as)** refer to objects or persons at a substantial physical or temporal distance from the speaker.

aquel edificio	that building
aquellos edificios	those buildings

NOTE: The part of speech **Demonstrative** is no longer available in the program itself. Because of their syntactic similarity they are now considered articles.

Related Topics:

[Possessive Adjectives](#)

[Comparative and Superlative Forms](#)

COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE FORMS

In English, the **comparative** and the **superlative** are formed by adding the endings **-er** and **-est** to the **adjective**. In Spanish, the **comparative** is formed by placing **más** (more) or **menos** (less) *before* the **adjective**. There is no difference between the comparative and superlative forms except for the use of the **definite article** or the **possessive adjective** before the **noun**.

<i>Descriptive</i>	<i>Comparative</i>	<i>Superlative</i>
<i>un hombre alto</i> a tall man	<i>un hombre más alto</i> a taller man	<i>el hombre más alto</i> the tallest man
<i>una mujer instruida</i> an educated woman	<i>una mujer más instruida</i> a more educated woman	<i>la mujer más instruida</i> the most educated woman
<i>los libros caros</i> the costly books	<i>unos libros más caros</i> some more costly books	<i>los libros más caros</i> the costliest books
<i>las pinturas nuevas</i> the new paintings	<i>unas pinturas más nuevas</i> some newer paintings	<i>las pinturas más nuevas</i> the newest paintings

The **superlative** is formed by using the definite article **el, la, los, or las**, or the **possessive adjective** before the noun, followed by **más + adjective**.

<i>mi chaqueta nueva</i> my new jacket	<i>mi chaqueta más nueva</i> my newest jacket
<i>el vestido lindo</i> the beautiful dress	<i>el vestido más lindo</i> the most beautiful dress
<i>la tarta deliciosa</i> the delicious cake	<i>la tarta más deliciosa</i> the most delicious cake

ABSTRACT NOUNS

The use of **lo + masculine singular adjective** to form an abstract noun is common.

Lo más bonito eran los cohetes.
The prettiest part was the skyrockets.

La presentación era de **lo más cómico** que Uds. pueden imaginar.
The presentation was (one) of *the most comical* that you can imagine.

IRREGULAR COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

Four adjectives have irregular forms in the comparative and superlative:

<i>Descriptive</i>	<i>Comparative</i>	<i>Superlative</i>
bueno good	mejor better	el, la mejor / los, las mejores the best
malo bad	peor worse	el, la peor / los, las peores the worst
grande big, great	mayor greater, older	el, la mayor / los, las mayores the greatest, the oldest
pequeño small	menor lesser, younger	el, la menor / los, las menores the least, the youngest

Bueno and **malo** may appear *before* or *after* the noun without changing the meaning of the adjective.

Compré un **buen automóvil**.
Compré un **automóvil bueno**.
I bought a *good car*.

Yo no quería oír la **mala noticia**.
Yo no quería oír la **noticia mala**.
I didn't want to hear the *bad news*.

Mejor and **peor** generally *precede* the noun in the *superlative* form.

Es **mi mejor** amigo.
He is my *best* friend.

Era **la peor** película que he visto.
It was the *worst* movie I have seen.

Mayor and **menor** are used to convey age when referring to people.

David es **mi hermano menor**.
David is my *younger* brother.

David es **el hermano menor**.
David is the *youngest* brother.

The adjectives **joven** and **viejo** are used to describe age in a noncomparative form.

Alejandro es **joven**.
Alexander is *young*.

Margarita es **vieja**.
Margarita is *old*.

Grande and **pequeño** are used to express size.

La mesa es **grande**.
The table is *big*.

Esta mesa es **más grande** que aquella.
This table is *bigger* than that one.

Mi mesa es **la más grande**.
My table is the *biggest*.

Mi coche es **pequeño**.
My car is *small*.

Tu coche es **más pequeño**.
Your car is *smaller*.

El coche de Diego es **el más pequeño**.
Diego's car is the *smallest*.

Más...que and **más...de** (more...than), and **menos...que** and **menos...de** (less...than) are used to compare one adjective to another.

Rafael es **alto**.
Rafael is *tall*.

Rafael es **más alto que** Luis.
Rafael is *taller than* Luis.

Rafael es el estudiante **más alto de** la clase.
Rafael is the *tallest* student in the class.

Más de (more than) and **menos de** (less than) are used with *numbers* in an *affirmative* statement. **Más que** and **menos que** are used with *numbers* in *negative* statements.

Tengo **más de** veinte dolares.
I have *more than* twenty dollars.

No tengo **más que** veinte dolares.

I have *no more than* twenty dollars.
I have *only* twenty dollars.

ADJECTIVES ENDING IN **-ísimo**

The absolute **superlative** is also formed by adding the ending **-ísimo** (very, extremely) to the stem of the **adjective** and some **adverbs**. It is *not* used in comparisons but has the strongest connotation. The ending must agree in number and **gender** with the **noun** it modifies. There is *always* an accent over **-ísimo**.

If the adjective ends in a *vowel*, drop the final vowel and add **-ísimo**:

bello	bellísimo
beautiful	the most beautiful

If the adjective ends in a *consonant*, add **-ísimo** directly to the adjective:

difícil	difícilísimo
difficult	the most difficult

Sometimes the adjective changes spelling to accommodate the **-ísimo** ending:
-co changes to **-qu**, **-go** changes to **-gu**, and **-z** changes to **-c**.

rico	rich	riquísimo	very rich
largo	long	larguísimo	very long
feliz	happy	felicísimo	very happy

Adjectives ending in unstressed **-io** generally drop the **i** of the stem before **-ísimo**.

sucio	dirty	sucísimo	very dirty
limpio	clean	limpísimo	very clean

ADJECTIVES AS NOUNS

In the **superlative**, the **adjective** can be used as a **noun**:

¿Cuál es *la ciudad más interesante*?
What is *the most interesting city*?

La más interesante es Atenas.
The most interesting (one) is Athens.

¿Quién es *el cantante mejor*?
Who is the best singer?

El mejor es Roberto.
The best is Roberto.

IRREGULAR ABSOLUTE SUPERLATIVES

Some **adjectives** have irregular absolute superlatives. Many of them are forms taken directly from Latin. A partial list follows:

Positive		Superlative	
antiguo	old	antiquísimo	very old

bueno	good	óptimo buen ísimo	very good
fácil	easy	facil ísimo	very easy
fiel	faithful	fidel ísimo	very faithful
fuerte	strong	fort ísimo	very strong
grande	great	máximo grand ísimo	very big
malo	bad	pésimo mal ísimo	very bad
nuevo	new	nov ísimo nuev ísimo	very new
pequeño	small	mínimo pequeñ ísimo	very small
pobre	poor	paup érrimo	very poor
sabio	wise	sapient ísimo	very wise
terrible	terrible	terribil ísimo	very terrible

COMPARISON OF EQUALS

ADJECTIVES AND **ADVERBS** + **tan...como**

Where English uses *as...as* to compare two characteristics that are equal, Spanish uses **tan...como**. The **adjective** must agree with the **noun** it modifies.

Tu hermana es **tan** alta **como** la mía.
Your sister is as tall as mine.

Pedro es **tan** extrovertido **como** Juan.
Peter is as extroverted as John.

Estos pájaros son **tan** bellos **como** esos.
These birds are as beautiful as those.

Los jóvenes son **tan** respetados **como** sus padres.
The children are as respected as their parents.

NOUNS + **tanto...como**

Where English uses *as much...as* or *as many...as* to compare two equal quantities, Spanish uses **tanto (-a, -os, -as)...como**. Since **tanto** modifies the **noun** it precedes, it functions as an **adjective** and changes its form according to the number and **gender** of the **noun** it modifies.

Él no tiene **tanta** paciencia **como** yo.
He does not have as *much* patience as I.

Tengo **tanto** entusiasmo **como** tú.
I have as *much* enthusiasm as you.

Ella habla **tanto como** él.
She speaks *as much as* he does.

Él habla **tan aprisa como** ella.
He speaks *as fast as* she does.

If the noun being modified is referred to in a previous sentence, it is frequently omitted.

¿Cuántos **libros** compraste?
How many *books* did you buy?

Compré **tantos como** tú.
I bought *as many as* you.

Related Topics:

[Gender](#)

[Plural Forms of Nouns](#)

[Adverbs](#)

ADVERBS

Adverbs can be formed from most **adjectives** by adding **-mente** to the feminine singular form of the **adjective**. The **-mente** ending corresponds to the English **-ly** ending. If the **adjective** has a written accent, the accent is retained in the **adverb** form.

cariñosa	cariñosamente
constante	constantemente
fácil	fácilmente
perfecto	perfectamente
rápido	rápidamente
triste	tristemente

NOUN + con AS ADVERB

Adverbs are frequently formed by using the **prepositional phrase con + the singular form of the noun**.

<i>con + noun</i>	<i>-mente</i>	<i>English</i>
con ansiedad	ansiosamente	anxiously
con cuidado	cuidadosamente	carefully
con gusto	gustosamente	gladly
con cariño	cariñosamente	lovingly
con dificultad	dificultosamente	with difficulty
con lentitud	lentamente	slowly
con paciencia	pacientemente	patiently
con rapidez	rápidamente	rapidly

ADVERBS NOT DERIVED FROM ADJECTIVES

Some of the more common **adverbs** that are *not* derived from **adjectives** are:

algo	somewhat	aprisa	quickly, hurriedly
demasiado	too	tan	so
mucho	a lot	poco	a little
muchísimo	a great deal	poquísimo	very little
mal	badly	bastante	quite, rather
peor	worse	nada	not at all
muy	very	despacio	slowly
siempre	always	nunca	never

USAGE

ADVERBS THAT MODIFY VERBS

Adverbs that answer the question, *¿cómo?* (how?), usually *follow* the **verb**. A few adverbs such as **rápidamente**, **lentamente**, and **duramente** may also appear in a masculine singular adjective form: **rápido**, **lento**, **duro**.

Ellos corren **rápidamente**. They run *rapidly*.
Ellos corren **rápido**.

Trabaja **duramente**. He works *hard*.
Trabaja **duro**.

When two **adverbs** with the **-mente** ending are used, *only the second adverb* takes the **-mente** ending.

Tenemos que trabajar **lenta y cuidadosamente**.
We must work *slowly and carefully*.

The **adverbs** **bien** and **mal** usually *follow* the first **adverb**. Since **bien** and **mal** do *not* take the **-mente** ending, *the first adverb* does.

Estudian **rápidamente** y **bien**.
They study *rapidly* and *well*.

ADVERBS THAT MODIFY **ADJECTIVES** + OTHER ADVERBS

Adverbs such as **muy**, **poco**, **bastante**, and **demasiado** are used to convey intensity. Adverbs that express degree include **relativamente**, **extraordinariamente**, **enormemente**, **extremadamente**, **verdaderamente**, and **realmente**.

Words such as **poco**, **demasiado**, and **bastante** can be used as both **adverbs** and **adjectives**. Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Adverbs *never* change their form. **Adjectives** modify **nouns** and **pronouns** and *must agree* with the words they modify in number and, if possible, in **gender**.

Adverbs *do not* change form.

Estudio **demasiado rápido**. I study *too rapidly*.
Ellos estudian **demasiado rápido**. They study *too rapidly*.

Adjectives change form.

Tengo **demasiadas** revistas. I have *too many magazines*.
Me diste **demasiados** tamales. You gave me *too many tamales*.

