Spanish Verbs and Essential Grammar Review

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### Essential Grammar

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Spanish Verbs
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: estudiar, comer, dormir to study, to eat, to sleep

CONJUGATIONS (CONJUGACIONES)
Spanish verbs are grouped in three categories or conjugations.

1. Infinitives ending in –ar belong to the first conjugation. (estudiar)
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ar conjugation</th>
<th>-er conjugation</th>
<th>-ir conjugation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-o</td>
<td>-o</td>
<td>-o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-amos</td>
<td>-emos</td>
<td>-imos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-as</td>
<td>-es</td>
<td>-es</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-áis</td>
<td>-éis</td>
<td>-ís</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-áan</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-an</td>
<td>-en</td>
<td>-en</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>-o</th>
<th>-amos</th>
<th>-as</th>
<th>-áis</th>
<th>-áan</th>
<th>-ar conjugation</th>
<th>-er conjugation</th>
<th>-ir conjugation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hablar</td>
<td>hablo</td>
<td>hablamos</td>
<td>hablas</td>
<td>habláis</td>
<td>hablan</td>
<td>(to speak)</td>
<td>como</td>
<td>comemos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comer</td>
<td>comos</td>
<td>comemos</td>
<td>comes</td>
<td>coméis</td>
<td>comen</td>
<td>(to eat)</td>
<td>vives</td>
<td>vivimos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vivir</td>
<td>vivos</td>
<td>vivimos</td>
<td>vives</td>
<td>vivís</td>
<td>viven</td>
<td>(to live)</td>
<td>vives</td>
<td>vivimos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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)  conozco
   desaparecer (to disappear) desaparezco
   obedecer (to obey) obedezco
   producir (to produce) produzco
   conducir (to drive) conduzco
   traducir (to translate) traduzco

   **Example**
   **infinitive**      **gu & go**
   distinguir (to distinguish) distingo

   **Example**
   **infinitive**      **cer & zo**
   convencer (to convince) convenzo
Example  | infinitive       | g  i
--- | --- | ---
coger (to pick, take) | cojo
escoger (to choose) | escojo
proteger (to protect) | protejo
dirigir (to manage) | dirijo
exigir (to demand) | exijo

2. Stem-Changing Verbs
The following verbs are irregular in the stem when conjugated, except* in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

Example  | g  ie | o  ue | e  i
--- | --- | --- | ---
cerrar (to close) | cierro
iertro
rieras
ierra
cerramos*
cerrás*
cierran
dormir (to sleep) | duermo
duermes
duerme
dormimos*
dormís*
duermen
pedir (to ask) | pido
vides
ide
pedimos*
pedis*
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 | -go + stem change | -go + stem change
--- | --- | --- | ---
tener (to have) | tengo / tienes / tiene / tenemos* / tenéis* / tienen
venir (to come) | vengo / vienes / viene / venimos* / venís* / vienen
decir (to tell; to say) | digo / dices / dice / decimos* / decís* / dicen
conseguir (to get; to obtain) | 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 / juegos / 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* / distribuis* / 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

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ar conjugations</th>
<th>-er conjugations</th>
<th>-ir conjugations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-aba</td>
<td>-ía</td>
<td>-ía</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-abas</td>
<td>-íais</td>
<td>-íais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-aba</td>
<td>-ía</td>
<td>-ía</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>estudiar</th>
<th>comer</th>
<th>vivir</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>estudiaba</td>
<td>comía</td>
<td>vivía</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estudiábamos</td>
<td>comíamos</td>
<td>vivíamos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estudiabas</td>
<td>comías</td>
<td>vivías</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estudiaban</td>
<td>comían</td>
<td>vivían</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMPERFECT TENSE: IRREGULAR VERBS

There are only three irregular verbs in the imperfect tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ser</th>
<th>ir</th>
<th>ver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>era</td>
<td>iba</td>
<td>veía</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eras</td>
<td>ibas</td>
<td>veías</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>era</td>
<td>iba</td>
<td>veia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ATTENTION*

There are no stem-changing verbs in the imperfect tense.

PRETERITE TENSE: REGULAR VERBS

The preterite tense endings for regular verbs are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ar conjugations</th>
<th>-er conjugations</th>
<th>-ir conjugations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-é</td>
<td>-í</td>
<td>-í</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-aste</td>
<td>-iste</td>
<td>-iste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-óró</td>
<td>-ió</td>
<td>-ió</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cantar</th>
<th>comer</th>
<th>vivir</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
PRETERITE TENSE: IRREGULAR VERBS


-ar verbs with irregular yo form

Example

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>gu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buscar</td>
<td>busqué</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>gu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>llegar</td>
<td>llegó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>empezar</td>
<td>empecé</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-er verbs with irregular third person singular and plural forms

Example

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>caer</td>
<td>cayó / cayeron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creer</td>
<td>creyó / creyeron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leer</td>
<td>leyó / leyeron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-ir verbs with irregular third person singular and plural forms

Example

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oir</td>
<td>oyó / oyeron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pedir</td>
<td>pidió / pidieron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dormir</td>
<td>durmió / durmieron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRETERITE TENSE: IRREGULAR VERBS (IRREGULAR ENDINGS)

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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-imos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-iste</td>
<td>-isteis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-o</td>
<td>-ieron / -eron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Example

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>andar</td>
<td>anduve / anduviste / anduvó / anduvimos / anduvisteis / anduvieron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estar</td>
<td>estuve / estuviste / estuvo / estuvimos / estuvisteis / estuvieron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tener</td>
<td>tuve / tuviste / tuvo / tuvimos / tuvisteis / tuvieron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haber</td>
<td>hubo / hubiste / hubo / hubimos / hubisteis / hubieron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. -i- in the stem

Example
querer  quise / quisiste / quiso / quisimos / quisisteis / quisieron
venir  vine / viniste / vino / vinimos / vinisteis / vinieron

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

Example
hacer  hice / hiciste / hizo / hicimos / hicisteis / hicieron

4. -j- in the stem + ieron  (third person plural)

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

(For uses of the imperfect and preterite, see pages 30-32.)

FUTURE TENSE

The future tense corresponds to the English will or shall.

REGULAR VERBS

The future tense endings for regular verbs are formed by adding the endings below to the infinitive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ar conjugation</th>
<th>-er conjugation</th>
<th>-ir conjugation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>estudiare</td>
<td>estudiaremos</td>
<td>comere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estudiaras</td>
<td>estudiarais</td>
<td>comeras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estudiar</td>
<td>estudiaran</td>
<td>comer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IRREGULAR VERBS (ONLY IN THE STEM)

These verbs use the regular future endings, however there is a change in the stem before adding the endings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>poner</th>
<th>poder</th>
<th>salir</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tendr</td>
<td>valdr</td>
<td>vendr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sabr</td>
<td>habr</td>
<td>querer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>har</td>
<td>dir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONDITIONAL TENSE

The conditional tense corresponds to the English would.

REGULAR VERBS

Like the future tense, the conditional tense is formed by adding the conditional endings below to the infinitive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ia</th>
<th>-iamos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-ías</td>
<td>-íais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ía</td>
<td>-ían-ar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**-ía conjugation**

- estudiaria
- estudiaríamos
- comeria
- comeriámos
- viviría
- viviríamos

**-ías conjugation**

- estudiarías
- estudiaríais
- comérias
- comeriáis
- viviriás
- viviríais

**-ía conjugation**

- estudiaría
- estudiaríamos
- comeriía
- comeriámos
- viviría
- viviríamos

**-ian conjugation**

- estudiaría
- estudiaríamos
- comeriía
- comeriámos
- viviría
- viviríamos

IRREGULAR VERBS (ONLY IN THE STEM)

All verbs considered irregular in the future tense, are also considered irregular in the conditional tense. Remember to use the conditional endings. The irregular stems are the same as in the future tense.

(COMPONEND TENSES)

Compound tenses are formed with the appropriate conjugated form of the auxiliary verb haber (to have) + past participle (regular or irregular form).

REGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES

To form regular past participles of -ar conjugations, add the ending -ado to the stem. For -er and -ir conjugations, add the ending -ido to the stem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Participle</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>estudiar</td>
<td>estudiado</td>
<td>estudiarar (studied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comer</td>
<td>comido</td>
<td>comérer (eaten)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vivir</td>
<td>vivido</td>
<td>vivir (lived)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES

There are no irregular past participles for -ar conjugation verbs. The following -er and -ir verbs have irregular past participles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-er conjugation</th>
<th>past participle</th>
<th>-ir conjugation</th>
<th>past participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>envolver</td>
<td>envuelto</td>
<td>abrir</td>
<td>abierto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>devolver</td>
<td>devuelto</td>
<td>cubrir</td>
<td>cubierto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hacer</td>
<td>hecho</td>
<td>decir</td>
<td>dicho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poner</td>
<td>puesto</td>
<td>descubrir</td>
<td>descubierto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>romper</td>
<td>roto</td>
<td>morir</td>
<td>muerto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resolver</td>
<td>resuelto</td>
<td>escribir</td>
<td>escrito</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ver</td>
<td>visto</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>volver</td>
<td>vuelto</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRESENT PERFECT TENSE
The present perfect tense is formed by using the present tense of the auxiliary verb *haber* (conjugated below in the present indicative) + past participle (regular or irregular form).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>haber</em> (present tense)</th>
<th>he</th>
<th>hemos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>has</td>
<td>habéis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha</td>
<td></td>
<td>han</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

*He* estudiado *la lección.*  
I have studied the lesson.

*Has* comido *la ensalada.*  
You have eaten the salad.

*Ha* dormido bien.  
He/She has slept well.

*Hemos* escrito *la carta.*  
We have written the letter.

*Han* hecho *la tarea.*  
They have done the homework.

PAST PERFECT TENSE (PLUPERFECT)
The past perfect is formed by using the imperfect tense of the auxiliary verb *haber* (conjugated below in the imperfect indicative) + past participle (regular or irregular form).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>haber</em> (imperfect tense)</th>
<th>había</th>
<th>habíamos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>habías</td>
<td>habíais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha</td>
<td>habia</td>
<td>habían</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

*Había* estudiado *la lección.*  
I/He/She had studied the lesson.

*Habías* comido *la ensalada.*  
You had eaten the salad.

*Había* dormido bien.  
I/He/She had slept well.

*Habíamos* escrito *la carta.*  
We had written the letter.

*Habían* hecho *la tarea.*  
They had done the homework.

FUTURE PERFECT TENSE
The future perfect is formed by using the future tense of the auxiliary verb *haber* (conjugated below in the future indicative) + past participle (regular or irregular form).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>haber</em> (future tense)</th>
<th>habré</th>
<th>habremos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>habrán</td>
<td>habrá</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

*Habré* estudiado *la lección.*  
I will have studied the lesson.

*Habrás* comido *la ensalada.*  
You will have eaten the salad.

*Habrá* dormido bien.  
He/She will have slept well.

*Habremos* escrito *la carta.*  
We will have written the letter.

*Habrán* hecho *la tarea.*  
They will have done the homework.
CONDITIONAL PERFECT TENSE

The conditional perfect is formed by using the conditional tense of the auxiliary verb *haber* (conjugated below in the conditional tense) + past participle (regular or irregular form).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>haber</em> (conditional tense)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>habría</strong></td>
<td><strong>habríamos</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>habrías</strong></td>
<td><strong>habrialis</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>habría</strong></td>
<td><strong>habrian</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example**

*Habría* estudiado la lección. I/He/She would have studied the lesson.  
*Habrías* comido la ensalada. You would have eaten the salad.  
*Habría* dormido bien. I/He/She would have slept well.  
*Habríamos* escrito la carta. We would have written the letter.  
*Habrían* hecho la tarea. They would have done the homework.

SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

(SIMPLE TENSES)

PRESENT TENSE

The present tense of the subjunctive mood is equivalent to the English auxiliary verb *may*.

REGULAR VERBS

The present tense endings for regular verbs in the subjunctive mood are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>ar</em> conjugation</th>
<th><em>-er</em> conjugation</th>
<th><em>-ir</em> conjugation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-e -emos</td>
<td>-a -amos</td>
<td>-a -amos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-es -éis</td>
<td>-as -áis</td>
<td>-as -áis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-e -en</td>
<td>-a -an</td>
<td>-a -an</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>estudiar</em></th>
<th><em>comer</em></th>
<th><em>vivir</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>estudie</td>
<td>coma</td>
<td>viva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>studies</td>
<td>comas</td>
<td>vivas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estudie</td>
<td>coman</td>
<td>vivan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IRREGULAR VERBS

I. Verbs with an irregular “yo” form in the present indicative are not only irregular in the “yo” form of the subjunctive, but in all forms of the present subjunctive tense.

**Example**

*infinitive* | *ga*  
|-------------|---------|
| hacer (to make; to do) | haga / hagas / haga / hagamos / hagáis / hagan  
| poner (to put) | ponga / pongas / ponga / pongamos / pongáis / pongan  
| traer (to bring) | traiga / traigas / traiga / traigamos / traigáis / traigan
salir  (to leave; to go out)  salga / salgas / salga / salgamos / salgáis / salgan
valer  (to be worth)  valga / valgas / valga / valgamos / valgáis / valgan
caer  (to fall)  caiga / caigas / caiga / caigamos / caigáis / caigan

Example

infinitive  cer/cir  z + ca
conocer (to know)  conozca / conozcas / conozca / conozcamos / conozcáis / conozcan
desaparecer (to disappear)  desaparezca / desaparezcas / desaparezca / desaparezcamos / desaparezcáis / desaparezcan
obedecer (to obey)  obedezca / obedezcas / obedezca / obedezcamos / obedezcáis / obedezcan
producir (to produce)  produzca / produzcas / produzca / produzcamos / produzcais / produzcan
conducir (to drive)  conduzca / conduzcas / conduzca / conduczamos / conduczais / conduczcan
traducir (to translate)  traduzca / traduzcas / traduzca / traduzcamos / traduzcás / traduzcan

Example

infinitive  gu  ga
distinguir (to distinguish)  distinga / distingas / distinga / distingamos / distingáis / distingan

Example

infinitive  cer  za
convencer (to convince)  conveza / convezas / conveza / convezamos / convezáis / convezan

Example

infinitive  ger/gir  ja
coger (to pick, take)  coja / cojas / coja / cojáis / cojan
escoger (to choose)  escoja / escojas / escoja / escojáis / escojan
proteger (to protect)  proteja / protejas / proteja / protejáis / protejan
dirigir (to manage)  dirija / dirijas / dirija / dirijáis / dirijan
exigir (to demand)  exija / exijas / exija / exijáis / exijamos / exijan

2. Verbs with an irregular “yo” form in the preterite tense are not only irregular in the “yo” form of the subjunctive, but in all forms of the present subjunctive tense.

Example

infinitive  c  gu
buscar  busque / busques / busque / busquemos / busquéis / busquen

Example

infinitive  g  gu
llegar  llegue / llegues / llegue / lleguemos / lleguéis / lleguen

Example

infinitive  z  c
abrazar  abrace / abraza / abraze / abrácemos / abracéis / abracen
3. Stem Changing Verbs

Verbs, which are stem changing verbs in the present indicative for -ar and -er conjugations, are also stem changing in the present subjunctive, except* in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

Example

**infinitive**  
averiguar

**gu**  
**gü**

averigüe / averigués / averigué / averiguemos / averiguéis / averiguën

**Example**

**infinitive**  
cerrar

**e**  
**ie**

cierre / cierres / cierre / cerremos*/ cerréis*/ cerren

Example

**infinitive**  
volver

**o**  
**ue**
vuelva / vuelvas / vuelva / volvamos*/ volváis* / vuelvan

Verbs, which are stem changing in the present indicative for -ir conjugations are also stem changing in the present subjunctive. The nosotros and vosotros require* the following change:

Example

**infinitive**  
dormir

**o**  
**u**
duerma / duermas / duerma / durmamos*/ durmáis*/ duerman

Example

**infinitive**  
sentir

**e**  
**i**
sienta / sientas / sienta / sintamos*/ sintáis*/ sientan

Example

**infinitive**  
pedir

**e**  
**(all forms, including nosotros and vosotros)**  
pida / pidas / pida / pidamos*/ pidáis*/ pidan

PAST SUBJUNCTIVE TENSE (IMPERFECT)

