

***Spanish Verbs
and
Essential Grammar
Review 2018***

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Essential Grammar

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INTRODUCTION VERBS (VERBOS)

MOODS (MODOS)

There are three moods or ways to express verbs (actions) in Spanish.

1. Indicative Mood (objective)
2. Subjunctive Mood (subjective)
3. Imperative Mood (commands)

INFINITIVES (INFINITIVOS)

A verb in the purest form (without a noun or subject pronoun to perform the action) is called an infinitive. The infinitives in English are characterized by the prefix "to" + "verb form", the Spanish infinitives are identified by the "r" ending.

Example	<i>estudiar, comer, dormir</i>	to study, to eat, to sleep
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CONJUGATIONS (CONJUGACIONES)

Spanish verbs are grouped in three categories or conjugations.

1. Infinitives ending in **-ar** belong to the first conjugation. **(estudi**a**r)**
2. Infinitives ending in **-er** belong to the second conjugation. **(comer)**
3. Infinitives ending in **-ir** belong to the third conjugation. **(dormir)**

VERB STRUCTURE (ESTRUCTURA VERBAL)

Spanish verbs are divided into three parts. (infinitive: *estudiar*)

1. Stem or Root **(estudi**-**)**
2. Theme Vowel **(-a-)**
3. "R" Ending **(-r)**

CONJUGATED VERBS (VERBOS CONJUGADOS)

To conjugate a verb, a verb must have an explicit subject noun (ex: **María**), a subject pronoun (**yo, tú, usted, él, ella, nosotros(as), vosotros(as), ustedes, ellos, ellas**), or an implicit subject, to indicate the performer of the action.

ATTENTION

Subject pronouns are not used as frequently in Spanish as in English. They are used mainly for **emphasis** or **clarification** in Spanish since the **ending** of the conjugated verb often indicates the subject performing the action.

TENSES (TIEMPOS)

Actions (verbs) can be expressed either in the **present, past, future, or conditional** tenses. They appear in either **simple** or **compound** forms.

REGULAR/IRREGULAR VERBS (VERBOS REGULARES/IRREGULARES)

Verbs that do not require changes in their stems are considered **regular**. Verbs requiring spelling or stem changes are considered **irregular**.

INDICATIVE MOOD (SIMPLE TENSES)

PRESENT TENSE

REGULAR VERBS

The **present** tense endings for **regular** verbs are as follows:

<u>-ar conjugation</u>		<u>-er conjugation</u>		<u>-ir conjugation</u>	
-o	-amos	-o	-emos	-o	-imos
-as	-áis	-es	-éis	-es	-ís
-a	-an	-e	-en	-e	-en

	<u>hablar</u> (to speak)		<u>comer</u> (to eat)		<u>vivir</u> (to live)
hablo	hablamos	como	comemos	vivo	vivimos
hablas	habláis	comes	coméis	vives	vivís
habla	hablan	come	comen	vive	viven

IRREGULAR VERBS

1. Irregular "yo" Form

The verbs listed below are irregular **only** in the **yo** form.

Example	infinitive	go
	hacer (to make; to do)	hago
	poner (to put)	pongo
	traer (to bring)	traigo
	salir (to leave; to go out)	salgo
	valer (to be worth)	valgo
	caer (to fall)	caigo
Example	infinitive	+ z + co
	conocer (to know)	cono <u>z</u> co
	desaparecer (to disappear)	desapare <u>z</u> co
	obedecer (to obey)	obede <u>z</u> co
	producir (to produce)	produ <u>z</u> co
	conducir (to drive)	condu <u>z</u> co
	traducir (to translate)	tradu <u>z</u> co
Example	infinitive	gu → go
	distinguir (to distinguish)	disting <u>o</u>
Example	infinitive	cer → zo
	convencer (to convince)	conven <u>zo</u>
Example	infinitive	g → jo
	coger (to pick, take)	co <u>j</u> o
	escoger (to choose)	esco <u>j</u> o
	proteger (to protect)	prote <u>j</u> o
	dirigir (to manage)	diri <u>j</u> o
	exigir (to demand)	exi <u>j</u> o