MODIFICATION OF ADVERBS BY OTHER ADVERBS

Affirmative

Dibuja **muy, muy bien**. He (she) draws *very, very well*.
Canta **enormemente bien**. He (she) sings *tremendously well*.
Corre **bastante mal**. He (she) runs *quite badly*.

Negative

Ana *no* habla **nada bien**. Anna does *not* speak *at all well*.
Pablo *no* canta **muy bien**. Paul does *not* sing *very well*.

MODIFICATION OF ADJECTIVES BY ADVERBS

Affirmative

Felipe está **algo alegre**. Phillip is *somewhat happy*.
Jaime es **bastante alto**. James is *quite tall*.
Mari se siente **demasiado cansada**. Mary feels *too tired*.

Negative

Ese hombre es **poco caballeroso**. That man is *not very gentleman-like*.
Isabel *no* es **nada gorda**. Elizabeth is *not fat at all*.

Related Topics:

[Descriptive Adjectives](#)

[Position of Adjectives](#)

[Comparative and Superlative Forms](#)

PREPOSITIONS

The simple [prepositions](#) in Spanish are:

a	at, to	hacia	towards
ante	before	hasta	until, to, up to, as far as
bajo	under	mediante	by means of
con	with	menos	except, but
contra	against	para	for
de	of, from	por	for, by
desde	from, since	salvo	except, save
durante	during	según	according to
en	in, to, at, on	sin	without
entre	among, between	sobre	on, about
excepto	except	tras	after

VERB + PREPOSITION

[Prepositions](#) complete the meaning of [verbs](#) in different ways:

pensar	intend
pensar de	to think of, have an opinion about
pensar en	to think of, meditate on

VERB + PREPOSITION + NOUN OBJECT

A [verb](#) that requires a [preposition](#) before a [noun](#) (object) requires the same [preposition](#) before a [subordinate clause](#):

enterarse de = to find out about

Yo me **enteré de que eran de** Bolivia.
I *found out about* that they were *from* Bolivia.

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Some commonly used [prepositional phrases](#) include:

a causa de	on account of
a excepción de	with the exception of
a fines de	at the end of
a fuerza de	by dint of
al lado de	beside
a lo largo de	along
a más de	besides, farther than
a mediados de	about the middle of
al mes justo de	exactly a month after
a pesar de	in spite of
a principios de	at the beginning of
a punto de	about to
a través de	across, through
además de	besides, in addition to
con motivo de	on account of
de parte de	from
en contra de	against
en cuanto a	as for

en frente de	in front of
en pro de	in favor of
en vez de	instead of
en virtud de	by virtue of
más allá de	beyond
por medio de	by means of
por razón de	by reason of, at the rate of
sin embargo de	despite the fact that
a fines de septiembre	<i>at the end of</i> September
a mediados del siglo XX	<i>about the middle of</i> the twentieth century
a principios de 1849	<i>at the beginning of</i> 1849

PREPOSITIONS + ADVERBIAL PHRASES

A / EN

"A" implies motion, **en** implies rest:

Voy a casa.	I am <i>going</i> home.
Estamos en casa.	We are <i>at</i> home.

The following [verbs](#) require **en**:

caer	to fall
entrar	to go in
Él cayó en cama.	He <i>fell</i> ill.
Entró en la ciudad.	He went <i>into</i> the city.

The [preposition](#) "a" refers to the termination of time, and "en" indicates the length of time in which an action takes place:

A las cuatro...	<i>At</i> four o'clock...
A tres días de estar aquí...	<i>After</i> being here three days...
Llegaré a Moscú en dos días.	I shall reach Moscow <i>in</i> two days.
Estará de vuelta en ocho días.	He will be back <i>in</i> a week.

With expressions of distance, **a** means *away*.

A dos pasos...	Two steps <i>away</i> ...
A tres manzanas...	Three blocks <i>away</i> ...
La ciudad está a cien kilómetros.	The city is a hundred kilometers <i>away</i> .

ANTE / DELANTE DE / ANTES DE

ante = before or in the presence of an authority; it figuratively denotes preference

ante todo	<i>before</i> all
ante el juez	<i>before</i> the judge
ante la belleza	<i>in the presence of</i> beauty
ante la nación	<i>before</i> the nation

delante de = before, in respect to place

delante de ellos	<i>in front of</i> them
delante de la casa	<i>before</i> the house

antes de = before, in respect to time

antes de Marzo	<i>before</i> March
-----------------------	---------------------

antes de la noche

before night

BAJO / DEBAJO DE

bajo = under or below, usually in a figurative sense

bajo el general Mendoza
diez grados **bajo** cero
bajo ciertas condiciones

under General Mendoza
ten degrees *below* zero
under certain conditions

debajo de = under, below in physical position

debajo de la mesa...
El gato está **debajo de** la cama.

under the table...
The cat is *under* the bed.

DETRAS DE / TRAS / DESPUES DE

detrás de = behind in physical position

detrás del carro....

behind the car...

tras = after, behind in succession

Entraron, unos **tras** otros, al museo.
They entered, one *after* another, into the museum.

después de = after, in respect to time

después de las once...

after eleven o'clock...

EN / ENCIMA DE / SOBRE

en = in, on

Vive **en** Guadalajara.
He lives *in* Guadalajara.

Las manzanas están **en** la mesa.
The apples are *on* the table.

encima de = on top of, above

Ponga la cobertura **encima de** la jaula de los pájaros, por favor.
Put the cover *on top of* the birdcage, please.

sobre = on (physically); concerning or about (figuratively)

Los anteojos están **sobre** la mesa.
The eyeglasses are *on* the table.

Fui a una conferencia **sobre** computadoras.
I went to a lecture *on* computers.

DESDE

desde = since, from, often a correlative with **hasta**, to

desde entonces

since then

desde allí

from there

desde Bogotá hasta Pereira...

from Bogotá *to* Pereira...

desde ahora

from now

HASTA

hasta = until, till, as far as, refers to both time and place

hasta el 15 del mes...

until the 15th of the month...

Me acompañó **hasta** la puerta.
He accompanied me *as far as* the door.

Hasta is frequently used as an adverb in the sense of *even* and *as many as*.

Hasta París cansa.

Even París wearies.

Hasta es inteligente.

He is *even* intelligent.

Hasta cuatro representantes me visitaron.
As many as four representatives visited me.

ENTRE

entre = between, among, plus an adverbial expression meaning *half*

entre él y yo...

between him and me...

entre los arboles...

among the trees...

entre risa y llanto...

half laughing, *half* crying...

Related Topics:

[Descriptive Adjectives](#)

[Adverbs](#)

[Adverbs and Adverbial Phrases](#)

[Para Vs. Por](#)

CONJUNCTIONS

The simple conjunctions uniting coordinate clauses are:

y	and
o	or
ni	nor
pero	but nevertheless
sino	but on the contrary
más	but

The simple conjunctions introducing *subordinate clauses* are:

como	as, as soon as
cuando	when
mientras	while
pues	since
que	that
si	if

THE CONJUNCTION "Y"

The conjunction **y** changes to **e** before words beginning with **i** or **hi**, *except* before questions and words beginning with the diphthong **ie**:

español e ingles...	Spanish <i>and</i> English...
madre e hija...	mother <i>and</i> daughter...
nieve y hielo...	snow <i>and</i> ice...
... y Isabel?	... <i>and</i> Isabel?

"Y" is sometimes used at the beginning of a sentence or phrase to add emphasis:

¡**Y** si no consigue el trabajo! *And* if he doesn't get the job!

"O" becomes **u** before a word beginning with **o** or **ho**:

uno u otro...	one <i>or</i> the other...
mujer u hombre...	woman <i>or</i> man...
siete u ocho...	seven <i>or</i> eight...

PERO

Pero means *but* or *nevertheless*:

Esta noche yo iba a caminar, **pero** cambié de opinión.
Tonight I was going to walk, *but* I changed my mind.

SINO / SINO QUE

Sino is used after a negative for contrast.

No es español **sino** portugués.
It is *not* Spanish *but* Portuguese.

No solo (or *solamente*)...**sino (que)** (tambien) means *not only...but (also)*.

No solo *no* había ganado dinero en América **sino que** lo había perdido.
Not only had he *not* made money in America, *but* he had also lost it.

MAS

Mas is more rhetorical than **pero** and is sometimes used for euphony:

Para sí no quería grandezas: **mas** para su hijo todo le parecía poco.
For herself she did not desire titles, *but* for her son everything seemed to be too little.

The English *but*, in the sense of *only*, is generally **no...mas que**:

No tenemos **mas que** veinte dolares.
We have *no more than* twenty dollars.
We have *only* twenty dollars.

QUE

Que serves as a conjunction and is required after affirmations or oaths and before adverbs and clauses, though redundant in English:

Dijo que sí.	He said (<i>that it was</i>) so.
Creo que no.	I believe (<i>that</i>) not.
Claro que no.	Of course not.
¡Por Dios! que no es verdad.	By God, it is not true.

Que often has comparative force, implying progressive or continuous action:

Mejor que mejor.	Better <i>and</i> better.
Corría que no andaba.	She ran <i>rather than</i> walked.
Corre que corre.	It runs faster <i>and</i> faster.

A que implies a bet:

A que no sabe Ud. ¿cuántos años tiene?
I *bet* you don't know how old he is.

Conjunctions formed from adverbs and prepositions by the addition of **que** are:

antes (de) que	before
asi que	as soon as, so that
aunque	although
bien que	although
desde que	since (time)
después que	after
hasta que	until
luego que	as soon as
mientras que	while
para que	in order that, so that
porque	because
pues que	for, since (reason)
puesto que	for, since (reason)
supuesto que	for, since (reason)
ya que	for, since (reason)
sin que	without

Conjunctions formed from prepositional phrases by the addition of **que** include:

a fin de que	in order that
con tal (de) que	provided that
dado que	given that

en caso de que
a medida que
de modo que
de manera que
de suerte que

in case that
as
so that
so that
so that

PUES

Pues is frequently used as an [adverb](#):

Pues, a mí no me digas.
Well, don't tell me.

Pues yo, prefiero trabajar en casa.
Well, as for me, I prefer to work at home.

Related Topics:

[Adverbs](#)

[Prepositions](#)

[Clauses](#)

Relative Forms

A **RELATIVE CLAUSE** is a subordinate clause introduced by a relative pronoun that describes or qualifies the subject or object of a sentence. It answers the question "**What sort of...?**". The relative clause can contain a subject, verb, and/or object(s).

EXAMPLES: El hombre, **a quien conocemos**, ha vendido su casa.
The man, *whom we know*, has sold his house.

Ella se puso el sombrero **que compró recientemente**.
She put on the hat *that she recently bought*.

RELATIVE PRONOUNS introduce relative clauses. Spanish relative pronouns include:

quien (-es)	who, whom, the ones who
que	who, that, which, whom
lo que	that which
el que (los que)	that which, those which
la que (las que)	that which, those which
el cual (los cuales)	the one(s) which
la cual (las cuales)	the one(s) which
lo cual	that which
donde	where

"**Quien (-es)**" means "**who**," "**whom**," and occasionally "**the one(s) who**." It refers only to persons and has singular and plural forms, but no feminine form. When a person or persons is the object of a preposition, "**quien (-es)**" ("**whom**") is used.

"**Que**," the most frequently used relative pronoun, means "**who**," "**that**," or "**which**," and, as direct object of a verb, "**whom**." It refers to both persons and things, singular and plural, and its form is invariable.

EXAMPLES: Esta persona está más cualificada **que** la que conocí ayer.
This person is more qualified *than* the one I met yesterday.

Lo que me dijiste no es cierto.
What you told me it is not true.

