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Indicativo Presente

Present Indicative (Simple Present)

Meaning:

- I. Simple present is used to express a general truth, or to talk about events or states that exist always or usually.

Trabaja en una biblioteca.
She **works** in a library.

Generalmente, **hablan** con su tía cada dos semanas.
Usually, they **speak** with their aunt every two weeks.

- II. The present tense is commonly used in conversation to refer to actions which will take place in the immediate future.

Vengo más tarde.
I'll **come** later.

- III. It is sometimes used in literature to replace the preterit, lending a sense of immediacy to historical narrative. This is called the vivid present.

Cortés **admira** la bondad y liberalidad del gran Montezuma.
Cortez **admires** the goodness and generosity of the great Montezuma.

Form:

The present tense of regular verbs is formed by removing the infinitive ending and adding to the verb stem endings for each person. There is a different set of endings for each of the three conjugations.

First conjugation:

hablar to talk

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	hablo	nosotras/nosotros (we)	hablamos
Second person	tú (you [familiar]) Usted (you [polite])	hablas habla	vosotras/vosotros (you) Ustedes [polite]	habláis hablan
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	habla	ellas, ellos (they)	hablan

Second conjugation:

comer to eat

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	como	nosotras/nosotros (we)	comemos
Second	tú (you)	comes	vosotras/vosotros	coméis

person	[familiar] Usted (you [polite])	come	(you) Ustedes [polite]	comen
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	come	ellas, ellos (they)	comen

Third conjugation:

vivir to live

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	vivo	nosotras/nosotros (we)	vivimos
Second person	tú (you [familiar])	vives	vosotras/vosotros (you)	vivís
	Usted (you [polite])	vive	Ustedes [polite]	viven
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	vive	ellas, ellos (they)	viven

Imperfecto de Indicativo

Imperfect Indicative

Meaning:

I. The imperfect tense is used to describe a situation in the past:

Mi abuela **era** muy inteligente.
My grandmother **was** very intelligent.

II. The imperfect is used to express habitual or repeated actions:

Todos los días **llegábamos** tarde.
We **used to arrive** late every day.

III. The imperfect can be used to express an action that was in progress or ongoing:

Dormía quando llegué. ("llegué" is in the preterit tense)
He **was sleeping** when I arrived.

IV. The imperfect is used to express time, dates, and ages:

Eran las once.
It **was** eleven o'clock.

Form:

The imperfect of regular verbs is formed by removing the infinitive ending and adding to the verb stem endings for each person. There is one set of endings for the first **(-ar)** conjugation and a second set of endings shared by the second **(-er)** and third **(-ir)** conjugations.

First conjugation:

hablar to talk

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	hab aba	nosotras/nosotros (we)	habl ábamos
Second person	tú (you [familiar])	habl abas	vosotras/vosotros (you)	habl abais
	Usted (you [polite])	habl aba	Ustedes [polite]	habl aban
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	habl aba	ellas, ellos (they)	habl aban

Second conjugation:

comer to eat

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	com ía	nosotras/nosotros (we)	com íamos
Second	tú (you)	com ías	vosotras/vosotros	com íais

person	[familiar] Usted (you [polite])	com ía	(you) Ustedes [polite]	com ían
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	com ía	ellas, ellos (they)	com ían

Third conjugation:

vivir to live

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	viv ía	nosotras/nosotros (we)	viv íamos
Second person	tú (you [familiar]) Usted (you [polite])	viv ías viv ía	vosotras/vosotros (you) Ustedes [polite]	viv íais viv ían
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	viv ía	ellas, ellos (they)	viv ían

Indicativo Pretérito

Preterit Indicative

Meaning:

- I. The preterit narrates an action with a definite beginning or ending in the past.

Juan **cenó** conmigo ayer.
John **ate** supper with me yesterday.

- II. The preterit is also used to indicate an event which took place while another action (in the imperfect tense) was ongoing.

Dormía cuando **llegué**.
He was sleeping when I **arrived**.

Form:

The preterit of regular verbs is formed by removing the infinitive ending and adding endings for each person. As with the imperfect, there is one set of endings for the first **(-ar)** conjugation and another set of endings shared by the second **(-er)** and third **(-ir)** conjugations.

