

Spanish Verb Tenses

Present – Describes action that is either ongoing, or happening in the present timeframe

AR endings – o, as, a, amos, an
ER/IR endings – o, es, e, emos, en
Yo hablo español bien
Me llamo Paco

Preterite – specific actions in the past

AR endings – é, aste, ó, amos, aron
ER/IR endings – í, iste, ió, imos, ieron
Mi mama limpió la casa ayer
Mi hermana trabajó el fin de semana pasado

Imperfect – descriptive, or ongoing actions in the past

AR endings – aba, abas, aba, abamos, aban
ER/IR endings – ía, ías, ía, íamos, ían
Ella estaba enferma
Tu estaba alegre ayer

Past Participles – ar – ado er/ir – ido oír – oído, traído, leído

Decir – dicho escribir – escrito hacer – hecho ver – visto abrir – abierto morir – muerto
cubrir – cubierto poner – puesto volver – vuelto imprimir – impreso
descubrir – descubierto describir – descrito devolver – devuelto componer – compuesto

Present Perfect – Present of haber + participle

Te has divertido mucho? – Did you have a lot of fun?
He trabajado mucho esta semana – I have worked a lot this week
No he comido en ese restaurante – I have not eaten in that restaurant

Present Subjunctive – Verb of emotion/volition/Personal expression + que + subjunctive form

Use yo form, replace opposite vowel for ending
It is important that you be on time. I wish I were on vacation, the teacher insists that he speak Spanish
Es importante que trabaje. Dudo que sea trabajador. Quiero que limpie su cuarto también
Verbs of Volition – Querer, Exigir, Insistir, en, Mandar, Pedir, rogar, aconsejar, recomendar, dejar

Verbs of Emotion – Alegrarse, ?

Impersonal statements – es bueno/malco/major que, es necesario/indispensable que, es lastima que

Special forms – *Ir – Vaya. Ser – Sea Saber – Sepa Dar – dé Estar – esté Yo = Ud*

Also used after a negative verb, ie, dudar, negar, no es possible, etc

Used when there is an “air of uncertainty”

Dudo que el partido empece a las siete

Queremos vivir en un apartamento que esté fuera de la ciudad

Also used after the CUANDO

La camaera va a cambiar las sá cuando limpie la habitación

The maid is going to change the sheets when she cleans the room

She's going to do it, but hasn't done it yet, so it's not “certain”, which is why it takes subjunctive

Past Subjunctive – used in If clauses, and when the first verb is the past (preterite, subjunctive, pluperfect)

Take ellos form of the preterite, take off the ron, add the past subjunctive endings(ra, ras, ra, ramos, ran)

Tomar – tomara. Beber – bebiera. Vivir – viviera

El dueño insistió en que bajáramos la calefacción

Era importante que la gente ahorrara energía

Me alegré de que te mudaras a un apartamento moderno

Dudábamos que el alquiler fuera más barato

Present Subjunctive Perfect – used to express past events (have been, were, had)

Present subjunctive of haber + participle

Haya, hayas, haya, hayamos, hayan

El doctor duda que Ud. Uaya tenido pulmonía – the doctor doubts that you have had pneumonia

Siento que hayas estado enfermo – I'm sad that you have been (were) sick

Conditional – Future stem + conditional endings – (ía, ías, ía, íamos, ían). Yo = Ud.

Express what would or would not happen if a certain condition were met

Used for polite requests with gustar, poder, deber – gustaría, podría debería

Used with past tense word – They announced the plane WOULD arrive late

Past Probability–Que hora sería? – I wonder what time it was. Donde estaría? – I wonder where she was

Con mas dinero, Compraría un billete de primera clase - I would buy a first class ticket

En tu lugar, Me Abrocharía el cinturón – I would fasten my seat belt

Si + imperfect subjunctive + conditional – Si estuviéramos de vacaciones, viajaríamos

Se anunció que el avión llegaría con retraso

Conditional Perfect – conditional of haber + participle

I would have accepted the job – habría aceptado la oferta

Future – Full verb + future endings (é, ás, á, emos, án)

Poder – podr

Poner – pondr

Salir – saldr

Tener – tendr

Venir – vendr

Decir – dir

Hacer – har

Querer – querr

Haber – habr

Saber – sabr

Used for future, present probability

Qué hora será? – I wonder what time it is.

Future Perfect - Future of haber + participle

The plane will have landed within one hour – el avión habrá aterrizado dentro de una hora

The doctors will have discovered this cure by the year 2000 – Habrán descubierto esta cura

He must have missed the bus – Habrá perdido el autobús

Pluperfect – Imperfect of haber + participle

We had never gone abroad before – nunca antes habíamos ido al extranjero

I had reserved last week – había reservado la semana pasada

The train had already left – el tren ya había salido

Anunció que el avión de Quito había llegado – They announced that the plane had arrived

Pluperfect Subjunctive – Imperfect subjunctive of haber + participle

Expresses actions that have happened in the past, similar to Present subjunctive perfect

When the first verb is PRESENT, use present subjunctive perfect

When the first verb is the PAST or CONDITIONAL, use pluperfect Subjunctive

Imperfect subjunctive forms of haber – hubiera, hubieras, hubiera, hubiéramos, hubieran

OR hubiese, hubieses, hubiese, hubiésemos, hubiesen

Yo dudo que tu hubieras archivado las cartas – I doubted that the you **had filed** the letters

Me alegré de que tu hubieras salido bien en la entrevista – I'm happy that you had done well

I am aware that there are a lot of tenses, and they're very confusing, and they're hard to remember. However, if you use them in your work, they will become second nature, eventually, I hope.... =>