



*Spanish Verbs
and
Essential Grammar
Review*

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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	<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. (*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:

<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

<i>hablo</i>	<i>hablamos</i>	<i>como</i>	<i>comemos</i>	<i>vivo</i>	<i>vivimos</i>
<i>hablas</i>	<i>habláis</i>	<i>comes</i>	<i>coméis</i>	<i>vives</i>	<i>vivís</i>
<i>habla</i>	<i>hablan</i>	<i>come</i>	<i>comen</i>	<i>vive</i>	<i>viven</i>

IRREGULAR VERBS

1. Irregular “yo” Form

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

<u>Example</u>	<u>infinitive</u>	<u>go</u>
	<i>hacer</i> (to make; to do)	<i>hago</i>
	<i>poner</i> (to put)	<i>pongo</i>
	<i>traer</i> (to bring)	<i>traigo</i>
	<i>salir</i> (to leave; to go out)	<i>salgo</i>
	<i>valer</i> (to be worth)	<i>valgo</i>
	<i>caer</i> (to fall)	<i>caigo</i>

<u>Example</u>	<u>infinitive</u>	<u>+ z + co</u>
	<i>conocer</i> (to know)	<i>conozco</i>
	<i>desaparecer</i> (to disappear)	<i>desaparezco</i>
	<i>obedecer</i> (to obey)	<i>obedezco</i>
	<i>producir</i> (to produce)	<i>produzco</i>
	<i>conducir</i> (to drive)	<i>conduzco</i>
	<i>traducir</i> (to translate)	<i>traduzco</i>

<u>Example</u>	<u>infinitive</u>	<u>gu</u> □ <u>go</u>
	<i>distinguir</i> (to distinguish)	<i>distingo</i>

<u>Example</u>	<u>infinitive</u>	<u>cer</u> □ <u>zo</u>
	<i>convencer</i> (to convince)	<i>convenzo</i>

Example

infinitive

coger (to pick, take)
escoger (to choose)
proteger (to protect)
dirigir (to manage)
exigir (to demand)

g → jo

cojo
escojo
protejo
dirijo
exijo

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)
cierro
cierras
cierra
*cerramos**
*cerráis**
cierran

o → ue

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

e → i

pedir (to ask)
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 / *tienes* / *tiene* / *tenemos** / *tenéis** / *tienen*
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** / *distribuí** / *distribuyen*

OTHER IRREGULAR VERBS

<i>ser</i>	(to be)	<i>soy / eres / es / somos / sois / son</i>
<i>estar</i>	(to be)	<i>estoy / estás / está / estamos / estáis / están</i>
<i>ir</i>	(to go)	<i>voy / vas / va / vamos / vais / van</i>
<i>dar</i>	(to give)	<i>doy / das / da / damos / dais / dan</i>
<i>oler</i>	(to smell)	<i>huelo / hueles / huele / olemos / oléis / huelen</i>
<i>haber</i>	(aux verb=to have)	<i>he / has / ha / hemos / habéis / han</i>

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:

<u>-ar conjugations</u>	<u>-er conjugations</u>	<u>-ir conjugations</u>
<i>-aba -ábamos</i>	<i>-ía -íamos</i>	<i>-ía -íamos</i>
<i>-abas -ábais</i>	<i>-ías -íais</i>	<i>-ías -íais</i>
<i>-aba -aban</i>	<i>-ía -ían</i>	<i>-ía -ían</i>

<u>estudiar</u>		<u>comer</u>		<u>vivir</u>	
<i>estudiaba</i>	<i>estudiábamos</i>	<i>comía</i>	<i>comíamos</i>	<i>vivía</i>	<i>vivíamos</i>
<i>estudiabas</i>	<i>estudiábais</i>	<i>comías</i>	<i>comíais</i>	<i>vivías</i>	<i>vivíais</i>
<i>estudiaba</i>	<i>estudiaban</i>	<i>comía</i>	<i>comían</i>	<i>vivía</i>	<i>vivían</i>

IMPERFECT TENSE: IRREGULAR VERBS

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

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

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:

<u>-ar conjugations</u>	<u>-er conjugations</u>	<u>-ir conjugations</u>
<i>-é -amos</i>	<i>-í -imos</i>	<i>-í -imos</i>
<i>-aste -asteis</i>	<i>-iste -isteis</i>	<i>-iste -isteis</i>
<i>-ó -aron</i>	<i>-ió -ieron</i>	<i>-ió -ieron</i>

cantar

comer

vivir

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

PRETERITE TENSE: IRREGULAR VERBS

1. Spelling-Changing Verbs.

-ar verbs with irregular yo form

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

-er verbs with irregular third person singular and plural forms

<u>Example</u>	<i>caer</i> □	<i>cayó / cayeron</i>
	<i>creer</i> □	<i>creyó / creyeron</i>
	<i>leer</i> □	<i>leyó / leyeron</i>

-ir verbs with irregular third person singular and plural forms

<u>Example</u>	<i>oír</i> □	<i>oyó / oyeron</i>
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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.