First conjugation:

hablar to talk

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	hablé	nosotras/nosotros (we)	habl amos
Second person	tú (you [familiar])	habl aste	vosotras/vosotros (you)	habl asteis
	Usted (you [polite])	habl ó	Ustedes [polite]	habl aron
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	habl ó	ellas, ellos (they)	habl aron

Second conjugation:

comer to eat

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	comí	nosotras/nosotros (we)	com imos
Second person	tú (you [familiar])	com iste	vosotras/vosotros (you)	com isteis
	Usted (you [polite])	com ió	Ustedes [polite]	com ieron
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	com ió	ellas, ellos (they)	com ieron

Third conjugation:

vivir to live

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	viví	nosotras/nosotros	viv imos

Second person	tú (you [familiar])	viviste	(we) vosotras/vosotros (you)	vivisteís
	Usted (you [polite])	vivió	Ustedes [polite]	vivieron
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	vivió	ellas, ellos (they)	vivieron

Indicativo Futuro

Future Indicative

Meaning:

I. The future tense describes an action that will take place in the future:

Iré a la playa.
I **will go** to the beach.

II. The future tense can express uncertainty or probability in the present. This is called the 'suppositional future.'

¿Qué hora **será**?
What time is it?

Serán las diez.
It **is probably** about ten o'clock.

Form:

The future tense of regular verbs uses the entire **infinitive** form (rather than the verb stem) plus a set of endings that are the same for all three conjugations.

First conjugation:

hablar to talk

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	hablaré	nosotras/nosotros (we)	hablare mos
Second person	tú (you [familiar])	hablarás	vosotras/vosotros (you)	hablar éis
	Usted (you [polite])	hablará	Ustedes [polite]	hablar án
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	hablará	ellas, ellos (they)	hablar án

Second conjugation:

comer to eat

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	comeré	nosotras/nosotros (we)	comer emos
Second person	tú (you [familiar])	comerás	vosotras/vosotros (you)	comer éis
	Usted (you [polite])	comerá	Ustedes [polite]	comer án
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	comerá	ellas, ellos (they)	comer án

Third conjugation:

vivir to live

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
First person	yo (I)	viviré	nosotras/nosotros (we)	vivire mos

Second person	tú (you [familiar])	vivirás	vosotras/vosotros (you)	viviréis
	Usted (you [polite])	vivirá	Ustedes [polite]	vivirán
Third person	ella, él (she, he)	vivirá	ellas, ellos (they)	vivirán

Perfecto de Indicativo

Present Perfect Indicative

Meaning:

All of the perfect forms convey the idea that one event occurred with relation to another time or event. The present perfect denotes an action or state that started in the past and extends into the present, or that took place before the present time.

Confieso que **he mentido**.
I confess that I **have lied**.

¿**Has leído** la novela?
Have you **read** the novel?

Form:

The present perfect uses the present tense of the auxiliary verb **haber** (to have) plus the past participle of the main verb.

yo	he	hablado, comido, vivido	(I have spoken, eaten, lived)
tú	has	hablado, comido, vivido	(you have spoken, eaten, lived)
ella, él	ha	hablado, comido, vivido	(she, he have spoken, eaten, lived)
nosotras/os	hemos	hablado, comido, vivido	(we have spoken, eaten, lived)
vosotras/os	habéis	hablado, comido, vivido	(you all have spoken, eaten, lived)
ellas, ellos	han	hablado, comido, vivido	(they have spoken, eaten, lived)

Pretérito Anterior

Past Anterior

Meaning:

The preterit (past) anterior (or preterit perfect) is strictly a literary form. In conversation, the preterit or pluperfect is used. It indicates that one event occurred precisely when another one ended, and is only found after conjunctions of time, such as:

cuando *when*
después que *after*
apenas *scarcely*
luego que *as soon as*

Después que **hube comido**, salí.
After I **had eaten**, I went out.

Form:

The preterit anterior or preterit perfect uses the preterite tense of **haber** (to have) plus the past participle of the main verb:

yo	hube	hablado, comido, vivido	(I had spoken, eaten, lived)
tú	hubiste	hablado, comido, vivido	(you had spoken, eaten, lived)
ella, él	hubo	hablado, comido, vivido	(she, he had spoken, eaten, lived)
nosotras/os	hubimos	hablado, comido, vivido	(we had spoken, eaten, lived)
vosotras/os	hubisteis	hablado, comido, vivido	(you all had spoken, eaten, lived)
ellas, ellos	hubieron	hablado, comido, vivido	(they had spoken, eaten, lived)

Pluscuamperfecto Indicativo

Pluperfect (Past Perfect)

Meaning:

All of the perfect tenses convey the idea that one event took place with relation to another time or event.