Related Topics:

[Contents](#)

[Pronouns](#)

INTERJECTIONS

Interjections are more numerous and important in Spanish than in English:

Divine names as exclamations are common and are *not* usually regarded as profane:

¡Dios!	God!
¡Por Dios!	For goodness' sake!
¡Dios mío!	My God!
¡Ay Dios mío!	Oh my God!
¡Dios te oiga!	God willing!
¡Jesús!	Bless you! (after a sneeze)
¡Jesús, María y José!	Good heavens!
¡Virgen santísima!	By all that's Holy!
¡Válgame Dios!	For God's sake!

Imperatives frequently become interjections:

¡Anda! (incredulity)	Go away! Come on!
¡Calla! ¡Calle!	Shut up! Keep still!
¡Diga!	Say! Do tell!
¡Oye! ¡Oiga!	Listen!
¡Mira! ¡Mire Ud.!	Look! Listen!
¡Quita! ¡Quítese Ud.!	Get out! Leave me alone!
¡Toma!	Here, take it!
¡Vamos! ¡Vaya!	Come on! Go ahead!
¡Viva!	Hurrah!

¡Vaya! is the most common of these and the hardest to render by a single word:

¡Carta de tu tío! Y ¡vaya si es gorda!
Letter from your uncle! And it's a fat one!

¡Vaya una hora de venir!
This is a pretty hour to come!

¡Vaya si le conozco!
Of course I know him!

Nouns and adjectives may become interjections:

¡Al asesino!	Murder!
¡Al ladrón!	Stop thief!
¡Alto!	Freeze!
¡Bravo!	Good!
¡Cuidado!	Watch out! Be careful!
¡Fuego!	Fire!
¡Socorro!	Help!
¡Ojo! ¡Mucho ojo!	Attention! With care!

(Sometimes used on shipping crates containing fragile merchandise.)

Personal pronouns are connected with adjectives used as interjections by the preposition de. This is also true of ¡Ay! with nouns or pronouns:

¡Necio de mí!	Fool that I am!
¡Pobrecita de ella!	Poor little girl!
¡Ay de mí!	Woe is me!

¡Ay de los vencidos!

Woe to the conquered!

The following are frequent in conversation for emphasis or protestation:

¡Hombre!

¡Mujer!

¡Chico!

¡Hijo!

¡Hija!

¡Señor!

Señor appears in expressions not addressed to a particular individual:

¡**Señor**, no esperaba escapar tan fácilmente!

Gee, I didn't expect to get off so easily!

Related Topics:

[Imperative Form](#)

[Negative Statements](#)

[Adverbs](#)

[Prepositions](#)

NOTES ON ESTAR

Estar is used to express location or position, temporary or permanent, real or figurative. **Estar** means *to be here, to be there, to be present*.

Ciudad Bolívar **está** junto al Orinoco.
Bolívar City *is* beside the Orinoco (river in Venezuela).

A su lado **estaba** un caballero joven.
At her side *was* a young gentleman.

Estará usted en su ambiente.
You *will be* in your element.

Estuvo de médico militar en Cuba.
He *was* in Cuba as an army doctor.

¿**Ha estado** el doctor Ramírez aquí?
Has Doctor Ramírez *been* here?

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

NOTES ON SER

Ser is used to express:

1. Permanent characteristics such as origin, ownership, or material:

¿De qué parte de Los Estados Unidos **eres** tú?
From what part of the United States *are* you?

Soy de Miami.
I am from Miami.

El café **es** de Colombia.
The coffee *is* from Colombia.

Esta casa **es** de mi padre.
This house *belongs* to my father.

El mueble **era** de madera de pino.
The piece of furniture *was made* of pine (wood).

2. Quality or statements of fact:

Él **es** abogado.
He *is* a lawyer.

Ella **es** bonita.
She *is* pretty.

3. Events:

La escena **es** en un pueblo de Castilla.
The scene *is (action takes place)* in a town in Castile.

Fue en el invierno del 93.
It happened in the winter of '93.

4. Expressions of time:

The third person forms of **ser** are used to indicate time of day:

¿Qué hora es ?	What time <i>is</i> it?
Es la una.	It <i>is</i> one o'clock.
Es la una y cuarto.	It <i>is</i> a quarter past one.
Son las dos.	It <i>is</i> two o'clock.

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)

[Estar, Ser, Ir, and Tener; Conjugations](#)

NOTES ON GUSTAR

The literal translation of **gustar** is *to be pleasing*, but the English meaning is *to like*. **Gustar** is almost always used with the indirect object pronouns, **me**, **te**, **le**, **nos**, **os**, and **les**.

Me gusta .		
It is <i>pleasing to me</i> .	=	I <i>like</i> it.
Me gustan las flores.		
Flowers are <i>pleasing to me</i> .	=	I <i>like</i> flowers.
Les gusta esquiar.		
Skiing is <i>pleasing to them</i> .	=	They <i>like</i> skiing (to ski).

GUSTAR + INFINITIVE

When the subject is an infinitive, **gustar** is always singular even if more than one infinitive is included:

Les **gusta** pescar y nadar.
Fishing and swimming are *pleasing to them*.
They *like* fishing and swimming.

GUSTAR + PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

The prepositional phrases, **a él**, **a ella**, **a usted**, **a ellos**, **a ellas**, or **a ustedes** are used to clarify **le** and **les**.

A ellos **les** gusta la música.
The music is *pleasing to them*.
They *like* the music.

A los niños **les** gusta jugar.
Playing is *pleasing to the children*.
The children *like* to play.

GUSTAR + NEGATIVE

In all cases, the negative immediately precedes the indirect object pronoun:

A los pilotos **nunca** *les* gusta declararse en huelga.
The pilots *never* like to go on strike.

GUSTAR / EMPHASIS

The prepositional phrases, **a mí**, **a tí**, **a nosotros**, or **a vosotros** may be used for emphasis:

¿**A tí** te gusta bailar?
Do *you* like to dance?

Sí, **a mí** me gusta bailar.
Yes, *I* like to dance.

GUSTAR + DE

Gustar de with a personal subject means *to enjoy*.

Gabriel gustaba de pasear por su jardín.
Gabriel *enjoyed* walking through his garden.

Related Topics:

[Gender](#)

[Negative Statements](#)

[Subject Pronouns](#)

[Prepositions](#)

PARA vs. POR

Para and **por** are used to express the many meanings of the English words **for** and **by**.

COMPARISON OF PARA AND POR

<i>Para</i> denotes	<i>Por</i> denotes
Purpose / for the purpose of	Reason / cause
In order to / on behalf of	Due to / because of
Intended for	
Destination / destined for	Movement through a place
Comparison	Exchange / in place of
Future point of time	Indefinite time / duration of time

USAGE: PARA

Para precedes an **infinitive clause** that explains the purpose of the action expressed by the principal **verb**:

Ella usó el dinero **para comprar un coche**.
She used the money (*in order*) to buy a car.

Compramos libros **para leer y estudiar**.
We buy books (*in order*) to read and study.

Trabaja **para vivir** y no vivas **para trabajar**.
Work (*in order*) to live, do not live (*in order*) to work.

Aprovecho esta ocasión **para darle las gracias**.
I take advantage of this opportunity to thank you.

Para denotes *purpose, for the purpose of, intended for, or on behalf of*:

Compré una mesa **para la cocina**.
I bought a table (*intended*) for the kitchen.

Dejar **para** mañana...
To leave (*something intended*) for tomorrow...

Viajaba **para su compañía**.
He used to travel *for* (*on behalf of*) his company.

Para denotes *destination*:

Coja Ud. el avión **para Nueva York**.
Take the plane (*destined*) for New York.

La carta era **para** su hermano.
The letter was (*destined*) for his brother.

Para is sometimes used to denote comparison:

Es alto **para** su edad.
He is tall *for* his age.

Para is used to specify a future point of time:

La lección **para** mañana...
The lesson (*intended*) for tomorrow...

Estoy **para** salir...
I am about to (*intending to*) leave...

After **verbs** of motion "**a**" is used instead of **para**:

La muchacha se paró **a** ver el desfile.
The girl stopped (*in order*) to watch the parade.

Subió a la montaña **a** contemplar la ciudad.
He ascended the mountain (*in order*) to study the city.

Para con is used in certain expressions of conduct and as *toward*:

deberes **para con** los padres...
duties *toward* one's parents...

indulgencia **para conmigo**...
indulgence *toward me*...

USAGE: POR

Por introduces the reason or cause for the action expressed by the principal **verb**:

No pudo hacerlo **por** hallarse enfermo.
He could not do it *because he was sick*.

Por ganar la competición recibió una beca.
For winning the competition he received a scholarship.

No lo digo **por** mí.
I do not say it *for (because of)* my own sake.

Por is used to denote movement through a place:

Volar **por** el aire... To fly *through* the air...

Pasar **por** la calle... To go *through* the street...

¿**Por** dónde se va? *Which way (through where)* does one go?

Por allí... *In (through)* that direction...

Por aquí... *In (through)* this direction...

Por denotes *exchange* or *in place of*:

Pagué diez dólares **por** el libro.
I paid ten dollars (*in exchange*) for the book.

Tomé su sombrero **por** el mío.
I took your hat (*in exchange*) for mine.

Mauricio va a trabajar **por** Rosa.
Maurice is going to work *in Rosa's place*.

COMPARE:

Mauricio va a trabajar **para** Rosa.
Maurice is going to work *for (in the employ of)* Rosa.

Por is used to express indefinite time and duration of time:

por la noche	at night
mañana por la mañana	tomorrow morning

Viví en Venezuela **por** (durante) *tres años*.
I lived in Venezuela *for three years*.

Por combines with the [prepositions](#) **debajo de**, **delante de**, **detrás de**, **encima de**, and **entre**, after [verbs](#) of movement:

Tiró la pelota **por encima de** la cerca.
He threw the ball *over* the fence.

Los niños pasaron **por debajo del** árbol.
The children passed *under* the tree.

Por is used in certain exclamations:

¡ Por Dios!	Oh, my God! (<i>For God's sake!</i>)
¡Bien por mi hermano!	Good <i>for</i> my brother!

Por is used to denote an object or a part of the human body:

La cogió **por** la mano.
He took her *by* the hand.

Por is used in certain expressions similar to English:

mandar por el médico...	to send <i>for</i> the doctor...
ir por las verduras...	to go <i>for</i> vegetables...

Por is used in numerous expressions containing adverbs and conjunctions:

por decirlo así...	so to speak...
por desgracia...	unfortunately...

Related Topics:

[Adverbs](#)

[Prepositions](#)

[Interjections](#)

[Clauses](#)

[Adverbs and Adverbial Phrases](#)

DECLARATIVE SENTENCES

ACTIVE VOICE

The active voice is a construction in which the subject performs the action described by the **verb**. In both English and in Spanish, sentences in the active voice are constructed in the subject-verb-object pattern.

EXAMPLE:

Un mecánico / repara / el automóvil. A mechanic repairs (is repairing) the car.
subject verb object

SUBJECT

The **subject** of a sentence can be a **noun**, **pronoun**, proper name, or a noun phrase. A **clause**, **gerund**, gerund phrase, or infinitive phrase can also function as the **subject**. The simple subject is a **noun** or **pronoun**, whereas the complete subject consists of the **noun** or **pronoun** plus all its modifiers. A compound subject consists of two or more **nouns**, **pronouns**, or noun phrases.

POSITION OF SUBJECT

In Spanish, the **subject** does not always occur before the **verb** as it does in English. A variety of constructions is therefore possible, including complete omission of the **subject**:

Subject at end:

Reparó este automóvil **un mecánico bueno**.
A good mechanic repaired this automobile.