<u>Example</u>	<u>e</u> □	<u>i</u>
	<i>pedir</i>	<i>pidió / pidieron</i>
	<u>o</u> □	<u>u</u>
	<i>dormir</i>	<i>durmió / durmieron</i>

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

<u>Example</u>	<i>andar</i>	<i>anduve / anduviste / anduvo / anduvimos / anduvisteis / anduvieron</i>
	<i>estar</i>	<i>estuve / estuviste / estuvo / estuvimos / estuvisteis / estuvieron</i>
	<i>tener</i>	<i>tuve / tuviste / tuvo / tuvimos / tuvisteis / tuvieron</i>
	<i>haber</i>	<i>hube / hubiste / hubo / hubimos / hubisteis / hubieron</i>

<i>poder</i>	<i>pude / pudiste / pudo / pudimos / pudisteis / pudieron</i>
<i>poner</i>	<i>puse / pusiste / puso / pusimos / pusisteis / pusieron</i>
<i>saber</i>	<i>supe / supiste / supo / supimos / supisteis / supieron</i>

2. -i- in the stem

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

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

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

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

(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.

<i>-é</i>	<i>-emos</i>
<i>-ás</i>	<i>-éis</i>
<i>-á</i>	<i>-án</i>

<u>-ar conjugation</u>		<u>-er conjugation</u>		<u>-ir conjugation</u>	
<i>estudiaré</i>	<i>estudiaremos</i>	<i>comeré</i>	<i>comeremos</i>	<i>viviré</i>	<i>viviremos</i>
<i>estudiarás</i>	<i>estudiaréis</i>	<i>comerás</i>	<i>comeréis</i>	<i>vivirás</i>	<i>viviréis</i>
<i>estudiará</i>	<i>estudiarán</i>	<i>comerá</i>	<i>comerán</i>	<i>vivirá</i>	<i>vivirán</i>

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.

<i>poner</i> → <i>pondr-</i>	<i>poder</i> → <i>podr-</i>	<i>salir</i> → <i>saldr-</i>
<i>tener</i> → <i>tendr-</i>	<i>valer</i> → <i>valdr-</i>	<i>venir</i> → <i>vendr-</i>
<i>saber</i> → <i>sabr-</i>	<i>haber</i> → <i>habr-</i>	<i>querer</i> → <i>querr-</i>
<i>hacer</i> → <i>har-</i>	<i>decir</i> → <i>dir-</i>	

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.

	<i>-ía</i>	<i>-íamos</i>
	<i>-ías</i>	<i>-íais</i>
	<i>-ía</i>	<i>-ían</i>

<u>-ar conjugation</u>		<u>-er conjugation</u>		<u>-ie conjugation</u>	
<i>estudiaría</i>	<i>estudiaríamos</i>	<i>comería</i>	<i>comeríamos</i>	<i>viviría</i>	<i>viviríamos</i>
<i>estudiarías</i>	<i>estudiaríais</i>	<i>comerías</i>	<i>comeríais</i>	<i>vivirías</i>	<i>viviríais</i>
<i>estudiaría</i>	<i>estudiarían</i>	<i>comería</i>	<i>comerían</i>	<i>viviría</i>	<i>vivirían</i>

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.

(COMPOUND 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.

Example	<i>estudiar</i>	□	<i>estudiado</i> (studied)
	<i>comer</i>	□	<i>comido</i> (eaten)
	<i>vivir</i>	□	<i>vivido</i> (lived)

IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES

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

<u>-er conjugation</u>	<u>past participle</u>	<u>-ir conjugation</u>	<u>past participle</u>
<i>envolver</i>	<i>envuelto</i> (wrapped)	<i>abrir</i>	<i>abierto</i> (opened)
<i>devolver</i>	<i>devuelto</i> (returned: things)	<i>cubrir</i>	<i>cubierto</i> (covered)
<i>hacer</i>	<i>hecho</i> (done)	<i>decir</i>	<i>dicho</i> (said)
<i>poner</i>	<i>puesto</i> (placed)	<i>descubrir</i>	<i>descubierto</i> (discovered)
<i>romper</i>	<i>roto</i> (broken)	<i>morir</i>	<i>muerto</i> (dead)
<i>resolver</i>	<i>resuelto</i> (resolved)	<i>escribir</i>	<i>escrito</i> (written)
<i>ver</i>	<i>visto</i> (seen)		
<i>volver</i>	<i>vuelto</i> (returned)		

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).

haber (present tense)

<i>he</i>	<i>hemos</i>
<i>has</i>	<i>habéis</i>
<i>ha</i>	<i>han</i>

Example

He estudiado la lección.
Has comido la ensalada.
Ha dormido bien.
Hemos escrito la carta.
Han hecho la tarea.