The past imperfect is formed by using the third person plural of the preterite tense (indicative mood). Drop the ending -ron from the preterite (third person plural), and add the endings below: Nosotros and vosotros forms must have a written accent over the vowel preceding the ending.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>-ra</th>
<th>-ramos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-ras</td>
<td>-rais</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ra</td>
<td>-ran</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>estudioar</th>
<th>estudioaron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>estudiar</td>
<td>estudiaron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estudias</td>
<td>estudiaras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estudiara</td>
<td>estudiante</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>comer</th>
<th>comieron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>comiera</td>
<td>comiera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comieras</td>
<td>comieras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comiera</td>
<td>comieran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vivir</th>
<th>vivieron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>viviera</td>
<td>vivieras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vivieras</td>
<td>vivieras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vivieran</td>
<td>vivieron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(COMPOUND TENSES)

Compound tenses in the subjunctive mood are formed with the appropriate conjugated form of the auxiliary verb *haber* (to have) + *past participle* (regular or irregular).

**PRESENT PERFECT**

The present perfect tense is formed by using the present subjunctive of the auxiliary verb *haber* (conjugated below in the present subjunctive) + past participle (regular or irregular).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>haber (subjunctive)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>haya</td>
<td>hayamos</td>
<td>hayas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example**

Haya estudiado la lección.  
You may have studied the lesson.

Hayas comido la ensalada.  
You may have eaten the salad.

Haya dormido bien.  
I/He/She may have slept well.

Hayamos escrito la carta.  
We may have written the letter.

Hayan hecho la tarea.  
They may have done the homework.

**PAST PERFECT**

The past perfect tense is formed by using the past subjunctive (imperfect) of the auxiliary verb *haber* (conjugated below in the past subjunctive) + past participle (regular or irregular).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>haber (subjunctive)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hubiera</td>
<td>hubiéramos</td>
<td>hubieras</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example**

Hubiera estudiado la lección.  
I/He/She might have studied the lesson.

Hubieras comido la ensalada.  
You might have eaten the salad.

Hubiera dormido bien.  
I/He/She might have slept well.

Hubieramos escrito la carta.  
We might have written the letter.

Hubieran hecho la tarea.  
They might have done the homework.

(For uses of the subjunctive mood, see pages 33-37.)
**SER**
*(TO BE)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>yo</th>
<th>soy</th>
<th>nosotros(as)</th>
<th>somos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tú</td>
<td>eres</td>
<td>vosotros(as)</td>
<td>sois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>él, ella, Ud.</td>
<td>es</td>
<td>ellos, ellas, Uds.</td>
<td>son</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**USES OF SER**

*Ser* is used to identify people and things.

**Example**

Luis es estudiante. Luis is a student.

Es un libro. It is a book.

*Ser* is used to express nationality. *Ser* with *de* (from) is used to express national origin.

**Example**

Juan es peruano. Juan is Peruvian.

Juan es de Perú. Juan is from Peru.

*Ser* with *de* is used to tell of what material something is made.

**Example**

La mesa es de madera. The table is made of wood.

*Ser* with *para* is used to tell for whom something is intended.

**Example**

La comida es para Andrés. The meal is for Andrés.

*Ser* is used to tell time.

**Example**

Es la una. It is one o'clock.

Son las dos. It is two o'clock.

The third person singular of *ser* is used to express generalizations.

**Example**

Es importante estudiar. It's important to study.

*Ser* is used to tell where and when an event takes place.

**Example**

La fiesta es en la cafetería. The party is in the cafetería.

La fiesta es a las siete de la noche. The party is at seven o'clock.

*Ser* is used with adjectives* that describe the fundamental qualities of a person, place, or thing. It describes basic, inherent characteristics.

**Example**

Esteban es un hombre inteligente. Esteban is an intelligent man.
**ESTAR**  
(TO BE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>yo</th>
<th>estoy</th>
<th>nosotros(as)</th>
<th>estamos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tú</td>
<td>estás</td>
<td>vosotros(as)</td>
<td>estás</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>él, ella, Ud.</td>
<td>está</td>
<td>ellos, ellas, Uds.</td>
<td>están</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**USES OF ESTAR**

*Estar* is used to tell the location of something.

**Example**

El libro *está* en la mesa.  
Juan *está* en España.

The book is on the table.  
Juan is in Spain.

*Estar* is used to form the progressive tense. In Spanish the progressive tense is formed using the verb *estar* plus the present participle. (The present participle is formed by adding *ando* to the stem of -ar verbs and *iendo* to the stem of -er and -ir verbs. The present participle always ends in -o.)

**Example**

Los alumnos *están* estudiando.  
Ellos *están* comiendo.

The students are studying.  
They are eating.

*Estar* is used to describe health.

**Example**

María *está* enferma.  

María is sick.

*Estar* is used in a number of fixed expressions.

**Example**

*E*stoy de acuerdo con ellos.  
*E*stá bien.  
*E*stá claro.

I am in agreement with them.  
It is okay.  
It's clear.

*Estar* is used with adjectives* that describe conditions or states subject to change.

**Example**

*E*stoy muy aburrida.  
*E*l agua *está* caliente.

I am very bored.  
The water is hot.

*ATTENTION*
(SER AND ESTAR)

The following adjective change their meanings based on the use of *ser* and *estar*. *(Adjectivos que cambian de sentido con ser o estar.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>SER</th>
<th>ESTAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aburrido</td>
<td>boring</td>
<td>bored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alegre</td>
<td>happy (temperament)</td>
<td>feeling happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bueno</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cansado</td>
<td>tiresome</td>
<td>tired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enfermo</td>
<td>sickly (person)</td>
<td>ill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grande</td>
<td>big</td>
<td>big for one's age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guapo</td>
<td>handsome</td>
<td>looking good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>listo</td>
<td>clever</td>
<td>ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loco</td>
<td>crazy (person)</td>
<td>foolish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maduro</td>
<td>mature</td>
<td>ripe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malo</td>
<td>bad</td>
<td>ill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rico</td>
<td>rich (prosperous)</td>
<td>delicious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seguro</td>
<td>safe</td>
<td>certain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verde</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>unripe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vivo</td>
<td>lively</td>
<td>alive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Essential Grammar
PRONOUNS

DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>me</th>
<th>nos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>te</td>
<td>os</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lo</td>
<td>los</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la</td>
<td>las</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

USES OF DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

Direct object pronouns are used when a person or thing receives the action of the verb directly. These pronouns answer the question what? or who? in relation to the subject and verb.

Example

Carlos escribe una carta.
Carlos la escribe.

Carlos writes a letter. (what?--a letter)
Carlos writes it.

INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>me</th>
<th>nos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>te</td>
<td>os</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le</td>
<td>les</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

USES OF INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

Indirect object pronouns are used when a person (or sometimes an animal) receives the action of the verb indirectly. These pronouns usually answer the question to whom? or for whom? in relation to the verb.

Example

Carlos me escribe una carta.

Carlos writes a letter to me.
(to whom?--to me)

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>me</th>
<th>nos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>te</td>
<td>os</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se</td>
<td>se</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

USES OF REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

Reflexive pronouns are used whenever the subject (singular or plural) does anything to or for him/her/itself. It corresponds to the English forms: myself, yourself, himself, herself, ourselves, or themselves. Any transitive verb, a verb that can take an object (direct or indirect), can be used reflexively. Reflexive verbs always have se attached to the infinitive.

Example

lavarse
to wash oneself
POSITION OF PRONOUNS

WITH ONE CONJUGATED VERB
In statements or questions with one conjugated verb, the pronoun is placed before the conjugated verb.

Example

Tengo la revista.  I have the magazine.
La tengo.  I have it.
¿Quién tiene la revista?  Who has the magazine?
¿Quién la tiene?  Who has it?

In negative commands the pronoun is placed directly before the conjugated verb. (Don't forget that no is always part of the negative command form.)