Subject immediately after verb:

Reparó **un mecánico bueno** este automóvil.
A good mechanic repaired this automobile.

Subject (él / he) omitted:

Reparó este automóvil.
He repaired this automobile.

The **subject** is often placed at the end of a sentence when it contains new information, as in answer to the question **¿Quién?**

¿**Quién** reparó este automóvil?

Lo reparó **un mecánico bueno**.

Who repaired this automobile?

A good mechanic repaired it.

For even greater emphasis:

Fue un mecánico bueno quien lo reparó.

It was a good mechanic who repaired it.

PREDICATE

A [predicate](#) consists of a [verb](#) or verbal phrase, including any complements, objects, and modifiers of a sentence or clause. The predicate always contains a verb and can consist of a [verb](#) and complement ([nouns](#), [pronouns](#), [prepositional phrases](#), [adjectives](#), and verb phrases). The [predicate](#) can either be an [inflected verb](#) form or a combination of inflected [auxiliary](#) and [past participle](#) or [infinitive](#) verb forms.

A sentence can include more than one [verb](#), object, or complement.

Related Topics:

[Contents](#)

[Syntax](#)

OBJECT

The object of a sentence can be a **noun**, **pronoun**, proper name, or a noun phrase. The accusative case indicates the **direct object**, and the dative case indicates the **indirect object**. A **subordinate clause** may also function as an object.

POSITION OF OBJECT

There are three constructions that emphasize the object:

- [1] In the active voice, the sentence can begin with the object followed by the **pronoun**:

Este automóvil lo reparó un mecánico bueno.
A good mechanic repaired *this car*.

- [2] In a sentence using **se**, the object can be treated as subject. It is an alternative for the true passive:

Este automóvil se reparó en México. [*object (car) becomes new subject*]
This car was repaired in Mexico.

or

and

Se reparó **este automóvil** en México. [*subject agrees with verb*]
This car was repaired in Mexico.

- [3] In the **passive voice** with **ser**, the previous **subject** is entirely omitted or preceded by **por**:

Este automóvil **fue reparado por** un mecánico bueno.
[*past participle agrees with subject*]

TWO OBJECT PRONOUNS

When two **object pronouns** are used with the same **verb**, the **indirect object** pronoun occurs first.

Me lo dió. He gave it to *me*.
Dámelo. Give it to *me*.

TWO THIRD-PERSON PRONOUNS

When two **pronouns** of the third person occur together, the **indirect object** pronouns **le** and **les** assume the form **se**.

Mandé un paquete a mi padre. I sent a package to my father.
Le mandé un paquete. I sent *him* a package.
Lo mandé a mi padre. I sent it to my father.
Se lo mandé. I sent it to *him*.

The sentence **Se lo mandé** may have six different meanings. To distinguish the various meanings of **le**, **les**, and **se**, the **prepositional phrases**, **a él**, **a ella**, **a usted**, **a ellos**, **a ellas**, or **a ustedes** are added.

se or le

a él to him
a ella to her
a usted to you

No **se** lo mandé **a ellos**.

se or les

a ellos to them (m.)
a ellas to them (f.)
a ustedes to you (pl.)

I did not send it *to them*.

Yo quería mandárselo **a él**.
A él le mandé un paquete.
A ellas no les escribió.

I would like to send it *to him*.
I sent *him* a package.
He did not write *to them*.

A ellos les gusta la musica.

The music is pleasing *to them*.
They *like* the music.

A los niños les gusta jugar.

Playing is pleasing *to the children*.
The children *like* to play.

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES FOR EMPHASIS

The [prepositional phrases](#), **a mí**, **a tí**, **a nosotros**, or **a vosotros** may be used for emphasis:

¿**A tí** te pagaron ayer?
Did they pay *you* yesterday?

Si, **a mí** me pagaron.
Yes, They paid *me*.

Related Topics:

[Reflexive Verbs](#)

[Subject Pronouns](#)

[Prepositions](#)

[Clauses](#)

VERBS

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ADVERBS AND ADVERBIAL PHRASES

When an **adverb** begins a sentence, it is generally emphatic and often causes an inversion of the **subject** and **verb**.

Tú lo sabes **bien**. You know (it) very well.
Bien lo sabes tú.

ADVERBS ENDING IN -mente

When two or more **adverbs** ending in **-mente** modify the same verb, **-mente** is omitted from all but the last.

EXAMPLES:

fácil	easy	fácilmente	easily
lento	slow	lentamente	slowly
rápido	quick	rápidamente	quickly

Trabajaron **rápida, continua, y juiciosamente**.
They worked *quickly, continuously, and judiciously*.

Recientemente is shortened to **recién** before a **past participle** used as an **adjective**.

El gobierno **recién** formado...
The *recently* formed government...

Lo + ADVERB + que

When followed by an **adverb** + **que**, the **neuter article lo** corresponds to the English *how + adverb*. It indicates the extent to which something is done.

Se quejó de **lo rápido que** hablábamos.
He complained about *how rapidly* we were speaking.

ADVERBS OF LOCATION

Adverbs of location include:

aquí	here / near me
acá	here / toward me
ahí	there / near you
allí	over there / greater distance from speaker
allá	yonder / far off in time, space, or thought

Acá and **allá** are used primarily with verbs of motion.
Ahí corresponds roughly to the demonstrative **ese**.

Dondequiera and **adondequiera** correspond to the English *wherever*. When its meaning is *every place*, it is followed by the **indicative**. When it refers to an indefinite place, it calls for the **subjunctive mood**.

Certain **adverbs and adverbial phrases** modify either the **verb** or the entire sentence:

SIQUIERA vs. NI SIQUIERA

In affirmative and [negative statements](#), **siquiera** (at least) and **ni siquiera** (not even) precede the [verb](#).

Siquiera dame una explicación.
At least give me an explanation.

David **ni siquiera** trabaja con computadoras.
David *doesn't even* work with computers.

If **ni siquiera** (*not even*) follows the verb, **no** is placed before the [verb](#).

David **no** trabaja **ni siquiera** con computadoras.
David *doesn't even* work with computers.

YA vs. YA NO

Ya has various meanings. In the [Present](#) and Present [Continuous](#) Tenses, **ya** means *now*; in the [Simple Past Tense](#) it means *already*; and in the negative, *no longer* or *any more*.

Ya voy a trabajar. I am going to work *now*.
Voy a trabajar **ya**.

Ya fui al mercado. I *already* went to the market.

Ya no trabajo. I *no longer* work.
No trabajo **ya**.

Related Topics:

[Negative Statements](#)

[Adverbs](#)

NEGATION

The negative **no** is always placed directly before the verb, except in sentences that contain a [reflexive verb](#) and/or [object pronoun](#).

Hablo español.
I speak Spanish.

No *hablo* español.
I *don't* speak Spanish.

Se lavan las manos.
They are washing their hands.

No *se lavan* las manos.
They are *not* washing their hands.

Negatives other than **no** may also be placed before the [verb](#).

Nadie fue con ella.
Nobody went with her.

Ni él **ni** ella asistieron a la recepción.
Neither he *nor* she attended the reception.

Nunca tuvimos la oportunidad de viajar por aquí.
We *never* had the opportunity of traveling through here.

In all cases, the negative immediately precedes the [indirect object pronoun](#).

A él **no** *le* gusta comer muy tarde.
He *doesn't* like to eat very late.

Related Topics:

[Punctuation](#)

[Negative Statements](#)

QUESTIONS

Questions are asked in Spanish by placing the **verb** before the **subject**. The **subject** may be placed directly after the **verb** or at the end of the question.

<i>Question</i>	<i>Statement</i>
¿ Viene Juan? <i>Is John coming?</i>	Juan viene . <i>John is coming.</i>
¿ Es Tegucigalpa la capital de Honduras? <i>Is Tegucigalpa the capital of Honduras?</i>	Tegucigalpa es la capital de Honduras. <i>Tegucigalpa is the capital of Honduras.</i>

INTERROGATIVES

All interrogatives have a written accent over the stressed vowel and when in questions they are preceded by an inverted question mark.

¿ Qué ?	what?	¿ Quién -es ?	who?
¿ Cuál ?	which (one)?	¿ Cuándo ?	when?
¿ Cuáles ?	which (ones)?	¿ Dónde ?	where?
¿ Cuánto -a ?	how much?	¿ Por qué ?	why?
¿ Cuántos -as ?	how many?	¿ Cómo ?	how?

¿ Qué dice?	<i>What</i> does he say?
¿ Cuál es la fecha?	<i>What</i> is the date?
¿ Cuáles son tus libros?	<i>Which</i> are your books?
¿ Cuánto cuesta?	<i>How much</i> does it cost?
¿A quién compró usted la casa?	<i>From whom</i> did you buy the house?
¿ Cuándo vamos a la playa?	<i>When</i> are we going to the beach?
¿ Dónde se lo encontró?	<i>Where</i> did he find it?

RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

Affirmative and negative statements may be turned into questions by adding a question word or phrase at the end. The inverted question mark is placed before the question, not before the entire sentence.

Quieres acompañarme, ¿**verdad**?
You want to accompany me, *right*?

Quieres acompañarme, ¿**verdad que sí**?
You want to accompany me, *don't you*?

Te gustan los plátanos, ¿**no**?
You like bananas, *right*?

Related Topics:

[Contents](#)

[Punctuation](#)

CLAUSES

A sentence may consist of a main clause containing, at a minimum, a subject and a predicate.

Es picante.
It is spicy.

Or it may consist of a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

Me gusta **aunque es picante.**
I like it *although it is spicy.*

MAIN CLAUSES

A main clause may begin with the subject of the sentence, one of the objects, an adverb / adverbial phrase, or a subordinate clause.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSES

By definition, a subordinate clause is always dependent on a main clause and cannot stand by itself. The statement made in a subordinate clause does not have the same weight as that made in the main clause.

Subordinate clauses are separated from the main clause by commas.

Si se lo permitiera su presupuesto, compraría una casa en el campo.
If his budget permitted, he would buy a house in the country.

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

Conditional, contrary-to-fact clauses, require the Imperfect Subjunctive; the conditional is used in the subordinate clause.

Si tuviera (or tuviese) un libro, lo leería.
If I had a book, I *would* read it.

Si

Ordinary conditions after **si** take the Present or Imperfect.

Si sale la semana entrante, llegará a Canadá a tiempo para la conferencia.
If he leaves next week, he will arrive in Canada on time for the meeting.

In indirect questions, **si** is followed by the conditional and means *whether*.

Le pregunté **si quería** salir la próxima semana.
I asked him *if he would like* to leave next week.

Quisiera

Quisiera means *would like*:

Yo **quisiera** acompañarte.
I *would like* to go with you.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Coordinating conjunctions join two clauses and give them both equal weight. These conjunctions are *not* counted as one of the elements of the clause and therefore the word order does *not* change.

The coordinating conjunctions are:

y	and
o, u	or
o...o	either...or
ni...ni	neither...nor
pero	but, though
sino	but, but rather
sino que	but

Sino is used for *but* only when the first part of the sentence is negative and the second part contradicts it.
Pero is used in all other cases.

Quiere trabajar **pero** no tiene una educación.
He wants to work *but* he doesn't have an education.

No quiere trabajar ahora, **sino** matricularse en la universidad.
He doesn't want to work now, *but rather* to enroll in the university.

Sino que generally replaces **sino** to introduce a clause.

Ella no gastó el dinero, **sino que** lo ahorró para sus metas.
She didn't spend the money, *but* saved it for her goals.