I **have studied** the lesson.
You **have eaten** the salad.
He/She **has slept** well.
We **have written** the letter.
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).

haber (impefect tense)

<i>había</i>	<i>habíamos</i>
<i>habías</i>	<i>habíais</i>
<i>había</i>	<i>habían</i>

Example

Había estudiado la lección.
Habías comido la ensalada.
Había dormido bien.
Habíamos escrito la carta.
Habían hecho la tarea.

I/He/She **had studied** the lesson.
You **had eaten** the salad.
I/He/She **had slept** well.
We **had written** the letter.
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).

haber (future tense)

<i>habré</i>	<i>habremos</i>
<i>habrás</i>	<i>habréis</i>
<i>habrá</i>	<i>habrán</i>

Example

Habré estudiado la lección.
Habrás comido la ensalada.
Habrá dormido bien.
Habremos escrito la carta.
Habrán hecho la tarea.

I **will have studied** the lesson.
You **will have eaten** the salad.
He/She **will have slept** well.
We **will have written** the letter.
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).

<i>haber</i> (conditional tense)	
<i>habría</i>	<i>habríamos</i>
<i>habrías</i>	<i>habríais</i>
<i>habría</i>	<i>habrían</i>

Example

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

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

<u>estudiar</u>		<u>comer</u>		<u>vivir</u>	
<i>estudie</i>	<i>estudiemos</i>	<i>coma</i>	<i>comamos</i>	<i>viva</i>	<i>vivamos</i>
<i>estudies</i>	<i>estudiéis</i>	<i>comas</i>	<i>comáis</i>	<i>vivas</i>	<i>viváis</i>
<i>estudie</i>	<i>estudien</i>	<i>coma</i>	<i>coman</i>	<i>viva</i>	<i>vivan</i>

IRREGULAR VERBS

- 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

<u>infinitive</u>	<u>ga</u>
<i>hacer</i> (to make; to do)	<i>haga / hagas / haga / hagamos / hagáis / hagan</i>
<i>poner</i> (to put)	<i>ponga / pongas / ponga / pongamos / pongáis / pongan</i>
<i>traer</i> (to bring)	<i>traiga / traigas / traiga / traigamos / traigáis / traigan</i>

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

conocer (to know)

desaparecer (to disappear)

obedecer (to obey)

producir (to produce)

conducir (to drive)

traducir (to translate)

cer/cir □ **z + ca**

conozca / conozcas / conozca / conozcamos / conozcáis / conozcan

desaparezca / desaparezcas / desaparezca / desaparezcamos / desaparezcáis / desaparezcan

obedezca / obedezcas / obedezca / obedezcamos / obedezcáis / obedezcan

produzca / produzcas / produzca / produzcamos / produzcáis / produzcan

conduzca / conduzcas / conduzca / conduzamos / conduzcáis / conduzcan

traduzca / traduzcas / traduzca / traduzcamos / traduzcáis / traduzcan

Example

infinitive

distinguir (to distinguish)

gu □ **ga**

distinga / distingas / distinga / distingamos / distingáis / distingan

Example

infinitive

convencer (to convince)

cer □ **za**

convenza / convenzas / convenza / convenzamos / convenzáis / convenzan

Example

infinitive

coger (to pick, take)

escoger (to choose)

proteger (to protect)

dirigir (to manage)

exigir (to demand)

ger/gir □ **ja**

coja / cojas / coja / cojamos / cojáis / cojan

escoja / escojas / escoja / escojamos / escojáis / escojan

proteja / protejas / proteja / protejamos / protejáis / protejan

dirija / dirijas / dirija / dirijamos / dirijáis / dirijan

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

buscar

c □ **gu**

busque / busques / busque / busquemos / busquéis / busquen

Example

infinitive

llegar

g □ **gu**

llegue / llegues / llegue / lleguemos / lleguéis / lleguen

Example

infinitive

abrazar

z □ **c**

abrace / abrace / abrace / abracemos / abracéis / abracen

Example

infinitive
averiguar

gu □ gü
averigüe / averigües / averigüe / averigüemos /
averigüéis / averigüen

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
cerrar

e □ ie
cierre / cierres / cierre / cerremos / cerréis* /*
cierren

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 □ i (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.