Example

No comas los caramelos.  Don't eat the candies.
No los comas.  Don't eat them.

In formal or informal affirmative reflexive commands, the pronoun is placed after the conjugated verb.

Example

ponerse el abrigo  to put on your coat (yourself)
Póngase el abrigo.  Put on (yourself) your coat. (formal)
Ponte el abrigo.  Put on (yourself) your coat. (informal)

In formal or informal negative reflexive commands, the pronoun is placed after the conjugated verb. (Don't forget the no is always part of the negative command form.)

Example

no ponerse el abrigo  to not put on you coat (yourself)
No se ponga el abrigo.  Don't put on (yourself) your coat. (formal)
No te pongas el abrigo.  Don't put on (yourself) your coat. (informal)

WITH MORE THAN ONE VERB
When there is more than one verb in a sentence, two different positions are possible for the pronoun. The pronoun may come directly before the conjugated verb, or attached to the end of the infinitive, progressive, or reflexive forms.

ir  +  a  +  infinitive

Example

Voy a comprar el libro.  I am going to buy the book.
Lo voy a comprar.  (directly before)  I am going to buy it.
Voy a comprarlo.  (attached to the end)  I am going to buy it.

ando / iendo (progressive construction: simple or compound tenses)
*A written accent is required when attaching a pronoun to the end of the progressive or the reflexive form.

Example

Estoy mirando las revistas.  I am looking at the magazines.
Las estoy mirando (directly before)  I am looking at them.
Estoy mirándolas. (attached to the end) I am looking at them.
He estado mirando las revistas. I have been looking at the magazines.
Las he estado mirando. (directly before) I have been looking at them.
He estado mirándolas. (attached to the end) I have been looking at them.

Reflexive Progressive Constructions

Example

Luis está lavándose las manos. Luis is washing (himself) his hands.
Luis se las está lavando. (directly before) Luis is washing (himself) his hands.
Luis está lavándoselas. (attached to the end) Luis is watching them. (himself)

In certain impersonal expression using ser, the pronoun must be attached to the end of the infinitive.

Example

Es necesario leer el libro. It is necessary to read the book.
Es necesario leerlo. It is necessary to read it.

COMBINING DIRECT AND INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS
(DOUBLE OBJECT PRONOUNS)

When two types of pronouns are combined, the indirect always comes first.

Example

Compro las flores para ti. I buy the flowers for you.
Te las compro. I buy them for you.

When certain combinations of pronouns that begin with the same letter occur, the indirect object pronoun always changes to se. (example: les(s) / lo(s); le(s) / la(s))

Example

Yo doy un regalo a Juan. I give a gift to Juan.
Yo le + lo doy = Yo se lo doy. I give it to him.

When two types of pronouns are combined, the two pronouns may be attached to the end of the infinitive or progressive form, or the two pronouns may be placed before the conjugated verb. The order of the two pronouns cannot change regardless of the position you choose.

Example

Voy a comprar un regalo para Carmen. I am going to buy a gift for Carmen.
Se lo voy a comprar. I am going to buy it for her.
Voy a comprárselo. I am going to buy it for her.

Estoy comprando un libro para mi hijo. I am buying a book for my son.
Se lo estoy comprando. I am buying it for him.
Estoy comprándoselo. I am buying it for him.
POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES AND PRONOUNS

Possessive adjectives in Spanish have two forms, a short form (unstressed) that precedes the noun, and a long form (stressed) that follows the noun.

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES THAT PRECEDE THE NOUN
The possessive adjectives in English (my, your, his, her, and so on) do not vary in form. The possessive adjectives in Spanish, like all adjectives in Spanish, agree in number with the noun they modify—that is, with the object possessed. The possessive adjectives nuestro and vuestro agree in gender and in number. These forms of the possessive adjectives always precede the noun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mi</th>
<th>mis</th>
<th>nuestro(a)</th>
<th>nuestros(as)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu</td>
<td>tus</td>
<td>vuestro(a)</td>
<td>vuestros(as)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>su</td>
<td>sus</td>
<td>su</td>
<td>sus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

Mi carro es viejo.
Mis carros son viejos.
Tu carro es viejo.
Tus carros son viejos.
Su carro es viejo.
Sus carros son viejos.
Nuestro carro es viejo.
Nuestros carros son viejos.
Nuestra casa es vieja.
Nuestras casas son viejas.
Su carro es viejo.
Sus carros son viejos.

My car is old.
My cars are old.
Your car is old.
Your cars are old.
His/Her car is old.
His/Her cars are old.
Our car is old.
Our cars are old.
Our house is old.
Our houses are old.
Their car is old.
Their cars are old.

Since su(s) can express his, her, its, your and their, ambiguity is often avoided by using a prepositional phrase with de and a pronoun object. In this case, the definite article precedes the noun.

Example

Su padre se sentó al lado de su madre.
El padre de él se sentó al lado de la madre de ella.
His father sat next to her mother.

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES THAT FOLLOW THE NOUN
The long or emphatic (stressed) possessive adjectives are used when the speaker wishes to emphasize the possessor rather than the thing possessed. Note that all these forms agree in both number and gender and they follow the noun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mío</th>
<th>mios</th>
<th>mía</th>
<th>mías</th>
<th>nuestro(s)</th>
<th>nuestra(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tuyo</td>
<td>tuyos</td>
<td>tuya</td>
<td>tuyas</td>
<td>vuestro(s)</td>
<td>vuestra(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suyo</td>
<td>suyos</td>
<td>suya</td>
<td>suyas</td>
<td>suyo(s)</td>
<td>suya(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

José es un amigo mío.
José is a friend of mine.
José y Carlos son amigos míos.
José and Carlos are friends of mine.
Carmen es una amiga mía.
Carmen is a friend of mine.
Carmen y María son amigas mías.
Carmen and María are friends of mine.

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS
Whenever a noun is modified by an adjective or an adjective phrase, the noun can be omitted in order to avoid repetition. In such an instance, the definite article and the stressed adjective (long form) are used.

Example

Mi disfraz es más impresionante que su disfraz.
My costume is more impressive than his/her costume.

Mi disfraz es más impresionante que el suyo.
My costume is more impressive than his/hers.

Mi casa es más pequeña que su casa.
My house is smaller than his/her house.

Mi casa es más pequeña que la suya.
My house is smaller that his/hers.
PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS

When subject pronouns are used with prepositions (are objects of the prepositions), they are called prepositional pronouns.

USES OF PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS

All subject pronouns (yo, tú, usted, él, ella, nosotros(as), vosotros(as), ustedes, ellos, ellas) remain unchanged when the following prepositions are used:

como, entre, excepto, incluso, menos, salvo, según

Example  Luis estudia como yo (como tú, como Ud., como él, como ella). Luis studies like me. (like you, like him, like her, etc.)
Entre tú y yo no hay secretos. Between you and me there are no secrets.

The first two subject pronouns in the singular form, yo and tú, must be changed to mí and ti when subject pronouns are used with the prepositions below. The other subject pronouns remain unchanged.

a, ante, contra, de, desde, en, hacia, hasta, para, por, sin, sobre, tras

Example  Mis padres desean lo mejor para mí. My parents wish the best for me. No puedo vivir sin ti. I can’t live without you.

| a mí     | to me       | a ti     | to you     |
| ante mí | in front of me | ante ti | in front of you |
| contra mí | against me   | contra ti | against you |
| de mí     | of me       | de ti     | of you     |
| desde mí | from inside of me | desde ti | from inside of you |
| en mí     | about me (of me) | en ti | about (of) you |
| hacia mí | toward me   | hacia ti | toward you |

When the first two subject pronouns yo and tú are used with the preposition con, the form mí, and ti requires an additional change: mí drops its accent and becomes migo; and ti becomes tigo. The other subject pronouns remain unchanged:

con + mí + go   con + migo   with me
con + ti + go   con + tigo   with you


REFLEXIVE PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS

Reflexive prepositional pronouns are the same as other prepositional pronouns, however they are used with reflexive verbs. These pronouns (like the reflexive pronouns) refer back to the person performing the action. The Spanish forms mismo, misma, mismos and mismas can be added for emphasis.
Example

- *a mí (mismo)*  
  to me (myself)
- *referirse*  
  to refer to oneself
- *Me refiero a mí misma(o).*  
  I refer to myself.
- *lastimarse*  
  to hurt oneself
- *a ti (mismo)*  
  to you (yourself)
- *Te lastimas a ti misma(o).*  
  You are hurting yourself.