2. Stem-Changing Verbs

The following verbs are irregular in the stem when conjugated, except* in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

Example

e → **ie** —

cerrar (to close)
cierra
cierras
cierra
cerramos*
cerráis*
cierran

o → **ue**

dormir (to sleep)
duerme
duermes
duerme
dormimos*
dormís*
duermen

e → **i**

pedir (to ask /order)
pido
pides
pide
pedimos*
pedís*
piden

3. Irregular "yo" Forms + Stem-Changing

The following verbs are irregular in the **yo** form and irregular in the stem when conjugated except* in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

Example

-go + stem change

tener (to have)
venir (to come)
decir (to tell; to say)
conseguir (to get; to obtain)

tengo / **tiene** / **tiene** / tenemos* / tenéis* / **tiene**
vengo / **vienes** / **viene** / venimos* / venís* / **vienen**
digo / **dices** / **dice** / decimos* / decís* / **dicen**
consigo / **consigues** / **consigue** / conseguimos* /
conseguís* / **consiguen**

4. Jugar (to play)

This verb behaves like a stem-changing verb. An **-e** must be inserted except* in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

Example

juego / juegas / juega / jugamos* / jugáis* / juegan

5. Distribuir (to distribute)

To avoid the presence of three vowels in a row, this verb requires the **-ui** to change to **-uy**, except* in the nosotros and vosotros forms. Other similar verbs also follow this pattern.

Example

distribuyo / distribuyes / distribuye /
distribuimos* / distribuís* / distribuyen

OTHER IRREGULAR VERBS

→ ser	(to be)	soy / eres / es / somos / sois / son
→ estar	(to be)	estoy / estás / está / estamos / estáis / están
→ ir	(to go)	voy / vas / va / vamos / vais / van
→ dar	(to give)	doy / das / da / damos / dais / dan
→ oler	(to smell)	huelo / hueles / huele / olemos / oléis / huelen

→ haber	(aux verb=to have)	he / has / ha / hemos / habéis / han
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PAST TENSES

Spanish has two simple past tenses, the **imperfect** and the **preterite**.

IMPERFECT TENSE: REGULAR VERBS

The **imperfect** endings for **regular** verbs are as follows:

-ar conjugations	-er conjugations	-ir conjugations
-aba -ábamos	-ía -íamos	-ía -íamos
-abas -abais	-ías -íais	-ías -íais
-aba -aban	-ía -ían	-ía -ían
<u>estudiar</u>	<u>comer</u>	<u>vivir</u>
estudiaba estudiábamos	comía comíamos	vivía vivíamos
estudiabas estudiabais	comías comíais	vivías vivíais
estudiaba estudiaban	comía comían	vivía vivían

IMPERFECT TENSE: IRREGULAR VERBS

There are only three **irregular** verbs in the **imperfect** tense.

<u>ser</u>	<u>ir</u>	<u>ver</u>
era éramos	iba íbamos	veía veíamos
eras erais	ibas ibais	veías veíais
era eran	iba iban	veía veían

ATTENTION

There are no stem-changing verbs in the imperfect tense

Key words and phrases that can indicate the use of the imperfect, BUT NOT ALWAYS:
Memorize these!

a menudo	often	nunca	never
a veces	at times; sometimes	siempre	always
cada día (año, mes, noche, etc.)	every day, year, month, night	tantas veces todo el día todos los días	so many times all day long everyday
con frecuencia	frequently; often		
Cuando (except when interruption in action)	When	todo el tiempo	all the time
de vez en cuando	from time to time	muchas veces	many times
frecuentemente	frequently; often		

Otras expresiones del imperfecto:

De chico/ a - as a child

De pequeño/ a – as a child

Cuando eras joven – when you were young

Cuando eras niño/ a – when you were a child

Cuando era joven – When I was young
Cuando era niño/ a – When I was a child

PRETERITE TENSE: REGULAR VERBS

The preterite tense endings for **regular** verbs are as follows:

-ar conjugations	-er conjugations	-ir conjugations
-é -amos	-í -imos	-í -imos
-aste -asteis	-iste -isteis	-iste -isteis
-ó -aron	-ió -ieron	-ió -ieron

<u>cantar</u>	<u>comer</u>	<u>vivir</u>
canté cantamos	comí comimos	viví vivimos
cantaste cantasteis	comiste comisteis	viviste vivisteis
cantó cantaron	comió comieron	vivió vivieron

PRETERITE TENSE: IRREGULAR VERBS

1. Spelling-Changing Verbs.

-ar verbs with irregular yo form

Example	<u>c</u> → <u>qu</u>
	buscar → busqué
	<u>g</u> → <u>gu</u>
	llegar → llegué
	<u>z</u> → <u>c</u>
	empezar → empecé

-er verbs with irregular third person singular and plural forms

Example	caer → cayó / cayeron
	creer → creyó / creyeron
	leer → leyó / leyeron

-ir verbs with irregular third person singular and plural forms

Example	oír → oyó / oyeron

2. Stem-Changing Verbs.

This change only occurs with certain **-ir** verbs in the **third person singular** and **plural** forms. There are **no** stem-changing **-ar** or **-er** verbs.

Example	<u>e</u> → <u>i</u>
	pedir → pidío / pidieron
	<u>o</u> → <u>u</u>
	dormir → durmió / durmieron

PRETERITE TENSE: IRREGULAR VERBS (IRREGULAR ENDINGS)

Certain **-ar** / **-er** / **-ir** verbs are irregular **in the stem** and also have the following irregular endings:

-e	-imos
-iste	-isteis
-o	-ieron / -eron

1. -uv- / -u- in the stem

Example	andar	<i>anduve / anduviste / anduvo / anduvimos / anduvisteis anduvieron</i>
	estar	<i>estuve / estuviste / estuvo / estuvimos / estuvisteis / estuvieron</i>
	tener	<i>tuve / tuviste / tuvo / tuvimos / tuvisteis / tuvieron</i>
	haber	<i>hube / hubiste / hubo / hubimos / hubisteis / hubieron</i>
	poder	<i>pude / pudiste / pudo / pudimos / pudisteis pudieron</i>
	poner	<i>puse / pusiste / puso / pusimos / pusisteis / pusieron</i>
	saber	<i>supe / supiste / supo / supimos / supisteis / supieron</i>

2. -i- in the stem

Example	querer	<i>quise / quisiste / quiso / quisimos / quisisteis / quisieron</i>
	venir	<i>vine / viniste / viño / vinimos / vinisteis / vinieron</i>

3. -i- in the stem + c → z (third person singular)

Example	hacer	<i>hice / hiciste / hizo / hicimos / hicisteis / hicieron</i>
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4. -j- in the stem + ieron → eron (third person plural)

Example	decir	<i>dije / dijiste / dijo / dijimos / dijisteis / dijeron</i>
	producir	<i>produje / produjiste / produjo / produjimos / produjisteis / produjeron</i>
	traer	<i>traje / trajiste / trajo / trajimos / trajisteis / trajeron</i>

The preterite is **frequently** associated (but there are exceptions) with phrases that pinpoint a particular occasion or specific time frame.

ayer	yesterday	en ese momento	at that moment
ayer por la mañana	yesterday morning	entonces	then
ayer por la tarde	yesterday afternoon	esta mañana	this morning
anteayer	the day before yesterday	esta tarde	this afternoon
anoche	last night	hace dos días, años	two days, years ago
desde el primer momento	from the first moment	la semana pasada	last week
después	afterwards	de repente	all of a sudden
durante dos siglos	for two centuries	el fin de semana pasado	last weekend
el año pasado	last year	durante	during
el lunes por la noche	Monday night	por	for (duration)
el mes pasado	last month	ya	already
el otro día	the other day	todavía no	not yet

If the action is in the past, and you can determine precisely when it occurred, for how long or how many times it occurred, then you will use the preterite.