-ra	-ramos
-ras	-rais
-ra	-ran

estudiar □ *estudiaron*

estudia-

<i>estudiará</i>	<i>estudiáramos</i>
<i>estudiaras</i>	<i>estudiárais</i>
<i>estudiará</i>	<i>estudiaran</i>

comer □ *comieron*

comie-

<i>comiera</i>	<i>comiéramos</i>
<i>comieras</i>	<i>comiérais</i>
<i>comiera</i>	<i>comieran</i>

vivir □ *vivieron*

vivie-

<i>viviera</i>	<i>viviéramos</i>
<i>vivieras</i>	<i>viviérais</i>
<i>viviera</i>	<i>vivieran</i>

(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 form).

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).

<u>haber (subjunctive)</u>		
<i>haya</i>		<i>hayamos</i>
<i>hayas</i>		<i>hayáis</i>
<i>haya</i>		<i>hayan</i>

Example

Haya estudiado la lección.
Hayas comido la ensalada.
Haya dormido bien.
Hayamos escrito la carta.
Hayan hecho la tarea.

I/He/She **may have studied** the lesson.
You **may have eaten** the salad.
I/He/She **may have slept** well.
We **may have written** the letter.
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).

<u>haber (subjunctive)</u>		
<i>hubiera</i>		<i>hubiéramos</i>
<i>hubieras</i>		<i>hubiérais</i>
<i>hubiera</i>		<i>hubieran</i>

Example

Hubiera estudiado la lección.
Hubieras comido la ensalada.
Hubiera dormido bien.
Hubiéramos escrito la carta.
Hubieran hecho la tarea.

I/He/She **might have studied** the lesson.
You **might have eaten** the salad.
I/He/She **might have slept** well.
We **might have written** the letter.
They **might have done** the homework.

(For uses of the subjunctive mood, see pages 33-37.)

SER **(TO BE)**

<i>yo</i>	<i>soy</i>	<i>nosotros(as)</i>	<i>somos</i>
<i>tú</i>	<i>eres</i>	<i>vosotros(as)</i>	<i>sois</i>
<i>él, ella, Ud.</i>	<i>es</i>	<i>ellos, ellas, Uds.</i>	<i>son</i>

USES OF *SER*

Ser is used to identify people and things.

Example

Luis es estudiante.
Es un libro.

Luis is a student.
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 es de Perú.

Juan is Peruvian.
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.
Son las dos.

It is one o'clock.
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.
La fiesta es a las siete de la noche.

The party is in the cafeteria.
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)**

<i>yo</i>	<i>estoy</i>	<i>nosotros(as)</i>	<i>estamos</i>
<i>tú</i>	<i>estás</i>	<i>vosotros(as)</i>	<i>estáis</i>
<i>él, ella, Ud.</i>	<i>está</i>	<i>ellos, ellas, Uds.</i>	<i>están</i>

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

***Estoy de acuerdo con ellos**.
Está bien.
Está 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

***Estoy muy aburrida**.
El 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*.
(Adjetivos que cambian de sentido con ser o estar.)

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

Essential Grammar

PRONOUNS

DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

<i>me</i>	<i>nos</i>
<i>te</i>	<i>os</i>
<i>lo</i>	<i>los</i>
<i>la</i>	<i>las</i>

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

<i>me</i>	<i>nos</i>
<i>te</i>	<i>os</i>
<i>le</i>	<i>les</i>

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

<i>me</i>	<i>nos</i>
<i>te</i>	<i>os</i>
<i>se</i>	<i>se</i>

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	<i>Tengo la revista.</i>	I have the magazine .
	<i>La tengo.</i>	I have it .
	<i>¿Quién tiene la revista?</i>	Who has the magazine ?
	<i>¿Quién la tiene?</i>	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	<i>No comas los caramelos.</i>	Don't eat the candies .
	<i>No los comas.</i>	Don't eat them .

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

Example	<i>ponerse el abrigo</i>	to put on your coat (yourself)
	<i>Póngase el abrigo.</i>	Put on (yourself) your coat. (formal)
	<i>Ponte el abrigo.</i>	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	<i>no ponerse el abrigo</i>	to not put on you coat (yourself)
	<i>No se ponga el abrigo.</i>	Don't put on (yourself) your coat. (formal)
	<i>No te pongas el abrigo.</i>	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	<i>Voy a comprar el libro.</i>	I am going to buy the book .
	<i>Lo voy a comprar.</i> (directly before)	I am going to buy it .
	<i>Voy a comprarlo.</i> (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	<i>Estoy mirando las revistas.</i>	I am looking at the magazines .
	<i>Las estoy mirando</i> (directly before)	I am looking at them .