A subordinate clause can be introduced only by a conjunction or relative pronoun. Many conjunctions that introduce subordinate clauses are formed by adding **que** to a preposition.

antes de	antes de que	before
después de	después de que	after

Vamos **después de** las seis.
Let's go *after* six o'clock.

Vamos **antes de que** venga a ella.
Let's go *before* she comes.

Related Topics:

[Contents](#)

[Syntax](#)

IMPERATIVES

The Imperative Form is used in to express a command. The Subjunctive Form of the Imperative is used to express commands in the Ud. and Uds. forms.

OBLIGATIONS

Certain Spanish verbs and impersonal expressions imply obligation.

deber	to be obligated to, ought to, should
tener que	to have to
hay que	one must
es necesario	it is necessary to

Deber conveys moral obligation. The Present Indicative of **deber** conveys a strong commitment or obligation. The **-ra** form of the Imperfect Subjunctive or the Conditional conveys a milder expression.

Debes estudiar.
You ought to study.

Deberías estudiar.
You really should study.

Tener que is a verb form conjugated in every person and implies necessity.

Tengo que pagar las cuentas.
I have to pay the bills.

Tuvieron que ir.
They had to go.

Hay que implies a sense of obligation but does not apply directly to the person as does **tener que**.

Hay que pagar las cuentas.
One must pay bills.
It is necessary to pay bills.

DIRECT COMMANDS

A direct command is expressed by a verb in the Subjunctive Mood, usually at the beginning of the sentence.

¡**Déjame** hacer un repaso del presupuesto!
Let me make a review of the budget!

INDIRECT COMMANDS

An indirect command expressed in the third person singular or plural is in the Subjunctive Mood and is introduced by **Qué**.

¡**Qué** escriba él primero!
Let him write first!

¡**Qué** lo hagan ellos!

Let them do it!

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The [Future Tense](#) can be used as the equivalent of an order or an instruction.

Se **marchará** usted a las ocho en punto.
Leave at eight o'clock sharp.

Los pasajeros **pasarán** por el agente de seguridad.
The passengers pass through the security police.

The [infinitive](#) is often used as a command in short sentences that serve as written directions or public notices.

No Estacionar
No Fumar

No Parking
No Smoking / Do Not Smoke

Firmar los documentos siguientes:
Sign the following documents:

Related Topics:

[Summary of Tenses](#)
[Imperfect Subjunctive](#)
[Reflexive Verbs](#)
[Imperative Form](#)
[Prepositions](#)
[Interjections](#)
[Conjunctions](#)
[Notes on Gustar](#)

THE CLOCK AND THE CALENDAR

The names of the days, months, and seasons are usually not capitalized.

DAYS OF THE WEEK

lunes	Monday	viernes	Friday
martes	Tuesday	sábado	Saturday
miércoles	Wednesday	domingo	Sunday
jueves	Thursday		

The definite article is required before expressions of time that are modified by an adjective.

la semana pasada... last week...	el sábado próximo... next Saturday...
--	---

In expressions of time the definite article appears where English uses the preposition "on":

el viernes... <i>on</i> Friday...	los jueves... <i>on</i> Thursdays...
---	--

El avión sale **el** catorce del mes.
The plane leaves *on the* fourteenth of the month.

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

enero	January	julio	July
febrero	February	agosto	August
marzo	March	se(p)tiembre	September
abril	April	octubre	October
mayo	May	noviembre	November
junio	June	diciembre	December

SEASONS OF THE YEAR

la primavera	spring	el otoño	autumn
el verano	summer	el invierno	winter

TIME OF DAY

The third person forms of ser are used to indicate time of day:

¿Qué hora es ?	What time <i>is</i> it?
Es la una.	It <i>is</i> one o'clock.
Es la una y cuarto.	It <i>is</i> a quarter past one.
Son las dos.	It <i>is</i> two o'clock.
Son las dos y media.	It <i>is</i> half past two.
Son las tres menos cuarto.	It <i>is</i> a quarter to three.
Son las cuatro y diez.	It <i>is</i> ten minutes past four.
Son las cinco menos diez.	It <i>is</i> ten minutes to five.

DIVISIONS OF THE DAY

la mañana	morning
el día	day
de día	by day
la noche	night, evening
la tarde	afternoon
anoche	last night
anteayer	the day before yesterday
anteayer noche	the night before last
anteayer tarde	the afternoon before last
ayer	yesterday
esta noche	tonight
hoy	today
mañana	tomorrow
mañana por la mañana	tomorrow morning

REPETITION

Repetition is expressed using **vez** (one time) and **por, al**, or the [definite article](#). It answers the question "How often?".

¿Cuántas veces **la** semana, **al** día, **por** año?...
How often a week, a day, a year?...

una vez	once
una vez que	once, as soon as, when
una que otra vez	once in awhile, on rare occasions
dos veces	twice
a veces	at times, sometimes, occasionally
a la vez	at the same time, simultaneously
a la vez que	at the same time as, while
a su vez	in turn; in his turn; for his, her, or one's part
alguna vez	once
alguna que otra vez	occasionally, once in a while, sometimes
algunas veces	sometimes
dos veces más grande	twice as big
cada vez	each time
cada vez más	more and more
cuántas veces	how often
de una vez	right now, right away, without further ado
de una vez por todas	once and for all
de vez en cuando	from time to time
era or érase una vez	once upon a time
hacer las veces de	to stand in for, substitute, replace
la primera vez	the first time
las más veces	in most cases, most of the time
muchas veces	many times, often
otra vez	once again, again; some other time
pocas veces	seldom, rarely
raras veces	seldom
repetidas veces	repeatedly
tal vez	perhaps, maybe; possibly
tener las veces de	to have the rank or status of
toda vez que	since, inasmuch as

Related Topics:

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ABBREVIATIONS COMMONLY USED

CARDINAL & ORDINAL NUMBERS

CARDINAL NUMBERS

The cardinal numbers are:

0 = cero	10 = diez
1 = uno -a	11 = once
2 = dos	12 = doce
3 = tres	13 = trece
4 = cuatro	14 = catorce
5 = cinco	15 = quince
6 = seis	16 = dieciséis
7 = siete	17 = diecisiete
8 = ocho	18 = dieciocho
9 = nueve	19 = diecinueve

Beyond the number **20**, the numerals are read in Spanish literally as *twenty and one, twenty and two, fifty and four, etc.*

20 = veinte
21 = veintiuno -a
22 = veintidós

30 = treinta
40 = cuarenta
50 = cincuenta
60 = sesenta
70 = setenta
80 = ochenta
90 = noventa

100 = ciento
101 = ciento uno -a
121 = ciento veintiuno -a

1000 = mil
2000 = dos mil

100.000 = cien mil
200.000 = doscientos -as mil

1.000.000 = un millón
2.000.000 = dos millones

1.000.000.000 = un billón (US), mil millones (EU)

EXCEPTIONS: The cardinal numbers are invariable, except that:

Uno becomes **un** before a masculine noun.

Ciento becomes **cien** before nouns, **mil**, **millón**, and **billón**.

Compounds of **ciento** are treated as adjectives.

After the nouns **millón** and **billón**, the preposition **de** is required.

ORDINAL NUMBERS

The ordinal numbers are:

1st = primero -a
2d = segundo -a
3d = tercero -a
4th = cuarto -a
5th = quinto -a
6th = sexto -a
7th = séptimo -a
8th = octavo
9th = noveno -a, nono -a

10th = décimo -a
11th = undécimo -a
12th = duodécimo -a
13th = décimotercero -a
14th = décimocuarto -a
15th = décimoquinto -a
16th = décimosexto -a
17th = décimoséptimo -a
18th = décimoctavo -a
19th = décimonono -a
decimonoveno -a
20th = vigésimo -a
21st = vigésimo -a primero -a
22d = vigésimo -a segundo -a

30th = trigésimo -a primero -a
40th = cuadragésimo -a
50th = quincuagésimo -a
60th = sexagésimo -a
70th = septuagésimo -a
80th = octogésimo -a
90th = nonagésimo -a

100th = centésimo -a
101st = centésimo -a primero -a
111th = centésimo -a undécimo -a
121th = centésimo -a vigésimo -a primero -a

200th = ducentésimo, -a
300th = trecentésimo, -a
400th = cuadringentésimo, -a
500th = quingentésimo, -a
600th = sexcentésimo, -a
700th = septingentésimo, -a
800th = octingentésimo, -a
900th = noningentésimo, -a

1000th = milésimo -a
2000th = dos milésimo -a

100,000th = cien milésimo -a
200,000th = doscientos milésimo -a

1,000,000th = millonésimo -a
2,000,000th = dos millonésimo -a

1,000,000,000th = mil millonésimo -a

NOTE: **Primero** and **tercero** lose their final **o** before a masculine singular **noun** (like *alguno*, *bueno*, *ninguno*, and *malo*).

FRACTIONS

Fractional numerals:

one half	=	un medio
one third	=	un tercio
two thirds	=	dos tercios
one fourth	=	un cuarto
three fourths	=	tres cuartos
one fifth	=	un quinto
one sixth	=	un sexto
one seventh	=	un séptimo
one eighth	=	un octavo
one ninth	=	un noveno
one tenth	=	un décimo

Fractional numerals above **décimo** are formed by adding **-avo** to the cardinals. The final **e** of a cardinal (except those containing **siete** and **nueve**) may be dropped before **-avo**. When the **e** of **once**, **doce**, **trece**, **catorce**, and **quince** is dropped, the **c** must be changed to **z**.

one eleventh	=	un once avo , un onz avo
one twelfth	=	un doce avo , un doz avo
one thirteenth	=	un trece avo , un trez avo
one fourteenth	=	un catorce avo , un catorz avo
one fifteenth	=	un quince avo , un quinz avo
one sixteenth	=	un dieciseis avo
one seventeenth	=	un diecisiete avo
one eighteenth	=	un dieciocho avo
one nineteenth	=	un diecinueve avo
one twentieth	=	un veinte avo
one thirtieth	=	un treinta avo
one hundredth	=	un centésimo, (una centésima parte)
one thousandth	=	un milésimo
one ten-thousandth	=	un diezmilésimo
one one-millionth	=	un millonésimo

Fractional numerals are also commonly formed with the feminine form of the ordinals modifying the word **parte**:

third	=	tercera parte
twentieth	=	vigésima parte

The numerator of a fraction is a cardinal:

two-ninths	=	2/9 = dos novenos
fourteen-thirtieths	=	14/30 = catorce trigésimas partes

NUMERICAL NOTATION

WHOLE NUMBERS

The *period* is used to divide *whole numbers*:

10.000 = ten thousand

DECIMALS

The *comma* is used for the *decimal point*:

1,2 = one point two (uno coma dos)

Related Topics:

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[ABBREVIATIONS COMMONLY USED](#)

PUNCTUATION

The Spanish names of the marks of punctuation are:

.	punto final	...	puntos suspensivos	¨	diéresis
,	coma	¿ ?	interrogación	<< >>	comillas or cita
;	punto y coma	¡ !	admiración	-	guión
:	dos puntos	()	parentesis	(em dash)	raya

Spanish punctuation differs from English mainly in the use of *inverted question marks* before interrogative words and sentences and *inverted exclamation points* before exclamatory words and sentences:

¿Adónde van?	(To) where are they going?
¡Qué hermosa!	How beautiful!

The *period* is used to divide whole numbers and the comma is used for the decimal point:

10.000 = ten thousand

1,4 = one and four tenths

Where English uses quotation marks, Spanish uses an *em dash* to indicate the beginning of a quotation.