The past perfect or pluperfect expresses the idea that an event was (or wasn't) completed before another time in the past:

Cuando llegaron a casa, Ana **había salido**.
When they arrived home, Ann **had gone out**.

No habíamos completado la limpieza antes de nuestros padres llegaron.
We **had not finished** the cleaning before our parents arrived.

Form:

The pluperfect (past perfect) uses the imperfect form of the auxiliary **haber** (to have) plus the past participle of the main verb:

yo	había	hablado, comido, vivido	(I had spoken, eaten, lived)
tú	habías	hablado, comido, vivido	(you had spoken, eaten, lived)
ella, él	había	hablado, comido, vivido	(she, he had spoken, eaten, lived)
nosotras/os	habíamos	hablado, comido, vivido	(we had spoken, eaten, lived)
vosotras/os	habíais	hablado, comido, vivido	(you all had spoken, eaten, lived)
ellas, ellos	habían	hablado, comido, vivido	(they had spoken, eaten, lived)

Futuro Perfecto

Future Perfect

Meaning:

All of the perfect tenses convey the idea that one event took place before another time or event.

- I. The future perfect expresses the idea that an event will be (or won't be) completed before another time in the future:

Habré terminado la novela antes que los otros.
I **will have finished** the novel before the others.

Habremos visto la película antes de medianoche.
We **will have seen** the movie by midnight.

- II. The future perfect can also express probability or conjecture about an event in the past:

Elena **habrá comido** antes que nosotros.
Elena **probably ate** before us.

Form:

The future perfect uses the future form of the auxiliary **haber** (to have) plus the past participle of the main verb:

yo	habré	hablado, comido, vivido	(I will have spoken, eaten, lived)
tú	habrás	hablado, comido, vivido	(you will have spoken, eaten, lived)
ella, él	habrá	hablado, comido, vivido	(she, he will have spoken, eaten, lived)
nosotras/os	habremos	hablado, comido, vivido	(we will have spoken, eaten, lived)
vosotras/os	habréis	hablado, comido, vivido	(you all will have spoken, eaten, lived)
ellas, ellos	habrán	hablado, comido, vivido	(they will have spoken, eaten, lived)

Indicativo Condicional

Present Conditional

Meaning:

The conditional is often treated as though it were a tense rather than a mood. In fact, the conditional is a mood which has only two tenses: a simple tense (the present conditional) used when referring to present possibilities, and a compound tense (the conditional perfect) used when referring to possibilities in the past.

I. The conditional expresses the idea of 'would' (contingent possibility):

Lo **haría** hoy, pero no tendré tiempo.
I **would do** it today, but I won't have the time.

Elena dijo que **vendría**.
Helen said that she **would come**.

II. It can also be used to express wonderment or doubt in the past, just as the future tense can be used in the present.

¿Qué hora **sería** cuando desayuné ayer?
I wonder what time **was** it when I ate breakfast yesterday?.

Form:

The conditional adds a single set of personal endings to the [infinitives](#) of all three conjugations. The endings are identical to those of the imperfect tense of second and third conjugation verbs.

yo	hablar ía	comer ía	vivir ía	I would talk, eat, live
tú	hablar ías	comer ías	vivir ías	you would talk, eat, live
ella, él	hablar ía	comer ía	vivir ía	she, he would talk, eat live
nosotras/ os	hablar íamos	comer íamos	vivir íamos	we would talk, eat, live
vosotras/ os	hablar íais	comer íais	vivir íais	you all would talk, eat, live
ellas, ellos	hablar ían	comer ían	vivir ían	they would talk, eat, live

Condicional Perfecto

Conditional Perfect

Meaning:

The conditional perfect is used when referring to possibilities or contingencies in the past:

Lo **habría hecho** ayer, pero no tenía tiempo.
I would have done it yesterday, but I didn't have time.

Form:

The conditional perfect uses the conditional of the auxiliary verb **haber** plus the past participle of the main verb:

yo	habría comido	I would have eaten
tú	habrías comido	you would have eaten
ella, él	habría comido	she, he would have eaten
nosotras/ os	habríamos comido	we would have eaten
vosotras/ os	habrías comido	you would have eaten
ellas, ellos	habrían comido	they would have eaten

Subjuntivo Presente

Present Subjunctive

Meaning:

- I. The present subjunctive mood is used in dependent clauses introduced by **que** (that) when the main clause expresses a wish, a strong emotional attitude, or an uncertainty.