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

Reflexive Progressive Constructions

Example	<i>Luis está lavándose las manos.</i>	Luis is washing (himself) his hands.
	<i>Luis se las está lavando.</i> (directly before)	Luis is washing (himself) his hands.
	<i>Luis está lavándoselas.</i> (attached to the end)	Luis is washing them . (himself)

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

Example	<i>Es necesario leer el libro.</i>	It is necessary to read the book .
	<i>Es necesario leerlo.</i>	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	<i>Compro las flores para ti.</i>	I buy the flowers for you .
	<i>Te las compro.</i>	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	<i>Yo doy un regalo a Juan.</i>	I give a gift to Juan .
	<i>Yo le + lo doy = Yo se lo doy.</i>	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	<i>Voy a comprar un regalo para Carmen.</i>	I am going to buy a gift for Carmen .
	<i>Se lo voy a comprar.</i>	I am going to buy it for her .
	<i>Voy a comprárselo.</i>	I am going to buy it for her .
	<i>Estoy comprando un libro para mi hijo.</i>	I am buying a book for my son .
	<i>Se lo estoy comprando.</i>	I am buying it for him .
	<i>Estoy comprándoselo.</i>	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.

<i>mi</i>	<i>mis</i>	<i>nuestro(a)</i>	<i>nuestras(as)</i>
<i>tu</i>	<i>tus</i>	<i>vuestro(a)</i>	<i>vuestras(as)</i>
<i>su</i>	<i>sus</i>	<i>su</i>	<i>sus</i>

Example

Mi carro es viejo.

My car is old.

Mis carros son viejos.

My cars are old.

Tu carro es viejo.

Your car is old.

Tus carros son viejos.

Your cars are old.

Su carro es viejo.

His/Her car is old.

Sus carros son viejos.

His/Her cars are old.

Nuestro carro es viejo.

Our car is old.

Nuestros carros son viejos.

Our cars are old.

Nuestra casa es vieja.

Our house is old.

Nuestras casas son viejas.

Our houses are old.

Su carro es viejo.

Their car is old.

Sus carros son viejos.

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.

<i>mío</i>	<i>míos</i>	<i>mía</i>	<i>mías</i>	<i>nuestro(s)</i>	<i>nuestra(s)</i>
<i>tuyo</i>	<i>tuyos</i>	<i>tuya</i>	<i>tuyas</i>	<i>vuestro(s)</i>	<i>vuestra(s)</i>
<i>suyo</i>	<i>suyos</i>	<i>suya</i>	<i>suyas</i>	<i>suyo(s)</i>	<i>suya(s)</i>

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.

<i>a mí</i>	to me	<i>a ti</i>	to you
<i>ante mí</i>	in front of me	<i>ante ti</i>	in front of you
<i>contra mí</i>	against me	<i>contra ti</i>	against you
<i>de mí</i>	of me	<i>de ti</i>	of you
<i>desde mí</i>	from inside of me	<i>desde ti</i>	from inside of you
<i>en mí</i>	about me (of me)	<i>en ti</i>	about (of) you
<i>hacia mí</i>	toward me	<i>hacia ti</i>	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:

<i>con + mí + go</i>	□	<i>con + migo</i>	with me
<i>con + ti + go</i>	□	<i>con + tigo</i>	with you

Example *Daniel baila conmigo.* Daniel dances **with me**.
Daniel baila contigo. Daniel dances **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

<i>a mí (mismo)</i>	to me (myself)
<i>referirse</i>	to refer to oneself
<i>Me refiero a mí misma(o).</i>	I refer to myself.
<i>lastimarse</i>	to hurt oneself
<i>a ti (mismo)</i>	to you (yourself)
<i>Te lastimas a ti misma(o).</i>	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:

con + si + go *con + 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

*Me voy a Valencia **por un mes**.*

I'm going to Valencia for a month.

*La pareja estaba bailando **por tres horas seguidas**.*

The couple was dancing for three straight hours.

Por is used to indicate undetermined or general time.

Example

*Nunca salen **por la noche**.*

They never go out at night.

***Por la mañana** voy al gimnasio.*

In the morning, I'm going to the gym.

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

Example

*Su primera novela está publicada, pero su segunda está **por** publicarse.*

His first novel is published but, his second has yet to be published.

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

Example

*José, va **por** pan y leche.*

José is going for milk and bread.

*Paso **por** ti mañana temprano.*

I'll come by for you early tomorrow.

Por is used to express the idea of mistaken identity.

Example

*La tomé **por** una actriz famosa.*

He took her for a famous actress.

Por is used to express cause or reason.

Example

*Pepe se enfadó con Rosa **por** haber salido con otro hombre.*

Pepe was angry with Rose for having gone out with another man.

*No podemos ir a la discoteca **por** falta de dinero.*

We can't go to the discotheque for lack of money.

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

Example

*Jaime me llama **por** teléfono cada noche.*

Jaime calls me on the phone.
every night.