Related Topics:

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Non-Grammatical Forms

Non-grammatical is a part of speech applied mainly to exclamations, or for any other word or expression that does not fit in any other lexical category. Non-grammaticals do not inflect; they do not have gender, number, person, or tense. Common Spanish non-grammaticals are:

¡Caramba!
¡Ay!
¡Hurra!
¡Sí!

Related Topics:

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Title Forms

Titles are words or abbreviations that appear in front of proper nouns and are used to address people directly or to refer to them in a formal way. Examples:

Don Juan
Sr. Martínez
Doctor Palacios

Related Topics:

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ABBREVIATIONS COMMONLY USED

<i>abrev.</i>	<i>abreviatura; abreviado</i>	<i>abbreviation; abbreviated</i>
a.c.	año en curso; año corriente	current year
adj.	adjetivo	adjective
admón.	administración	administration
<i>adv.</i>	<i>adverbio</i>	<i>adverb</i>
Am.	América; americanismo	America; americanism
apdo.	apartado de correos	post office box
arq.	arquitectura	architecture
<i>art.</i>	<i>artículo</i>	<i>article</i>
atta., atto., atte.	atenta/atentamente	yours sincerely; yours faithfully
<i>aux.</i>	<i>auxiliar</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>
B°, Bco.	banco	bank
bol.	bolsa	stock market
C°	Centígrado, Celsius	Centigrade
C., Cía	Compañía	Company
C/	Calle	Road, Street
C.A.E.	cóbrese al entregar	cash on delivery
C.E.	Comunidad Europea	European Community
com.int.	comercio internacional	international commerce
<i>comp.</i>	<i>comparativo</i>	<i>comparative</i>
<i>conj.</i>	<i>conjunción</i>	<i>conjunction</i>
<i>contr.</i>	<i>contracción</i>	<i>contraction</i>
corp.	asuntos corporativos	corporate matters
C.P.	contestación pagada	reply paid
C.S.F.	coste/seguro/flete	cost/insurance/freight
cte.	corriente, del corriente	instant, current (month)
D.	Don	Mr.
Da.	Doña	Mrs.
E.	este	East
ej.	ejemplo	example
E.U.	Estados Unidos	United States
EE.UU.	Los Estados Unidos	The United States
<i>f.</i>	<i>femenino</i>	<i>feminine</i>
FAB	franco a bordo	free on board
fam.	familiar	familiar; colloquial
F.C., f.c.	ferrocarril	railway
fig.	figurado; figurativamente	figurative
fund.	fundición	smelting
G.B.	Gran Bretaña	Great Britain
G.C.	Guardia Civil	Civil Guard
<i>gén.</i>	<i>género</i>	<i>gender</i>
<i>ger.</i>	<i>gerundio</i>	<i>gerund</i>
gal.	general	general
gram.	gramática	grammar; grammatical
Hnos.	hermanos	brothers
id.	ídem	the same as above
<i>imper.</i>	<i>imperativo</i>	<i>imperative; command</i>
<i>impers.</i>	<i>impersonal</i>	<i>impersonal</i>
<i>indic.</i>	<i>indicativo</i>	<i>indicative</i>
<i>inf.</i>	<i>infinitivo</i>	<i>infinitive</i>
<i>interj.</i>	<i>interjección</i>	<i>interjection</i>
<i>irr.</i>	<i>irregular</i>	<i>irregular</i>
IVA	impuesto sobre valor añadido	Value Added Tax

kg	kilogramo(s)	kilogram(s)
km/h	kilómetros por hora	kilometers per hour
kv.	kilovatio	kilowatt
<i>m.</i>	<i>masculino</i>	<i>masculine</i>
m/min.	metro; minuto	meter; minute
M.C.	Mercado Común	Common Market
MIT	Ministerio de Informacion y Turismo	Ministry of Information and Tourism
N.	norte	North
n/o	nuestra orden	our order
N.U.	Naciones Unidas	United Nations
O.	oeste	West
p°b°	peso bruto	gross weight
<i>pers.</i>	<i>personal; persona</i>	<i>person; personal</i>
p.ej.	por ejemplo	for example
<i>pl.</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>plural</i>
p°n°	peso neto	net weight
PNB	producto nacional bruto	Gross National Product
<i>pos.</i>	<i>posesivo</i>	<i>possessive</i>
P.P.	porte pagado	carriage paid
<i>p.p.</i>	<i>participio pasado</i>	<i>past participle</i>
<i>p.pr.</i>	<i>participio presente</i>	<i>present participle</i>
pral.	principal	principal
<i>prep.</i>	<i>preposición</i>	<i>preposition</i>
<i>pres.</i>	<i>presente</i>	<i>present</i>
<i>pret.</i>	<i>pretérito</i>	<i>preterite</i>
<i>pron.</i>	<i>pronombre</i>	<i>pronoun</i>
pta./ptas.	peseta(s)	peseta(s)
PVP	precio de venta al público	retail price
®	marca registrada	registered trademark
<i>refl.</i>	<i>reflexivo</i>	<i>reflexive</i>
RENFE	Red Nacional de Ferrocarriles Españoles	Spanish National Railway Network
S.	sur	South
<i>s.</i>	<i>sustantivo</i>	<i>noun; substantive</i>
SA	Sociedad Anónima	Public Limited Company
s.e.u.o.	salvo error u omision	errors and omissions excepted
<i>sing.</i>	<i>singular</i>	<i>singular</i>
SL	Sociedad Limitada	Limited Company
SP	Servicio Público	Public Service (taxis, buses)
SR	Sin Reserva	without reservation
Sr, Sres.	señor, señores	Mr., Messrs., Gentlemen
Sra.	señora	Mrs.
S.R.C.	se ruega contestación	please reply
Srta.	señorita	Miss
<i>subj.</i>	<i>subjuntivo</i>	<i>subjunctive</i>
<i>super.</i>	<i>superlativo</i>	<i>superlative</i>
tel., telef., Tfno	teléfono	telephone
TRB	toneladas de registro bruto	gross register tons
TVE	Televisión Española	Spanish Television
<i>v.</i>	<i>verbo</i>	<i>verb</i>
V°B°	visto bueno	approved by
Vd/s	usted, ustedes	you (singular and plural)
<i>v.i.</i>	<i>verbo intransitivo</i>	<i>intransitive verb</i>
<i>v.r.</i>	<i>verbo reflexivo</i>	<i>reflexive verb</i>
<i>v.t.</i>	<i>verbo transitivo</i>	<i>transitive verb</i>

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[Non-Grammatical Forms](#)

GLOSSARY

Adjectives	Diminutive Endings	Noun	Pronoun
Adverbs	Direct Object	Object of a Preposition	Reflexive Pronoun
Augmentative Endings	Gerund	Object Pronoun	Reflexive Verb
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Clause	Impersonal Expressions	Passive Voice	Relative Pronouns
Comparative Form	Indicative	Past Participles	Simple Tenses
Compound Noun	Indirect Object	Personal Pronouns	Stem-Changing Verbs
Compound Tenses	Indirect Speech	Possessive Adjectives	Subject
Conditional Clause	Infinitive	Possessive Pronouns	Subject Complement
Conditional Mood	Infinitive Clause	Predicate	Subject Pronouns
Conjugated	Inflected Verb	Predicate Adjective	Subjunctive Mood
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Contraction	Irregular Verbs	Prepositional Phrase	Syntax
Contrary-to-Fact Statement	Main Clause	Prepositional Pronouns	Transitive Verb
Coordinating Conjunctions	Neuter Article	Present Participle	Verb
Demonstrative Adjectives	Neuter Pronoun		

ADJECTIVES describe or qualify nouns. They answer the question "What sort of...?". Spanish adjectives always agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify. Unlike English, Spanish adjectives can be placed before or after the noun for special emphasis or meaning.

ADVERBS describe or qualify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb and answer the questions "How...?", "When...?", "Where...?", or "In what manner...?". In Spanish, most "how" adverbs are formed by adding **-mente** to the feminine singular form of the adjective.

AUGMENTATIVE ENDINGS on nouns imply a larger form or greater quality. They can also express disrespect or scorn. The most common augmentative endings are **-ote(a)**, **-on(a)**, and **-azo(a)**.

EXAMPLE: el perro / el **perrazo**
the dog / big dog

An **AUXILIARY VERB** helps in the conjugation of a main verb. The Spanish auxiliary verb **haber** (to have) is used to form the compound tenses.

EXAMPLE: **He hablado** con la profesora.
I *have spoken* with the teacher.

A **CLAUSE** is a phrase or group of words that includes at least a subject and a verb and forms part of a larger sentence.

EXAMPLE: La mujer **que vende flores** pasó por aquí hoy.
The woman *who sells flowers* came by here today.

The **COMPARATIVE FORM** indicates a difference in degree or quality (e.g., more than, less than). In English, the comparative is formed by adding the ending **-er** to the adjective. In Spanish, it is formed by placing **más** (more) or **menos** (less) before the adjective.

EXAMPLE: *Descriptive* *Comparative*
el libro **interesante** un libro **más interesante**

A **COMPOUND NOUN** is a noun that consists of two or more independent elements. In Spanish, the article preceding compound nouns changes in number, but the noun does not. Compound nouns are always masculine.

EXAMPLE: skyscraper **el** rascacielos **los** rascacielos
Note: **rascar** = to scrape **el cielo** = sky

COMPOUND TENSES consist of a conjugated auxiliary verb plus the past participle of the main verb. They occur in the Present Perfect, Past Perfect, Past Anterior, Future Perfect, as well as the Present Perfect Conditional, Past Subjunctive, and Past Perfect Subjunctive.

EXAMPLE: **Hemos decidido** ir al cine esta noche.
We have decided to go to the movies tonight.

A **CONDITIONAL CLAUSE** is a phrase or group of words that states the condition under which the action described by the main clause may be realized.

EXAMPLE: **Si tuviera dinero**, podría viajar a menudo.
If I had money, I could travel very often.

The **CONDITIONAL** expresses an action that you would do if something else were possible. It also expresses the hypothetical, unreal, or speculative, and states the condition under which another action or event may be carried out.

A verb is **CONJUGATED** when it is listed according to person (1st, 2nd, 3rd), number (singular / plural), tense (present, past, future, etc.), and indicative or subjunctive mood.

A **CONJUNCTION** serves as a link between words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.

CONTINUOUS TENSES are used in English and Spanish to indicate that an action or condition is in progress or ongoing, or that an action was in progress when another one took place. They occur in the Present, Past, Present Perfect, Past Perfect, Future and Conditional Tenses. In Spanish, alternate continuous tenses may be formed using the auxiliaries **ir**, **venir**, or **estar + present participle**.

EXAMPLES: **Estoy hablando** con la profesora.
I am speaking with the teacher.

Vino corriendo...
He came running...

A **CONTRACTION** is formed by omitting and/or combining some of the sounds of longer words. In Spanish, **a + el** is contracted to **al**; **de + el** becomes **del**.

EXAMPLES: Fuimos **al** campo. *We went to the countryside.*
Fuimos a la casa **del** Sr. Muñoz. *We went to Mr. Muñoz' house.*

A **CONTRARY-TO-FACT STATEMENT** describes a condition or set of conditions that do not actually exist. It includes a second clause in which these conditions are described as fulfillable.

EXAMPLE: **Si el automóvil no fuera tan caro**, podríamos comprarlo.
If the automobile were not so expensive, we could buy it.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS link two independent clauses in a sentence.

DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES point to a definite person or object. English uses **this**, **these**, **that**, and **those**. English uses **this**, **these**, **that**, and **those**. A demonstrative is either an adjective or a pronoun and must agree with the noun it modifies. Spanish uses:

Singular			Plural		
Masc.	Fem.		Masc.	Fem.	
este	esta	this (near me)	estos	estas	these
ese	esa	that (near you)	esos	esas	those
aquel	aquella	that (over there)	aquellos	aquellas	those

DIMINUTIVE ENDINGS are added to nouns to imply a smaller form or lesser quality. They can also express affection or endearment. The most common diminutive endings are **-ito(a)**, **-cito(a)**, **-illo(a)**, and **-cillo(a)**.

EXAMPLE: la rosa / la **rosita** el pastor / el **pastorcito**

An **INFINITIVE CLAUSE** with **para** (in order to) indicates purpose or intent.

EXAMPLE: Ahorro dinero **para comprar una casa**.
I am saving money (*in order*) *to buy a house*.

An **INFLECTED VERB** is one that has been identified as singular or plural and assigned endings for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person.

EXAMPLE: viaja (sing., 3rd person, Present Tense)
(he) travels

An **INTERJECTION** briefly expresses an emotional reaction to a situation, e.g., concern, approval, surprise, etc.

EXAMPLES: ¡Olé! Bravo!
¡Cuidado! Watch out! Look out!
¡Pobrecito! Poor little thing!

An **INTRANSITIVE VERB** does not describe an action, but merely expresses a state of affairs, change, or natural process. It therefore does not take an object.

EXAMPLE: Él **camino** mucho.
He walked a lot.

IRREGULAR VERBS show deviations from the usual pattern of inflection (spelling) in the stem as well as the endings.

A **MAIN CLAUSE** is the independent or principal clause in a sentence. It does not depend on another clause for its meaning and can stand on its own as a full sentence.

EXAMPLE: Cuando él venga, **te avisaré**.
When he comes, *I will let you know*.

A **NEUTER ARTICLE** is equivalent to the English **the / that / what / which** and is neither masculine nor feminine. The translation of **lo** varies according to context.

EXAMPLES: Entendieron **lo que** ella me decía.
They understood *what* she was saying to me.

Ella compró **lo más bonito** para la boda.
She bought *the prettiest one* for the wedding.

Querían saber **lo de** tu vecino.
They wanted to know *all about* your neighbor.

A **NEUTER PRONOUN** takes the place of a noun and refers to phrases or ideas without gender.

A **NOUN** names a person, place, or thing.

The **OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION** is a noun that follows a preposition.

EXAMPLE: Este libro es para **Andrés**.
This book is for *Andrew*.

An **OBJECT PRONOUN** receives the action of the verb.

EXAMPLES: **Nos** visitaron.
They visited *us*.

A **PARTICIPIAL ADJECTIVE** is an adjective derived from a verb. It must agree in number with the noun it modifies.

EXAMPLE: Hay mucha gente **hispano-hablante** aquí.

There are many *Spanish-speaking* people here.

Servimos la salsa **picante**.
We served hot sauce.

In **PASSIVE VOICE**, the order of subject and object are reversed, i.e., the subject receives the action of the verb. Passive voice conveys a sense of anonymity or objectivity.

EXAMPLES: **Active:** **Él terminó** el contrato. *He ended* the contract.
 Passive: El contrato **fue terminado por él.** The contract *was ended by him.*

PAST PARTICIPLES are formed by adding **-ado** or **-ido** to the present perfect stem of the verb. English equivalents are formed by adding **-ed, -t, -en**, etc. (i.e., parked, kept, frozen). They are used in the compound tenses and in passive voice and they can also stand alone as adjectives.

EXAMPLES: El pollo había **sido asado**.
 The chicken *had been roasted*.

 I like *roasted chicken*.
 A mí me gusta el pollo **asado**.

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES modify nouns and answer the question "**Whose...?**". They must be repeated before each noun they modify.

EXAMPLE: **mi** padre y **mi** madre...
 my father and mother...

A **POSSESSIVE PRONOUN** is a pronoun that answers the question "**Whose...?**".

EXAMPLE: ¿Quieres tomar el almuerzo en **mi** casa o en **la tuya**?
 Do you want to eat lunch at *my* house or at *yours*?

A **PREDICATE** modifies a subject and includes the verbs, objects, or phrases governed by the verb. It can also be a verb or linking verb (**ser** = "to be") that connects the elements of a sentence.

EXAMPLES: Carmen / **va** al parque los domingos.
 Carmen / goes to the park on Sundays.
 subject / predicate

 Pedro / **es** cantante.
 Peter / is a singer.
 subject / predicate

A **PREDICATE ADJECTIVE** describes the subject of a predicate.

EXAMPLE: **Él es muy encantador.** He is *very charming*.

A **PREDICATE NOUN** is equivalent in meaning to the subject and is linked to it by a predicate.

EXAMPLE: **Él es ingeniero.** He is *an engineer*.

A **PREPOSITION** introduces a noun, pronoun, adverb, infinitive, or present participle and can indicate spatial or temporal relationships. Spanish prepositions include the "personal a," **para, por, de, con, en, sobre, encima de, antes de, delante de, ante, detrás de, tras**, and others.

EXAMPLE: Se presentó **ante** el juez.
 He appeared *before* the judge.

A **PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE** consists of a preposition and its object and modifies the subject or verb. Prepositional phrases are often used instead of adverbs of manner.

EXAMPLES: El libro está **en la mesa**.
The book is *on the table*.

dulcemente	con dulzura	sweetly
felizmente	con felicidad	happily
irónicamente	de modo irónico	ironically / sarcastically

PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS follow prepositions. Except for the first, second, and third persons singular (**mí**, **tí**, and **sí**), the prepositional pronouns are the same as the subject pronouns. Note that **con** (with) and **mí** become **conmigo** (with me); **con** and **tí** become **contigo**; **con** with **sí** becomes **consigo**. **Tú** changes to **tí** after a preposition.

In English, a **PRESENT PARTICIPLE** is a verb form ending in **-ing**. It may also be used as an adjective or a noun. In Spanish, present participles end in **-ando** or **-iendo**. They may only be used as verbs.

EXAMPLE: Estaban **hablando** del terremoto.
They were *talking* about the earthquake.

Viendo la película, me acordé de ti.
While watching the movie, I thought of you.

A **PRONOUN** can substitute a noun. Like Spanish nouns, some pronouns have gender and number.

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
yo	I	nosotros	we (masc.)
		nosotras	we (fem.)
tú	you (familiar)	vosotros	you (familiar, masc.)
		vosotras	you (familiar, fem.)
usted	you (formal)	ustedes	you (formal)
él	he	ellos	they (masc.)
ella	she	ellas	they (fem.)
ello	(neuter subject pronoun)		

A **REFLEXIVE PRONOUN** is the object of a verb and refers back to the subject as "**myself**," "**yourself**," "**himself**," etc.

EXAMPLE: **Me** lavo.
I wash **myself**.

A **REFLEXIVE VERB** is used whenever the subject does the action to itself. Very often the reflexive adds the idea of *get* or *become* to the meaning of the verb.

EXAMPLES: **Él se cayó** al suelo.
He fell to the ground.

Él se hizo rico.
He *became* rich.

A **RELATIVE CLAUSE** is a subordinate clause introduced by a relative pronoun that describes or qualifies the subject or object of a sentence. It answers the question "**What sort of...?**". The relative clause can contain a subject, verb, and/or object(s).

RELATIVE PRONOUNS introduce relative clauses. Spanish relative pronouns include:

quien (-es)	who, whom, the ones who
que	who, that, which, whom
lo que	that which
el que (los que)	that which, those which
la que (las que)	that which, those which
el cual (los cuales)	the one(s) which
la cual (las cuales)	the one(s) which
lo cual	that which
donde	where

SIMPLE TENSES consist of a conjugated main verb only. They occur in the Present, Imperfect, Past, Future, Present Conditional, Present Subjunctive, and Imperfect Subjunctive.

STEM-CHANGING VERBS are regular and irregular verbs that take spelling changes in the stem when conjugated.

The **SUBJECT** of a sentence performs the action described by the verb.

A **SUBJECT COMPLEMENT** is a word or words used after a verb to complete a predicate. It modifies the noun, noun phrase, or pronoun in a sentence or clause.

EXAMPLES: Ellos estaban **cansados**.
They were *tired*.

Nos gusta caminar **por el barrio**.
We like to walk *through the neighborhood*.

SUBJECT PRONOUNS (also known as Personal Pronouns) refer to the person or thing that makes up the subject. The subject pronouns are often omitted in Spanish since the verb ending indicates gender and number. The forms **yo, tú, nosotros, and vosotros** are therefore usually required only for emphasis.

EXAMPLES: **Tengo** sueño. I am sleepy.
Yo tengo sueño. I am sleepy.

Tú no sabes lo que dices
You don't *know* what you are talking about.

The **SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD** is used in subordinate clauses in which there is a change of subject and indicates that a situation is hypothetical, unreal, wished or hoped for, or somehow speculative in nature. Spanish uses special verb forms to indicate the subjunctive (Present, Past, Imperfect, and Past Perfect Subjunctives). The Future Subjunctive is used in clauses implying a supposition and is found only in legal style or antiquated phrases.

A **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** is a secondary clause. Its meaning depends on the independent or main clause.

EXAMPLE: No te pongas la chaqueta **aunque tengas frío**.
Don't put your jacket on, *even though you are cold*.

A **SUPERLATIVE** is an adjective or adverb that expresses the third and highest level of comparison (e.g., most, least). In English it is formed by adding the ending **est** to the adjective. In Spanish, it is formed by placing **el/la más** (the most) before the adjective.

EXAMPLES: el edificio **más alto**... the *tallest* building...

SYNTAX is the order in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses, or sentences.

A **TRANSITIVE VERB** expresses an action that directly affects someone or something. It therefore takes a direct object.

EXAMPLE: Él **ve** la televisión.
He *watches* television.

A **VERB** is a word that expresses an action.

Adjectives

ADJECTIVES describe or qualify nouns. They answer the question "**What sort of...?**". Spanish adjectives always agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify. Unlike English, Spanish adjectives can be placed before or after the noun for special emphasis or meaning.

Adverbs

ADVERBS describe or qualify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb and answer the questions "**How...?**", "**When...?**", "**Where...?**", or "**In what manner...?**". In Spanish, most "**how**" adverbs are formed by adding **-mente** to the feminine singular form of the adjective.

Augmentative Endings

AUGMENTATIVE ENDINGS on nouns imply a larger form or greater quality. They can also express disrespect or scorn. The most common augmentative endings are **-ote(a)**, **-on(a)**, and **-azo(a)**.

EXAMPLE: el perro / el **perrazo**
the dog / big dog

Clause

A **CLAUSE** is a phrase or group of words that includes at least a subject and a verb and forms part of a larger sentence.

EXAMPLE: La mujer **que vende flores** pasó por aquí hoy.
The woman *who sells flowers* came by here today.

Comparative Form

The **COMPARATIVE FORM** indicates a difference in degree or quality (e.g., more than, less than). In English, the comparative is formed by adding the ending **-er** to the adjective. In Spanish, it is formed by placing **más** (more) or **menos** (less) before the adjective.

EXAMPLE: *Descriptive* *Comparative*
 el libro **interesante** un libro **más interesante**

Compound Noun

A **COMPOUND NOUN** is a noun that consists of two or more independent elements. In Spanish, the article preceding compound nouns changes in number, but the noun does not. Compound nouns are always masculine.