When the preposition *con* is used with a verb having a reflexive meaning, the same rules apply as previously indicated for the first and second person singular. For the third person singular, the following change occurs:

\[
\text{con} + \text{si} + \text{go} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{con} + \text{sigo}
\]

with him/her/self

Example

- *Habla consigo.*  
  He/She talks to him/herself.

The Spanish *misma(s), mismo(s)*, may be added for emphasis.
POR VERSUS PARA

Por and para can both mean for in English. In general, por may refer to a reason (why? = ¿por qué?) or cause for having done something. Para is used to express a future action, a goal, a purpose, a destination, or a use.

USES OF POR

Por is used to indicate length of time.

Example

Por is used to indicate undetermined or general time.

Example

Por is used to express an action that has yet to be completed.

Example

Por is used after the ir verbs, venir, pasar, and preguntar.

Example

Por is used to express the idea of mistaken identity.

Example

Por is used to express cause or reason.

Example

Por is used to indicate means of communication or mode of transportation.

Example

Por is used to indicate intentions, and in the expressions: on behalf of, for the sake of, in favor of.
**Example**

Luchamos **por** la libertad  
Lo hacemos **por** todos los seres humanos.  
**El presidente está por esta ley.**

We fight for freedom.  
We do it for all human beings.  
The president is in favor of this law.

**Por** is used to express cost and in the expressions: in exchange for, instead of.

**Example**

¿Cuánto pagaste **por** el boleto?  
**Me dio $100.00 por mi televisor.**

How much did you pay for the ticket?  
He gave me $100.00 for my television.

**Por** is used in the expressions: through, along, or by.

**Example**

Los viejos se pasean **por** el parque.  
**El ladrón entró por la ventana y salió por la puerta**

The old men stroll through the park.  
The burglar entered through the window and left by the door.

**Por** is used in instances where the agent is expressed in the passive voice.

**Example**

El himno fue cantado **por** una famosa actriz francesa.

The anthem was sung by a famous French actress.

**Por** is used to indicate velocity, frequency, or proportion.

**Example**

**Se debe conducir a 55 millas por hora**
One should drive at 55 miles per hour.  
**Van al cine tres veces por semana.**
They go to the movies three times a week.

**Por** is used for multiplication and division.

**Example**

**Tres por tres son nueve.**  
**Cien dividido por veinte son cinco**

Three times three is nine.  
One hundred divided by twenty is five.

**Por** is used to express gratitude or an apology.

**Example**

**Gracias por la ayuda.**  
**Lo siento por haberte llamado tonto.**

Thanks for the help.  
I'm sorry for having called you silly.

**Por** is used in the construction: **por** + adjective + que + **ser**. This construction appears in concessive statements. It is equivalent to the English expressions: however, or, no matter how.

**Example**

**Por ricos que sean no lo compran.**
No matter how rich they may be they will not buy it.

**Por** is used in the construction: **por** + infinitive. It is equivalent to the English expression because.

**Example**

**Por ser escritores famosos son muy admirados.**
Because they are famous authors, they are very much admired.

**Por estar un poco cansada ella tomará una siesta**
Because she is a little tired, she will take a nap.

Here are some other common expressions with *por*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spanish Expression</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acabar por</td>
<td>to end up by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>palabra por palabra</td>
<td>word for word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por adelantado</td>
<td>in advance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por ahora</td>
<td>for now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por amor de Dios</td>
<td>for the love of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por aquí (cerca)</td>
<td>over here (nearby)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por casualidad</td>
<td>by chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por cierto</td>
<td>for sure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por completo</td>
<td>completely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por dentro</td>
<td>inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por desgracia</td>
<td>unfortunately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¡por Dios!</td>
<td>Oh my God!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por ejemplo</td>
<td>for example</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por eso</td>
<td>therefore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por fin</td>
<td>finally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por lo general</td>
<td>generally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por lo menos</td>
<td>at least</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por lo visto</td>
<td>apparently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por mi parte</td>
<td>as for me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por ningún lado</td>
<td>nowhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por otra parte</td>
<td>on the other hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por otro lado</td>
<td>on the other hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por poco(me caigo)</td>
<td>I almost fell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por primera vez</td>
<td>for the first time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por si acaso</td>
<td>in case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por su cuenta</td>
<td>all by oneself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por supuesto</td>
<td>of course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por todas partes</td>
<td>everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por última vez</td>
<td>for the last time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>por último</td>
<td>lastly, finally</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USES OF PARA

Para is used to indicate destination.

Example  Vamos para Bogotá en junio. We're going to Bogotá in June.
Ya él salió para el club. He already left for the club.

Para is used to indicate a deadline.

Example  Para el lunes habré leído los poemas. By Monday I will have read the poems.

Para is used to express the use or purpose of things.

Example  La copa es para vino. The goblet is for wine.
El vaso es para jugo. The glass is for juice.

Para is used to express finality, a goal, or purpose of an action.

Example  Paloma estudia para ingeniera. Paloma is studying to be an engineer.
Miguel se viste así para lucir bien. Michael dresses that way (in order) to look good.
Tengo un regalo para mi sobrino. I have a present for my nephew.

Para is used to indicate an action that will be completed in the near future.

Example  El avión está listo para salir. The plane is about to leave.

Para is used is used to express a state of inequality.

Example  Para su edad, Raúl es un niño muy desarrollado. For his age, Raúl is well developed.

Para una niña de siete años toca bien el violín. For a seven-year-old, she plays the violin well.

Para is used to indicate a determined action’s resulting emotions.

Example  Para mi sopresa, Jorge me invitó a salir esta noche To my surprise, Jorge asked me to go out tonight.

Here are other common expressions with para:

Example  no estar para bromas to be in no mood for joking
no servir para nada to be of no use
para siempre for always
no ser para tanto to not be so important
## COMPARISONS

### COMPARISONS OF EQUALITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tan/as</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>adjectivo/adverbio</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>como/as</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>persona o cosa/person or thing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Example**

- Jorge es **tan** romántico como Luis.
- Carlos canta **tan** bien como Julio.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tanto/as</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>sustantivo</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>como/as</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>persona o cosa/person or thing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Example**

- Yo tengo **tanta** tarea como tú.
- Marta tiene **tantos** amigos como yo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verbo</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>tanto como</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>persona o cosa/person or thing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Example**

- Pablo sale **tanto como** nosotros.

### COMPARISONS OF INEQUALITY

When the comparison involves one clause, the following constructions are used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>más (menos)</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>adjetivo/adverbio/sustantivo</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>que/than</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>persona o cosa/person or thing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Example**

- Mi trabajo es **más (menos)** difícil que el tuyo.
  
  My work is **more (less)** difficult than yours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verbo</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>más (menos)</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>que/than</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>persona o cosa/person or thing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Example**

- Esteban come **más (menos) que** yo.
  
  Esteban eats **more (less) than** I.

### *ATTENTION*

Before numbers **in an affirmative sentence**, *más (menos) + de* is used instead of *que*.

**Example**

- Tengo **más (menos) de cinco amigos cubanos**.
  
  I have more (less) than five Cuban friends.

Before numbers **in a negative sentence**, the *más (menos) + que* construction expresses the idea of ‘only’
Example  No tengo más que quince dólares.  I have only fifteen dollars

In Spanish, the negative is used after expressions of comparisons. (This is contrary to English.)

Example  Te quiero más que nunca.  I love you more than ever.
          Susana lo sabía más que nadie.  Susán knew it more than anyone.

COMPARISONS WITH TWO CLAUSES
When comparing an adjective, adverb, or idea, de lo + que is used.

Example  Roberto es más (menos) guapo de lo que me dijiste.
          Robert is more (less) handsome than you told me.
          Es más tarde de lo que crees.
          It's later than you think.