Te ruego que **escribas** en español.
I beg you **to write** in Spanish.

Dudo que **sea** la verdad.
I doubt **it's** the truth.

- II. The subjunctive is also used for **formal commands**, for the negative (only) of **informal commands**, and after **impersonal expressions** like **es necesario que** (it is necessary).

Tenga Ud.
Here, **take** this, sir.

No **hables**.
Don't **talk**!

Es una lástima que no **quiera** venir.
Too bad he doesn't **want** to come.

Form:

The present subjunctive is regularly formed by adding one set of personal endings to the stem of **-ar** verbs and a second set of endings to **-er** and **-ir** verbs.

First conjugation:

hablar to talk

yo	hable	that I talk
tú	hables	that you talk
ella, él	hable	that she, he talk
nosotras/ os	hablemos	that we talk
vosotras/ os	habléis	that you all talk
ellas, ellos	hablen	that they talk

Second conjugation:

comer to eat

yo	coma	that I eat
tú	comas	that you eat
ella, él	coma	that she, he eat
nosotras/ os	comamos	that we eat
vosotras/ os	comáis	that you all eat

os
ellas, ellos **coman** that they eat

Third conjugation:

vivir *to live*

yo	viva	that I live
tú	vivas	that you live
ella, él	viva	that she, he live
nosotras/ os	vivamos	that we live
vosotras/ os	viváis	that you all live
ellas, ellos	vivan	that they live

Imperfecto de Subjuntivo

Imperfect Subjunctive

Meaning:

The subjunctive mood is used in dependent clauses introduced by **que** (that) when the main clause expresses a wish, a strong emotional attitude, or an uncertainty. The imperfect subjunctive is used in the same cases as the [present subjunctive](#), except that the verb in the main clause is usually in a past tense instead of the present:

Esperaba que él **llegara** tarde. / Esperaba que él **llegase** tarde.
I expected him to **arrive** late.

Tenían miedo de que ella no **volviera**. / Tenían miedo de que ella no **volviese**.
They were afraid that she **might not return**.

Form:

The imperfect subjunctive is formed by adding a set of endings containing either **-ra** or **-se** (with little difference in usage or meaning) to the verb stem. There is one set of endings for first conjugation (**-ar**) verbs and another set of endings for the second (**-er**) and third (**-ir**) conjugations.

First conjugation:

hablar to talk

yo	hablara	OR	hablase	that I talked
tú	hablaras	OR	hablases	that you talked
ella, él	hablara	OR	hablase	that she, he talked
nosotras/ os	habláramos	OR	hablásemos	that we talked
vosotras/ os	hablarais	OR	hablaseis	that you all talked
ellas, ellos	hablaran	OR	hablasen	that they talked

Second conjugation:

comer to eat

yo	comiera	OR	comiese	that I ate
tú	comieras	OR	comieses	that you ate
ella, él	comiera	OR	comiese	that she, he ate
nosotras/ os	comiéramos	OR	comiésemos	that we ate
vosotras/ os	comiéramos	OR	comieseis	that you all ate
ellas, ellos	comieran	OR	comiesen	that they ate

Third conjugation:

vivir to live

yo	viviera	OR	viviese	that I lived
tú	vivieras	OR	vivieses	that you lived

ella, él	viviera	OR	viviese	that she, he lived
nosotras/ os	viviéramos	OR	viviésemos	that we lived
vosotras/ os	vivierais	OR	vivieseis	that you all lived
ellas, ellos	vivieran	OR	viviesen	that they lived

Perfecto de Subjuntivo

Present Perfect Subjunctive

Meaning:

The subjunctive mood is used in dependent clauses introduced by **que** (that) when the main clause expresses a wish, a strong emotional attitude, or an uncertainty. Like the [present perfect indicative](#), the present perfect subjunctive expresses the idea that an event happened (or didn't happen) some time before the present time.

Espero que ellos **hayan llegado**.
I hope they **have arrived**.

Es un lástima que no **hayan comido** bien.
Its too bad that **they haven't eaten** well.