EXAMPLE: skyscraper **el** rascacielos **los** rascacielos

Note: **rascar** = to scrape **el cielo** = sky

Compound Tenses

COMPOUND TENSES consist of a conjugated auxiliary verb plus the past participle of the main verb. They occur in the Present Perfect, Past Perfect, Past Anterior, Future Perfect, as well as the Present Perfect Conditional, Past Subjunctive, and Past Perfect Subjunctive.

EXAMPLE: **Hemos decidido** ir al cine esta noche.
 We *have decided* to go to the movies tonight.

Conditional Clause

A **CONDITIONAL CLAUSE** is a phrase or group of words that states the condition under which the action described by the main clause may be realized.

EXAMPLE: **Si tuviera dinero**, podría viajar a menudo.
If I had money, I could travel very often.

Conditional Mood

The **CONDITIONAL MOOD** uses the construction "**if...then....**" It expresses the hypothetical, unreal, or speculative, and states the condition under which another action or event may be realized.

Conjugated

A verb is **CONJUGATED** when it is listed according to person (1st, 2nd, 3rd), number (singular / plural), tense (present, past, future, conditional, etc.), and indicative or subjunctive mood.

Conjunction

A **CONJUNCTION** serves as a link between words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.

Continuous Tenses

CONTINUOUS TENSES are used in English and Spanish to indicate that an action or condition is in progress or ongoing, or that an action was in progress when another one took place. They occur in the Present, Past, Present Perfect, Past Perfect, and Future Tenses, and the Conditional Mood. In Spanish, alternate continuous tenses may be formed using the auxiliaries **ir**, **venir**, or **estar** + **present participle**.

EXAMPLES: **He hablado** con la profesora.
 I *have spoken* with the teacher.

Vino corriendo...
He *came running*...

Contraction

A **CONTRACTION** is formed by omitting and/or combining some of the sounds of longer words. In Spanish, **a + el** is contracted to **al**; **de + el** becomes **del**.

EXAMPLES:

Fuimos **al** campo.

We went to the countryside.

Fuimos a la casa **del** Sr. Muñoz.

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Contrary-to-Fact Statement

A **CONTRARY-TO-FACT STATEMENT** describes a condition or set of conditions that do not actually exist. It includes a second clause in which these conditions are described as fulfillable.

EXAMPLE: **Si el automóvil no fuera tan caro**, podríamos comprarlo.
If the automobile were not so expensive, we could buy it.

Coordinating Conjunctions

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS link two independent clauses in a sentence.

Demonstrative Adjectives

DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES point to a definite person or object. English uses **this**, **these**, **that**, and **those**. A demonstrative is either an adjective or a pronoun and must agree with the noun it modifies. Spanish uses:

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>		
<i>Masc.</i>	<i>Fem.</i>		<i>Masc.</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	
este	esta	this (near me)	estos	estas	these
ese	esa	that (near you)	esos	esas	those
aquel	aquella	that (over there)	aquellos	aquellas	those

Diminutive Endings

DIMINUTIVE ENDINGS are added to nouns to imply a smaller form or lesser quality. They can also express affection or endearment. The most common diminutive endings are **-ito(a)**, **-cito(a)**, **-illo(a)**, and **-cillo(a)**.

EXAMPLE: la rosa / la **rosita** el pastor / el **pastorcito**
 the rose / the *little* rose the shepperd / the *little* shepperd

Direct Object

The **DIRECT OBJECT** is the person, place, or thing that is the direct recipient of the action described by a verb.

EXAMPLE: Leyó **el poema**. He read *the poem*.

Imperative Form

The **IMPERATIVE FORM** of a verb is used to give a command or make a suggestion. These forms are short and derived from the verb stem. Their spellings vary.

EXAMPLES: ¡**Véte** a dormir! *Go to sleep!*
 ¡**Dáme** el cuaderno! *Give me the notebook!*

Impersonal Expressions

IMPERSONAL EXPRESSIONS take an indefinite subject and create a sense of objectivity. Some common examples are:

es importante	it's important
es imposible	it's impossible
es una lástima	it's a pity
es necesario	it's necessary
es posible	it's possible
es preciso	it's necessary
es probable	it's probable, likely
es raro	it's unusual, strange
es urgente	it's urgent

Indicative

The **INDICATIVE** is the mood of the verb used in objective statements or questions. By contrast, the *subjunctive mood* expresses a request, a supposition, or an emotion such as a wish, a fear, a joy, etc. The *imperative mood* expresses a command or polite request.

Indirect Object

An **INDIRECT OBJECT** is the person or thing "**to whom**" or "**for whom**" an action is performed.

EXAMPLE: Él **le** regaló un vestido **a ella**.
He gave *her* a dress.

Indirect Speech

INDIRECT SPEECH is the reporting of the words of an unknown speaker. Spanish uses the pronoun **se** with the third person singular verb form to express "it is...", "people...", "they...", and "one..."

EXAMPLES:

Indirect Speech:

Él cree que (dice que... / sabe que...) el proyecto está terminado.
He believes that (says that... / knows that...) the project is completed.

Indirect Speech with "se":

Se cree que... It is believed that... People believe that...
They believe that... One believes that...
...the project is completed.

Se dice que... It is said that... People say that...
They say that... One says that...
...the project is completed.

Se sabe que... It is known that... People know that...
They know that... One knows that...
...the project is completed.

Infinitive

An **INFINITIVE** is the basic form of a verb. It reflects no person, number, or tense. There are three infinitive endings in Spanish: **-ar**, **-er**, and **-ir**.

Infinitive Clause

An **INFINITIVE CLAUSE** with **para** (in order to) indicates purpose or intent.

EXAMPLE: Ahorro dinero **para comprar una casa.**
I am saving money (*in order*) *to buy a house.*

Inflected Verb

An **INFLECTED VERB** is one that has been identified as singular or plural and assigned endings for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person.

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 (he) travels

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Intransitive Verb

An **INTRANSITIVE VERB** does not describe an action, but merely expresses a state of affairs, change, or natural process. It therefore does not take an object.

EXAMPLE: Él **camino** mucho.
He walked a lot.

Irregular Verbs

IRREGULAR VERBS show deviations from the usual pattern of inflection (spelling) in the stem as well as the endings.

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A **MAIN CLAUSE** is the independent or principal clause in a sentence. It does not depend on another clause for its meaning and can stand on its own as a full sentence.

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When he comes, *I will let you know*.

Neuter Article

A **NEUTER ARTICLE** is equivalent to the English **the / that / what / which** and is neither masculine nor feminine. The translation of **lo** varies according to context.

- EXAMPLES:**
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They understood *what* she was saying to me.

 - Ella compró **lo más bonito** para la boda.
She bought *the prettiest one* for the wedding.

 - Querían saber **lo de** tu vecino.
They wanted to know *all about* your neighbor.

Neuter Pronoun

A **NEUTER PRONOUN** takes the place of a noun and refers to phrases or ideas without gender.

Noun

A **NOUN** names a person, place, or thing.

Object of a Preposition

The **OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION** is a noun that follows a preposition.

EXAMPLE: Este libro es para **Andrés**.
 This book is for *Andrew*.

Object Pronoun

An **OBJECT PRONOUN** receives the action of the verb.

EXAMPLES: **Nos** visitaron.
 They visited *us*.

Participial Adjective

A **PARTICIPIAL ADJECTIVE** is an adjective derived from a verb. It must agree in number with the noun it modifies.

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There are many Spanish-*speaking* people here.

Servimos la salsa **picante**.
We served hot sauce.

Passive Voice

In **PASSIVE VOICE**, the order of subject and object are reversed, i.e., the subject receives the action of the verb. Passive voice conveys a sense of anonymity or objectivity.

EXAMPLES: *Active:* **Él terminó** el contrato. *He ended* the contract.
 Passive: El contrato **fue terminado por él.** The contract *was ended by him.*

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PAST PARTICIPLES are formed by adding **-ado** or **-ido** to the present perfect stem of the verb. English equivalents are formed by adding **-ed**, **-t**, **-en**, etc. (i.e., parked, kept, frozen). They are used in the compound tenses and in passive voice and they can also stand alone as adjectives.

EXAMPLES: El pollo había **sido asado**.
The chicken *had been roasted*.

I like *roasted chicken*.
A mí me gusta el pollo **asado**.

Possessive Adjectives

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 my father and mother...

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A **POSSESSIVE PRONOUN** is a pronoun that answers the question "**Whose...?**".

EXAMPLE: ¿Quieres tomar el almuerzo en **mi** casa o en **la tuya**?
Do you want to eat lunch at *my* house or at *yours*?

Predicate

A **PREDICATE** modifies a subject and includes the verbs, objects, or phrases governed by the verb. It can also be a verb or linking verb (**ser** = "to be") that connects the elements of a sentence.

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Carmen / goes to the park on Sundays.
subject / predicate

Pedro / **es** cantante.
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Prepositional Phrase

A **PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE** consists of a preposition and its object and modifies the subject or verb. Prepositional phrases are often used instead of adverbs of manner.

EXAMPLES:	El libro está en la mesa .		
	The book is <i>on</i> the table .		
	dulcemente	con dulzura	sweetly
	felizmente	con felicidad	happily
	irónicamente	de modo irónico	ironically / sarcastically

Prepositional Pronouns

PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS follow prepositions. Except for the first, second, and third persons singular (**mi**, **tí**, and **si**), the prepositional pronouns are the same as the subject pronouns. Note that **con** (with) and **mi** become **conmigo** (with me); **con** and **tí** become **contigo**; **con** with **si** becomes **consigo**. **Tú** changes to **tí** after a preposition.

Present Participle

In English, a **PRESENT PARTICIPLE** is a verb form ending in **-ing**. It may also be used as an adjective or a noun. In Spanish, present participles end in **-ando** or **-iendo**. They may only be used as verbs.

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 He fell to the ground.

Él se hizo rico.
He *became* rich.

Relative Clause

A **RELATIVE CLAUSE** is a subordinate clause introduced by a relative pronoun that describes or qualifies the subject or object of a sentence. It answers the question "**What sort of...?**". The relative clause can contain a subject, verb, and/or object(s).

Relative Pronouns

RELATIVE PRONOUNS introduce relative clauses. Spanish relative pronouns include:

quien (-es)	who, whom, the ones who
que	who, that, which, whom
lo que	that which
el que (los que)	that which, those which
la que (las que)	that which, those which
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The **SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD** is used in subordinate clauses in which there is a change of subject and indicates that a situation is hypothetical, unreal, wished or hoped for, or somehow speculative in nature. Spanish uses special verb forms to indicate the subjunctive (Present, Past, Imperfect, and Past Perfect Subjunctives). The Future Subjunctive is used in clauses implying a supposition and is found only in legal style or antiquated phrases.

Subject

The **SUBJECT** of a sentence performs the action described by the verb.

Subordinate Clause

A **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** is a secondary clause. Its meaning depends on the independent or main clause.

EXAMPLE: No te pongas la chaqueta **aunque tengas frío**.
Don't put your jacket on, *even though you are cold*.

Superlative

A **SUPERLATIVE** is an adjective or adverb that expresses the third and highest level of comparison (e.g., most, least). In English it is formed by adding the ending **est** to the adjective. In Spanish, it is formed by placing **el/la más** (the most) before the adjective.

EXAMPLES: el edificio **más alto**... the *tal/est* building...

Syntax

SYNTAX is the order in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses, or sentences.

Transitive Verb

A **TRANSITIVE VERB** expresses an action that directly affects someone or something. It therefore takes a direct object.

EXAMPLE: Él **ve** la televisión.
He *watches* television.

Verb

A **VERB** is a word that expresses an action.

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