*Van a Europa **por** barco.*

They're going to Europe by boat.

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*

We fight for freedom.

*Lo hacemos **por** todos los seres humanos.*

We do it for all human beings.

*El presidente está **por** esta ley.*

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?*

How much did you pay for the ticket?

*Me dio \$100.00 **por** mi televisor.*

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.* The old men stroll through the park.

*El ladrón entró **por** la ventana y salió **por** la puerta*

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.*

Three times three is nine.

*Cien dividido **por** veinte son cinco*

One hundred divided by twenty is five.

Por is used to express gratitude or an apology.

Example

*Gracias **por** la ayuda.*

Thanks for the help.

*Lo siento **por** haberte llamado tonto.*

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**:

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

USES OF *PARA*

Para is used to indicate destination.

Example

*Vamos **para** Bogotá en junio.
Ya él salió **para** el club.*

We're going to Bogotá in June.
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.
El vaso es **para** jugo.*

The goblet is for wine.
The glass is for juice.

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

Example

*Paloma estudia **para** ingeniera.
Miguel se viste así **para** lucir
bien.
Tengo un regalo **para** mi sobrino.*

Paloma is studying to be an engineer.
Michael dresses that way (in order)
to look good.
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 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 sorpresa, 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
no servir **para** nada
para siempre
no ser **para** tanto*

to be in no mood for joking
to be of no use
for always
to not be so important

COMPARISONS (*COMPARATIVOS*)

COMPARISONS OF EQUALITY

<i>tan</i>	+	<i>adjetivo / adverbio</i>	+	<i>como</i>	+	<i>persona o cosa</i>
as	+	adjective / adverb	+	as	+	person or thing

Example *Jorge es **tan** romántico **como** Luis.* Jorge is **as** romantic **as** Luis.
*Carlos canta **tan** bien **como** Julio.* Carlos sings **as** well **as** Julio.

<i>tanto (a, os, as)</i>	+	<i>sustantivo</i>	+	<i>como</i>	+	<i>persona o cosa</i>
as much	+	noun	+	as	+	person or thing
as many	+	noun	+	as	+	person or thing

Example *Yo tengo **tanta** tarea **como** tú.* I have **as much** homework **as** you.

Example *Marta tiene **tantos** amigos **como** yo.* Marta has **as many** friends **as** I.

verbo	+	<i>tanto como</i>	+	<i>persona o cosa</i>
verb	+	as much as	+	person or thing

Example *Pablo sale **tanto** **como** nosotros.* Pablo goes out **as much as** we.

COMPARISONS OF INEQUALITY

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

<i>más (menos)</i>	+	<i>adjetivo/adverbio/sustantivo</i>	+	<i>que</i>	+	<i>persona o cosa</i>
more (less)		adjective/adverb/noun	+	than	+	person or thing

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

verbo	+	<i>más (menos)</i>	+	<i>que</i>	+	<i>persona o cosa</i>
verb	+	more (less)	+	than	+	person or thing

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**.* Susan 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 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 **mu**y inteligente.*

Daniel is very intelligent.

*Daniel corre **mu**y rápidamente.*

Daniel runs very fast.

sumamente / extremadamente + adjective / adverb

Example

*Daniel es **sumamente** inteligente.*

Daniel is extremely intelligent.

*Daniel corre **extremadamente** rápido.*

Daniel runs extremely fast.

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

Example

*Daniel es **intelligentísimo**.*

Daniel is **extremely** intelligent.

*Daniel habla **muchísimo**.*

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

z □ **c** *feliz* □ *felicísimo (a, os, as)*

g □ **gu** *largo* □ *larguísimo (a, os, as)*

c □ **qu** *rico* □ *riquísimo (a, os, as)*

ble □ **bil** *amable* □ *amabilísimo (a, os, as)*

IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

adjective

bueno(good)

adverb

bien (well)

comparative

mejor (better)

superlative

el, los, la, las mejor(es) (the best)

malo (bad)

mal (badly)

peor (worse)

el, los, la, las peor(es) (the worst)

grande (for age)

mayor (older)

mayor(es) (older)

el, los, la, las mayor(es) (the oldest)

pequeño (for age)

menor (younger)

menor(es) (younger)

el, los, la, las menor(es)

(the youngest)

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**)

conocer

(special meaning with preterite)

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 ticket.

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	<i>Carlos era estudiante.</i>	Carlos was (used to be) a student. Carlos may or may not still be a student
	<i>José escribía las cartas.</i>	José was writing the letters.

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

Example	<i>Yo escribía las cartas mientras Ana leía el periódico.</i>
	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	<i>Estaban cansados.</i>	They were tired.
	<i>Rosa tenía veinte años.</i>	Rosa was twenty years old.
	<i>Raúl parecía un loco.</i>	Raúl was behaving/seemed like a mad person.