When comparing a noun, the phrase del (de la, de los, de las) + que is used.  It agrees in number and gender with the noun to which it refers.

Example  Ricardo le compró a Luisa más regalos de los que puede pagar.
          Ricardo bought Luisa more gifts than he can pay for.
          Tenemos más (menos) comida de la que necesitamos.
          We have more (less) food than we need.

SUPERLATIVES
(SUPERLATIVOS)

RELATIVE SUPERLATIVES
Relative superlatives are used to express a high degree of the adjective or adverb in relation to a group. The relative superlative of adjectives and adverbs requires the following constructions:

definite article + más (menos) + adjective/adverb + de / en + person or thing.

Example  Rosa es la chica más bonita de la clase.
          Rosa is the prettiest girl in the class.
          Rosa es la chica que corre más rápidamente en el equipo.
          Rosa is the girl who runs the fastest on the team.

ABSOLUTE SUPERLATIVES
The absolute superlatives are used to express a high degree of an adjective or adverb without comparison to a another person or thing. There are three possible superlative constructions. They are expressed in English by the words most or extremely.

muy + adjective / adverb
Example  
Daniel es muy inteligente.  
Daniel corre muy rápidamente.  
Daniel is very intelligent.  
Daniel runs very fast.

**sumamente / extremadamente** + adjective / adverb

Example  
Daniel es sumamente inteligente.  
Daniel corre extremadamente rápido.  
Daniel is extremely intelligent.  
Daniel runs extremely fast.

adjective / adverb + *ísimo (a, os, as)*

Example  
Daniel es inteligentísimo.  
Daniel habla muchísimo.  
Daniel is extremely intelligent.  
Daniel speaks a lot.

**ATTENTION**

In most cases, if the adjective ends in a vowel, drop the vowel and add *ísimo (a, os, as)*. If the adjective ends in a consonant, add *ísimo (a, os, as)*, according to the gender and number of the noun.

The following orthographic changes occur in some adjectives:

Example  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Changed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>feliz</td>
<td>felicísimo (a, os, as)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>largo</td>
<td>largísimo (a, os, as)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rico</td>
<td>riquísimo (a, os, as)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amable</td>
<td>amabilidadísimo (a, os, as)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>adverb</th>
<th>comparative</th>
<th>superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bueno (good)</td>
<td>bien (well)</td>
<td>mejor (better)</td>
<td>el, los, la, las mejor(es) (the best)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malo (bad)</td>
<td>mal (badly)</td>
<td>peor (worse)</td>
<td>el, los, la, las peor(es) (the worst)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grande (for age)</td>
<td>mayor (older)</td>
<td>mayor(es) (older)</td>
<td>el, los, la, las mayor(es) (the oldest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pequeño (for age)</td>
<td>menor (younger)</td>
<td>menor(es) (younger)</td>
<td>el, los, la, las menor(es) (the youngest)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRETERITE
(PAST TENSE)

USES OF THE PRETERITE
The preterite is used to report completed actions or states of being in the past, no matter how long they lasted or took to be completed; if the action is viewed as finished or over, the preterite is used.

Example

Escribí las cartas. I wrote (did write) the letters.
Carlos fue estudiante. Carlos was a student (and no longer is).

A series of actions that takes place in a sequence will be expressed in the preterite.

Example

Me levanté, me vestí, y desayuné. I got up, got dressed and ate breakfast.

Certain words and expressions are associated with the preterite.

Example

ayer yesterday
anteayer the day before yesterday
anoche last night
el año pasado last year
el lunes pasado last Monday
una vez once
dos veces twice
de repente suddenly

When the following verbs are used in the preterite tense, the usual meaning changes. The usual meaning stays the same when the imperfect tense is used. (see section on imperfect)

(special meaning with preterite)

conocer to meet (to make the acquaintance of)
saber to find out
poder to manage to, to succeed in
no poder to fail, not to succeed in
tener to receive, to get
querer to try
no querer to refuse

Example

Conocí a Carlos anoche. I met Carlos last night.
Supe la noticia ayer. I found out the news yesterday.
Felipe pudo comprar los boletos. Felipe managed to buy the tickets.
Felipe no pudo comprar los boletos. Felipe failed to buy the tickets.
Tuve una sorpresa. I received a surprise.
Elena quiso levantar la mesa. Elena tried to lift the table.
Yo le hablé a Carlitos pero no quiso obedecerme. I talked to Carlitos, but he refused to obey me.
IMPERFECT
(PAST TENSE)

USES OF THE IMPERFECT

The imperfect is used if the on going or habitual nature of the action is stressed, with no reference to its termination.

Example
Carlos era estudiante. Carlos was (used to be) a student.
José escribía las cartas. José was writing the letters.

Simultaneous actions or actions in progress are expressed with the imperfect, usually with the word mientras (while).

Example
Yo escribía las cartas mientras Ana leía el periódico.
I was writing the letters while Ana was reading the newspaper.

The imperfect is used to express descriptions, and physical, mental, and emotional states.

Example
Estaban cansados. They were tired.
Rosa tenía veinte años. Rosa was twenty years old.
Raúl parecía un loco. Raúl was behaving/seemed like a mad person.

The imperfect is used in telling time.

Example
Eran las ocho de la noche. It was 8:00 p.m.

Certain words and expressions are associated with the imperfect.

Example
todos los días every day
todos los lunes every Monday
siempre always
frecuentemente frequently
mientras while
de niño as a child
de joven as a young person

The construction estar + progressive (gerundio) uses the imperfect. This corresponds to the English construction: was, were, + ing

Example
El estaba estudiando. He was studying.
Ellos estaban comiendo. They were eating.

Imperfect corresponds to the English would, when it implies used to.

Example
Mi familia viajaba a México. My family would travel to Mexico (used to)
When the following verbs are used in the **imperfect** tense, their usual meaning is understood. The meaning of these verbs changes when used in the **preterite** tense. (see section on preterite)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Meaning with imperfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>conocer</td>
<td>to know, be familiar with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saber</td>
<td>to know, to have knowledge of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poder</td>
<td>to be able, capable of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no poder</td>
<td>not to be able, not being capable of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tener</td>
<td>to have (referring to possession)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>querer</td>
<td>to want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no querer</td>
<td>to want</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example**

Yo conocía bien a Teresa.  I knew Teresa well.
Ellos sabían donde estábamos.  They knew where we were.
El niño no podía abrir la puerta.  The child couldn’t open the door.
Yo tenía una casa en las montañas.  I used to have a house in the mountains.
Federico quería ir a la playa.  Federico wanted to go to the beach.
Javier no quería ir al mercado.  Javier didn’t want to go to the market.

**ATTENTION**

(IMPERFECT AND PRETERITE)

The words associated with the **preterite** or **imperfect** do not automatically cue either tense. The most important consideration is the meaning that the speaker wishes to convey.

**Example**

De niño él jugaba fútbol.  As a child, he used to play football.
De niño él empezó a jugar fútbol.  He started to play as a child.

The **preterite** and the **imperfect** frequently occur in the same sentence. In the first part of the sentence below, the **imperfect** tells what was happening when another action (second part of the sentence), the **preterite** broke the continuity of the ongoing activity.

**Example**

Miguel estudiaba cuando sonó el teléfono.  Miguel was studying when the telephone rang.

The **preterite** and the **imperfect** are also used together in narration of an event. The **preterite** advances the action while the **imperfect** sets the stage, describes the conditions that caused the action, or emphasizes the continuing nature of a particular action.
THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

The subjunctive mood is used to refer to events or conditions that are subjective in relation to the speaker’s reality or experience. It usually deals with possibilities or subjective reactions, rather than with established facts. Because expressions of volition, emotion, doubt, denial, and unreality all represent reactions to the speaker’s perception of reality, they are followed in Spanish by the subjunctive.

The Spanish subjunctive is most often used in subordinate or dependent clauses. In Spanish these clauses are generally introduced by que (that). In English, the word that is often dropped in similar constructions. A dependent clause can be a noun, adjectival or adverbial clause. A dependent clause is one that cannot stand alone as a sentence: it depends on the main clause of the sentence, which usually consists of the subject and a verb. Dependent noun clauses represent people, things, or ideas.