Form:

The perfect subjunctive uses the present subjunctive of **haber** plus the past participle of the main verb:

hablar *to speak*

yo	haya hablado	that I have spoken
tú	hayas hablado	that you have spoken
ella, él	haya hablado	that she, he has spoken
nosotras/ os	hayamos hablado	that we have spoken
vosotras/ os	hayáis hablado	that you all have spoken
ellas, ellos	hayan hablado	that they have spoken

Subjuntivo Pluscuamperfecto

Pluperfect (Past Perfect) Subjunctive

Meaning:

The subjunctive mood is used in dependent clauses introduced by **que** (that) when the main clause expresses a wish, a strong emotional attitude, or an uncertainty. Like the [pluperfect indicative](#), the pluperfect subjunctive expresses the idea that an event was (or wasn't) completed before another time in the past:

Esperaba que **hubieran llegado**.
I hoped **they had arrived**.

Ella dudaba que **hubieras tenido** tiempo.
She doubted that **you had had** time.

Form:

The pluperfect (past perfect) subjunctive uses the imperfect subjunctive of **haber** plus the past participle of the main verb:

comer *to eat*

yo	hubiera/hubiese comido	that I had eaten
tú	hubiera/hubiese comido	that you had eaten
ella, él	hubiera/hubiese comido	that she, he had eaten
nosotras/ os	hubiéramos/hubiésemos comido	that we had eaten
vosotras/ os	hubierais/hubieseis comido	that you all had eaten
ellas, ellos	hubieran/hubiesen comido	that they had eaten

Subjuntivo Futuro

Future Subjunctive - Archaic

The future subjunctive, as well as the future perfect subjunctive, are archaic and all but obsolete. Current use of these tenses is limited to:

1. Official documents which make reference to a hypothetical person in order to set forth rules and regulations.
2. A few set phrases which have become embedded in the language such as:

"sea lo que **fuere**"

"be that as it may"

Such phrases are being replaced by equivalents that use the present subjunctive instead ("sea lo que sea").

3. Journalistic writing in a few Latin American countries, such as Argentina.

Subjuntivo Futuro Perfecto

Future Perfect Subjunctive - Archaic

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1. Official documents which make reference to a hypothetical person in order to set forth rules and regulations.
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"sea lo que **fuere**"

"be that as it may"

Such phrases are being replaced by equivalents that use the present subjunctive instead ("sea lo que sea").

3. Journalistic writing in a few Latin American countries, such as Argentina.

Imperativo

Imperative

Verbs in the imperative mood make commands, requests, or instructions.

I. **Positive familiar commands:**

The second person singular **tú** imperative forms are identical to the third person singular of the present tense:

Duerme!
Go to **sleep!**

The second person plural **vosotros** forms are based on the infinitive, with **-d** replacing the final **-r**.

Dormid!
Go to **sleep**, all of you!

II. **Negative familiar commands**, both singular and plural, are expressed by the present subjunctive.

No **duermas!**
Don't go to **sleep!**

III. The present subjunctive is used for **formal commands**, both positive and negative.

Duerma Usted!
Please go to **sleep**.

IV. The subjunctive is also used for **indirect commands** (introduced by the conjunction **que**).

Que **se acueste**.
Let him **go to bed**.

V. Hortatory commands can be expressed either with the subjunctive or with the phrase **vamos a** and an infinitive.

Durmamos.
Let's go to **sleep**.

Vamos a dormir.
Let's go to **sleep**.

Glossary

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conjugate

to modify the form of a verb according to:

tense when the action occurs (past, present, or future)

person who or what is doing the action (for example, I, you, the girl)

number how many people or things are doing the action (singular or plural)

mood the manner in which the verb itself is used (for example, as a command in the imperative mood)

infinitve

The root form of a verb, without endings or other changes for tense, person, number and mood. For example, "hablar" is the infinitive of the conjugated Spanish verb "hablamos" (we speak).

inflected

Describes a root word that has changed forms to reflect differences such as case, gender, number, tense, person, or mood.

For example, English nouns are inflected to show number (the one girl, the two girls) or possession (the girl's books). Verbs can be inflected to show person, number, and tense. For example, in Spanish, a conjugated verb such as "hablan" uses the "-an" ending to indicate present tense and third person plural.

person

Who or what is doing the action expressed by the verb:

the First person is the speaker

the Second person is the addressee

the Third person is anyone other than the speaker or addressee

root

The base form of a word. For example, the singular form of a noun or the infinitive of a verb.

synonyms

Names for similar objects, concepts, or ideas. Synonyms rarely have identical meanings.

verb

A word denoting action, existence, or occurrence. Examples of English verbs are "walk," "live," and "happen."