The **imperfect** is used in telling time.

Example	<i>Eran las ocho de la noche.</i>	It was 8:00 p.m.
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Certain words and expressions are associated with the **imperfect**.

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

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

Example	<i>El estaba estudiando.</i>	He was studying.
	<i>Ellos estaban comiendo.</i>	They were eating.

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

Example	<i>Mi familia viajaba a México.</i>	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)

	(meaning with imperfect)
<i>conocer</i>	to know, be familiar with
<i>saber</i>	to know, to have knowledge of
<i>poder</i>	to be able, capable of
<i>no poder</i>	not to be able, not being capable of
<i>tener</i>	to have (referring to possession)
<i>querer</i>	to want
<i>no querer</i>	to want

Example

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

<i>De niño él jugaba fútbol.</i>	As a child, he used to play football.
<i>De niño él empezó a jugar fútbol.</i>	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

<i>Miguel estudiaba cuando sonó el teléfono.</i>	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	<i>Yo quiero que ellos salgan</i>	I want that they leave. (them to leave)
	<i>Yo quiero salir.</i>	I want to leave.

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	<i>Yo quiero (espero, dudo, no creo, mando, recomiendo, obligo, permito, necesito, sugiero, prefiero, prohibo, aconsejo, temo, siento) que tú vayas conmigo.</i>
----------------	--

I want (hope, doubt, don't believe, order, recommend, command, allow, need, suggest, prefer, forbid, advise, fear, feel) that you go with me.

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	<i>Quizá(s) él llegue a tiempo.</i>	Perhaps he will arrive on time.
	<i>Quizá(s) sea tarde.</i>	Maybe (Perhaps) it is late.
	<i>Tal vez él llegue temprano.</i>	Perhaps he arrives (will arrive) early.
	<i>Ojalá vengan a tiempo.</i>	I hope they arrive on time.

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 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

<i>Tráigamelo.</i>	Bring it to me.
<i>No me lo traiga</i>	Don't bring it to me.
<i>Acuéstense.</i>	Go to bed. (you pl.)
<i>No se acuesten.</i>	Don't go to bed.
<i>Comamos.</i>	Let's eat.
<i>No comamos</i>	Let's not eat.
<i>No me hables.</i>	Don't talk to me.

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

<i>Es una lástima que no vengan.</i>	It's a pity that they aren't coming (or won't come).
<i>Es una lástima que no hayan venido.</i>	It is a pity that they haven't come.

The following formulas explain when the **present subjunctive** is needed.

PRESENT PRESENT PROGRESSIVE FUTURE COMMAND COMPOUND PRESENT	} }	PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE PRESENT PERFECT OF SUBJUNCTIVE
---	--------	---

Example

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

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	<i>Ojalá (que) ella se gradúe pronto.</i>	I hope that she graduates soon.
	<i>Ojalá (que) ella se graduara pronto.</i>	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	<i>El jefe mandó que Ud. asistiera.</i> The boss ordered that you attend. (ordered you to attend)
	<i>El jefe mandaba que Ud. asistiera.</i> The boss was ordering that you attend. (ordering you to attend)
	<i>El jefe había mandado que Ud. asistiera.</i> The boss had ordered that you attend. (ordered you to attend)
	<i>El jefe ordenaría que Ud. asistiera.</i> The boss would order that you attend. (order you to attend)
	<i>El jefe habría ordenado que Ud. asistiera.</i> The boss would have ordered that you attend. (ordered you to attend)

SUBJUNCTIVE IN CONDITIONAL ‘IF CLAUSES’ (CLAUSULAS ‘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	<i>Si yo fuera rico(pero no lo soy), compraría una mansión.</i> If I were rich (but I am not), I would buy a mansion.
	<i>Si hubieras llegado a tiempo (pero llegaste tarde), habríamos ido de compras.</i> 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	<i>Pepe habla como si lo supiera todo.</i> 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

T*al vez, acaso, quizás*

O*jalá*

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:

<u>For <i>Ud.</i> (you singular)</u>			<u>For <i>Uds.</i> (you plural)</u>		
<i>ar</i>	□	<i>e</i>	<i>ar</i>	□	<i>en</i>
<i>er / ir</i>	□	<i>a</i>	<i>er / ir</i>	□	<i>an</i>

Example	<i>(cantar) Cante la canción. (Ud.)</i>	Sing the song. (singular formal)
	<i>Canten la canción. (Uds.)</i>	Sing the song. (plural)
	<i>(comer) Coma la ensalada. (Ud.)</i>	Eat the salad. (singular)
	<i>Coman la ensalada. (Uds.)</i>	Live in the city. (plural formal)
	<i>(vivir) Viva en la ciudad. (Ud.)</i>	Live in the city. (singular formal)
	<i>Vivan en la ciudad. (Uds.)</i>	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	<i>No cante la canción.</i>	Don't sing the song. (singular formal)
	<i>No canten la canción.</i>	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:

<u><i>nosotros</i></u>		
<i>ar</i>	□	<i>emos</i>
<i>er / ir</i>	□	<i>amos</i>

Example	<i>(cantar) Cantemos ahora.</i>	Let's sing now.
	<i>No cantemos ahora.</i>	Let's not sing now.
	<i>(comer) Comamos ahora.</i>	Let's eat now.
	<i>No comamos ahora.</i>	Let's not eat now.
	<i>(vivir) Vivamos ahora.</i>	Let's live now.
	<i>No vivamos ahora.</i>	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	<i>Vamos a la fiesta.</i>	Let's go to the party.
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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.

tú (affirmative)

<i>ar</i>	□	<i>a</i>
<i>er / ir</i>	□	<i>e</i>

Example

(*cantar*) *Canta la canción.*
(*comer*) *Come la ensalada.*
(*vivir*) *Vive en la ciudad.*

Sing the song. (familiar)
Eat the salad.
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:

tú (negative)

<i>ar</i>	□	<i>e + s</i>
<i>er / ir</i>	□	<i>a + s</i>

Example

(*cantar*) *No cantes.*
(*comer*) *No comas.*
(*vivir*) *No vivas.*

Don't sing.
Don't eat.
Don't live.

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

Example

no poner la mesa
No pongas la mesa.

to not set the table
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:

vosotros (affirmative)

<i>ar</i>	□	<i>ad</i>
<i>er</i>	□	<i>ed</i>
<i>ir</i>	□	<i>id</i>

Example	<i>(cantar) Cantad.</i>	Sing (you'all).
	<i>(comer) Comed.</i>	Eat (you'all).
	<i>(vivir) Vivid.</i>	Live (you'all).

NEGATIVES

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

vosotros (negative)

<i>ar</i>	□	<i>éis</i>
<i>er / ir</i>	□	<i>áis</i>

Example	<i>(no cantar) No cantéis.</i>	Don't sing (you'all).
	<i>(no comer) No comáis.</i>	Don't eat (you'all).
	<i>(no vivir) No viváis.</i>	Don't live (you'all).

ATTENTION

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.

Example	<i>vestirse</i>	to get dressed
	<i>Vístase.</i> (formal <i>Ud.</i>)	Get (yourself) dressed.
	<i>Vístanse.</i> (formal <i>Uds.</i>)	Get (yourself) dressed.
	<i>Vístete.</i> (informal <i>tú</i>)	Get (yourself) dressed.
	<i>Vistámonos.</i> (<i>nosotros</i>)	Let's get (ourselves) dressed.
	<i>Vistáos.</i> (<i>vosotros</i>)	Get (yourselves) dressed (you'all).

*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	<i>(vestirse) Vistámonos.</i>	Let's get (ourselves) dressed.
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Negative Reflexive Commands: The negative reflexive pronouns are placed before the conjugated verb.

Example	<i>(no vestirse todavía)</i>	to not get dressed yet
	<i>No se vista todavía.</i> (<i>Ud.</i>)	Don't get dressed yet. (formal plural)
	<i>No se vistan todavía.</i> (<i>Uds.</i>)	Don't get dressed yet. (formal plural)
	<i>No te vistas todavía.</i> (<i>tú</i>)	Don't get dressed yet. (informal singular)
	<i>No os vistáis todavía.</i> (<i>vosotros</i>)	Don't get dressed yet. (informal plural)
	<i>No nos vistamos todavía.</i> (<i>nosotros</i>)	Let's not get dressed yet.

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 + **ser** + past participle used as an adjective + **por** + 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.

<p><i>La cena</i> The meal</p>	}	<p><i>es</i> is <i>será</i> will be <i>fue</i> was <i>sería</i> would be <i>ha sido</i> has been <i>habría sido</i> would have been</p>	}	<p><i>preparada por Julia.</i> prepared by Julia.</p>
<p><i>Las cenas</i> The meals</p>	}	<p><i>son</i> are <i>serán</i> will be <i>fueron</i> were <i>serían</i> would be <i>han sido</i> have been <i>habrían sido</i> would have been</p>	}	<p><i>preparadas por Julia.</i> prepared by Julia.</p>

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.

Example

Se habla español aquí.

Spanish spoken here.

Se venden boletos aquí.

Tickets sold here.

“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’.

Example

Hablan español en esa iglesia.

They speak Spanish in that church.

Spanish is spoken in that church.

Venden boletos aquí.

They sell tickets here.

Tickets are sold here.