*ATTENTION*

It is the main clause that determines the use of the subjunctive.

PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE IN NOUN CLAUSES

A noun clause is a clause (subject + verb) that serves as the direct object of the verb in the main clause. A dependent noun clause is usually introduced by the conjunction que. The subjunctive is used in a dependent noun clause when the following conditions are present:

® There is a change of subject. If the subject in the main clause is the same as that of the subordinate (dependent) clause, the infinitive is used.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo quiero que ellos salgan</td>
<td>I want that they leave. (them to leave)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yo quiero salir.</td>
<td>I want to leave.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The verb in the main clause expresses hope, doubt, denial, consent, prohibition, permission, obligation, supplication, emotion, feelings, surprise, fear, regret, advise, insistence, necessity, preference, or any similar sentiments.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo quiero (espero, dudo, no creo, mando, recomiendo, obligo, permito, necesito, sugiero, prefiero, prohibo, aconsejo, temo, siento) que tú vayas contigo.</td>
<td>I want (hope, doubt, don’t believe, order, recommend, command, allow, need, suggest, prefer, forbid, advise, fear, feel) that you go with me.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The expressions quizá(s), tal vez, and acaso require the subjunctive when the speaker is uncertain about an action. The expressions quizá(s), tal vez, acaso and ojalá indicate uncertainty or doubt. These expressions do not require que in order to be subjunctive.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizás él llegue a tiempo.</td>
<td>Perhaps he will arrive on time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizás sea tarde.</td>
<td>Maybe (Perhaps) it is late.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tal vez él llegue temprano.</td>
<td>Perhaps he arrives (will arrive) early.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojalá vengan a tiempo.</td>
<td>I hope they arrive on time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE WITH IMPERSONAL EXPRESSIONS
An impersonal expression is one in which the subject does not refer to a person or thing. The subjunctive is used in the dependent clause when there is a change of subject and when the expression does not suggest certainty. When there is no change of subject, the infinitive is used.

Example

Es necesario que los estudiantes asistan a clases.
It is necessary that the students attend classes.

Es necesario asistir a clases.
It is necessary to attend classes.

Es importante (posible, imposible, probable, malo, útil, ridículo, mejor, dudoso) que tú te vayas.
It is important (possible, impossible, probable, bad, useful, ridiculous, better, doubtful) that you leave.

PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE IN ADJECTIVAL CLAUSES
An adjectival clause modifies a noun in the main clause. It is generally introduced by the conjunction que.

Example

Yo busco una casa que tenga piscina.
I am looking for a house that has a pool.

The subjunctive is used in the adjectival clause when the following conditions are present:

The antecedent is unknown or indefinite.

Example

Quiero una casa que tenga un jardín interior. (No sé si existe)
I want a house that has an interior garden. (I am not sure it exists.)

The antecedent is negative.

Example

No hay nadie que sepa resolver el problema.
There is no one who knows how to solve the problem.

PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE WITH ADVERBIAL CLAUSES
An adverbial clause is a clause that modifies a verb in the main clause. The subjunctive is used in the dependent adverbial clause after the following conjunctions: provided that, in order that, unless, before, given that, in case that, without, when, as soon as, after, until, while, by the time, among others.

Example

No le daré el mensaje (cuando, después de (que), en cuanto, hasta que, mientras (que), tan pronto como, antes de que, aunque, ahora que, a condición de que, a fin de que, a menos que, con tal de que, en caso de que, para que, sin que Teresa llegue.

I will not give Teresa the message (when, after, as soon as, until, while, as soon as, before, even if, now that, with the condition that, with the finality, unless, provided it than, in case that, in order that, without) she arrives.
PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE WITH COMMANDS
The present subjunctive form is used to express affirmative and negative Ud., Uds.; affirmative nosotros commands (one exception is the verb ir that requires the indicative) and negative nosotros command. It is also used to express negative tú commands. Remember that the affirmative tú commands require the third person singular of the indicative.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Español</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tráigamelo.</td>
<td>Bring it to me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No me lo traiga</td>
<td>Don’t bring it to me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acuéstense.</td>
<td>Go to bed. (you pl.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No se acuesten.</td>
<td>Don’t go to bed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comamos.</td>
<td>Let’s eat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No comamos</td>
<td>Let’s not eat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No me hables.</td>
<td>Don’t talk to me.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ATTENTION*
If the main clause is in the present tense, present progressive tense, future or present perfect tense, the subordinate clause subjunctive generally uses the same tense as the English. Don't forget that the present subjunctive covers future actions as well:

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Español</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Es una lástima que no vengan.</td>
<td>It’s a pity that they aren’t coming (or won't come).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Es una lástima que no hayan venido. It is a pity that they haven’t come.

The following formulas explain when the present subjunctive is needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Present Progressive</th>
<th>Future</th>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Compound Present</th>
<th>Present Perfect of Subjunctive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Español</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El jefe manda que Ud. asista a la junta.</td>
<td>The boss orders (that) you attend the meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El jefe está mandando que Ud. asista a la junta.</td>
<td>The boss is ordering (that) you attend the meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El mandará que Ud. asista a la junta.</td>
<td>The boss will order (that) you attend the meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¡Mándele que asista a la junta!</td>
<td>¡Mándele que asista a la junta!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order him to attend the meeting! (that he attend)</td>
<td>Order him to attend the meeting! (that he attend)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El jefe ha mandado que Ud. asista a la junta.</td>
<td>The boss has ordered (that) you attend the meeting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PAST SUBJUNCTIVE (IMPERFECT OF SUBJUNCTIVE)
The past subjunctive is used in dependent noun clauses when the main clause verb is in the past indicative (preterite or imperfect) and the same conditions that require the use of the present subjunctive exist. The main verb expresses wishes, hope, emotion, negation, doubt, denial, or is an impersonal expression that expresses those concepts.
**ojalá (que)** is always followed by the subjunctive, whether in the present or the past.

**Example**

Ojalá (que) ella se gradúe pronto.  
I hope that she graduates soon.

Ojalá (que) ella se graduara pronto.  
I hope that she graduated soon.

The following formula explains when the **past subjunctive** is needed.

**PRETERITE**

**IMPERFECT**

**CONDITIONAL**

**COMPOUND CONDITIONAL**

**PAST (IMPERFECT) OF SUBJUNCTIVE**

**Example**

El jefe mandó que Ud. asistiera.  
The boss **ordered** that you attend. (ordered you to attend)

El jefe mandaba que Ud. asistiera.  
The boss **was ordering** that you attend. (ordering you to attend)

El jefe había mandado que Ud. asistiera.  
The boss **had ordered** that you attend. (ordered you to attend)

El jefe ordenaría que Ud. asistiera.  
The boss **would order** that you attend. (order you to attend)

El jefe habría ordenado que Ud. asistiera.  
The boss **would have ordered** that you attend. (ordered you to attend)

**SUBJUNCTIVE IN CONDITIONAL ‘IF CLAUSES’**

**(CLÁUSULAS ‘SI’)**

The present subjunctive is never used in a conditional clause. The past subjunctive (simple or compound) is used in a conditional clause to express a hypothetical condition or a statement that is contrary to the fact.

**Example**

Si yo **fuera** rico (pero no lo soy), compraría una mansión.  
If I **were** rich (but I am not), I **would buy** a mansion.

Si hubieras llegado a tiempo (pero llegaste tarde), habríamos ido de compras.  
If you **had arrived** early (but you arrived late), we **would have gone** shopping.

The past subjunctive is always used in a clause introduced by **como si** (as if).

**Example**

Pepe habla **como si lo supiera todo**. Pepe speaks as if he **knows** everything.
THE SUBJUNCTIVE SUMMARY  
(WHEN TO USE IT)  

**************************************************************************

Wishes, supplication, necessity, prohibition, preference, insistence

Hopes, obligations, suggestions

Emotions, regrets, advise & consent

Negation, doubt & denial

Tal vez, acaso, quizás

Ojalá

Unknown, or nonexistence antecedent

Some conjunction and adverbial clauses

Expressions (impersonal, etc.)

Imperatives (except tú affirmative)

To influence another’s behavior

**************************************************************************
**FORMAL UD. / UDS. COMMANDS**

**AFFIRMATIVE**
Formal (Ud., Uds.) commands in the affirmative take the corresponding forms of the present subjunctive. The subject pronouns Ud. and Uds. may be expressed to make the command more formal or polite. Change the verb endings as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Ud. (you singular)</th>
<th>For Uds. (you plural)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ar  e</td>
<td>ar  en</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>er / ir a</td>
<td>er / ir an</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example**

- (cantar)  Cante la canción. (Ud.)  Sing the song. (singular formal)
  Canten la canción. (Uds.)  Sing the song. (plural)
- (comer)  Coma la ensalada. (Ud.)  Eat the salad. (singular formal)
  Coman la ensalada. (Uds.)  Eat the salad. (plural formal)
- (vivir)  Viva en la ciudad. (Ud.)  Live in the city. (singular formal)
  Vivan en la ciudad. (Uds.)  Live in the city. (plural)

**NEGATIVE**
Formal commands in the negative are formed exactly like the affirmatives, except that you add no before the conjugated verb.

**Example**

- No cante la canción.  Don't sing the song. (singular formal)
- No canten la canción.  Don't sing the song. (plural)

**NOSOTROS COMMANDS**

**AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE**
Affirmative* and negative nosotros (we) commands are formed using the first person plural of the subjunctive. Nosotros commands (affirmative and negative) are used when the speaker is included in the command. These commands are translated as let's. Change the verb ending as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nosotros</th>
<th>nosotros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ar  emos</td>
<td>er / ir amos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example**

- (cantar)  Cantemos ahora.  Let's sing now.
  No cantemos ahora.  Let's not sing now.
- (comer)  Comamos ahora.  Let's eat now.
  No comamos ahora.  Let's not eat now.
- (vivir)  Vivamos ahora.  Let's live now.
  No vivamos ahora.  Let's not live now.

*Exception: Only the affirmative nosotros command of the verb ir requires the first person plural of the indicative instead of the subjunctive. (Remember to use subjunctive for the negative form of the verb ir.)

**Example**

Vamos a la fiesta.  Let's go to the party.
INFORMAL COMMANDS

TU (FAMILIAR)

Informal commands are used when addressing people you generally know well.

Affirmative

The affirmative commands basically keep the theme vowel (predominant vowel) of the indicative. Use the third person singular of the present of the indicative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tú (affirmative)</th>
<th>ar</th>
<th>a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>er / ir</td>
<td>e</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

(cantar) Canta la canción. Sing the song. (familiar)
(comer) Come la ensalada. Eat the salad.
(vivir) Vive en la ciudad. Live in the city.

The following verbs have irregular tú commands in the affirmative form only.

(to tell or to say) decir  di
(to do or to make) hacer  haz
(to go) ir  ve
(to see) ver  vé
(to come) venir  ven

(to leave or to go out) salir  sal
(to be) ser  sé
(to have) tener  ten
(to put or place) poner  pon

Negative

The negative tú commands use the second person singular of the present subjunctive. Change the verb endings as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tú (negative)</th>
<th>ar</th>
<th>e + s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>er / ir</td>
<td>a + s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

(cantar) No cantes. Don’t sing.
(comer) No comes. Don’t eat.
(vivir) No vivas. Don’t live.

Verbs, which are irregular in the affirmative forms, become “regular” in the negative forms.

Example

no poner la mesa to not set the table
No pongas la mesa. Don’t set the table.
**VOSOTROS (FAMILIAR)**

*Vosotros* commands can be loosely translated into English as the familiar *you’all*.

**AFFIRMATIVES**
Change the verb ending as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vosotros (affirmative)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>er</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ir</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

- *(cantar)*  **Cantad.** Sing *(you’all)*.
- *(comer)*  **Comed.** Eat *(you’all)*.
- *(vivir)*  **Vivid.** Live *(you’all)*.

**NEGATIVES**
Use the second person plural of present subjunctive. Change the verb endings as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vosotros (negative)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>er / ir</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

- *(no cantar)*  **No cantéis.** Don’t sing *(you’all)*.
- *(no comer)*  **No comáis.** Don’t eat *(you’all)*.
- *(no vivir)*  **No viváis.** Don’t live *(you’all)*.
When using reflexive verbs in any form of a command (Ud., Uds., tú, nosotros, or vosotros), the rule of attaching is as follows:

Affirmative Reflexive Commands: The affirmative reflexive pronoun is **attached to the end of the verb.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflexive Command</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vístese.</td>
<td>Get (yourself) dressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vístanse.</td>
<td>Get (yourself) dressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vístete.</td>
<td>Get (yourself) dressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vistámonos.</td>
<td>Let’s get (ourselves) dressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vístáos.</td>
<td>Get (yourselves) dressed (you’all).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Notice that in the affirmative nosotros command, the final s of the verb is dropped before attaching the corresponding pronoun nos. This does not occur in the negative reflexive.*

**Example**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflexive Command</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(vestirse) Vistámonos.</td>
<td>Let’s get (ourselves) dressed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Negative Reflexive Commands: The negative reflexive pronouns are placed before the conjugated verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflexive Command</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No se vista todavía. (Ud.)</td>
<td>Don’t get dressed yet. (formal plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No se vistan todavía. (Uds.)</td>
<td>Don’t get dressed yet. (formal plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No te vistas todavía. (tú)</td>
<td>Don’t get dressed yet. (informal singular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No os vistáis todavía. (vosotros)</td>
<td>Don’t get dressed yet. (informal plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No nos vistamos todavía. (nosotros)</td>
<td>Let’s not get dressed yet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE TRUE PASSIVE VOICE  
(LA VERDADERA VOZ PASIVA)

In an active sentence, the subject performs the action of the verb. In a passive sentence, the subject receives the action.

subject +  
+ past participle used as an adjective +  
+ agent

**Example**

**active voice**

*El autor escribió* las novelas.

The author wrote the novels.

**passive voice**

*Las novelas fueron* escritas por el autor.

The novels were written by the author.

*ATTENTION*

In a passive sentence, the verb *ser* may be used in any tense, however it must be in the same tense as the active verb. The verb *ser* is always used in the third person singular or plural. Because the past participle is used as an adjective, it agrees in number and gender with the subject it modifies.

La cena
The meal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>is</th>
<th>will be</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>es</td>
<td>será</td>
<td>fue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sería</td>
<td>sería</td>
<td>ha sido</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>habría sido</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

preparada por Julia.
prepared by Julia.

Las cenas
The meals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>are</th>
<th>will be</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>son</td>
<td>serán</td>
<td>fueron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serían</td>
<td>serían</td>
<td>han sido</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>habría sido</td>
<td></td>
<td>habría sido</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

preparadas por Julia.
prepared by Julia.

SUBSTITUTES FOR THE PASSIVE VOICE

“SE” CONSTRUCTIONS

1. Reflexive “se”

The reflexive construction with *se* is often used in Spanish as a substitute for the passive voice when the subject is inanimate and the agent is not specified. The verb is used in the third person singular or plural depending on the subject.

**Example**

*El banco se cierra a las seis de la tarde.*

The bank is closed at 6:00 p.m.

*Las tiendas se cierran a las diez de la noche.*

The stores are closed at 10:00 p.m.
2. Impersonal “se”
The impersonal *se* is used as an impersonal subject in Spanish as a substitute for the passive voice. It is equivalent to the English impersonal ‘one’ or the colloquial ‘you’. In Spanish it is frequently used in impersonal sentences implying orders, regulations, or advertisements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Se habla español aquí.</th>
<th>Spanish spoken here.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Se venden boletos aquí.</td>
<td>Tickets sold here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**“THEY” CONSTRUCTION**
The third person plural in Spanish may also be used as a substitute for the passive voice. In Spanish, it is not assumed that the verb refers to the subject “ellos/ellas”. In English this may correspond to the passive voice or the impersonal ‘they’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Hablan español en esa iglesia.</th>
<th>They speak Spanish in that church.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venden boletos aquí.</td>
<td>Spanish is spoken in that church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>They sell tickets here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tickets are sold here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>