

## Spanish for Reading and Translation

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# *Spanish for Reading and Translation*

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# Contents

About this Book	xiv
<i>Online Edition</i>	xiv
Introduction to this textbook	xvi
<i>Tools for success</i>	xvi
<i>Similarities between Spanish and English</i>	xvi
<i>How to learn Vocabulary</i>	xvii

## UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Abbreviations	2
1.2 Syllabication	4
1.3 Accentuation	5
<i>Rule 1</i>	5
<i>Rule 2</i>	5
<i>Rule 3</i>	5
<i>Exceptions</i>	6
<i>Accent Marks to Distinguish Homonyms</i>	6
1.4 Punctuation and Capitalization	7
1.5 Cognates	9

## UNIT 2: BASICS

2.1 Gender of Nouns and Definite and Indefinite Articles	12
2.2 Negation	13
2.3 Plurals	14
2.4 Use of the Definite Article	15
2.5 Possession	17

2.6 Contractions	18
2.7 Interrogation	19
2.8 Subject Pronouns	20
<i>More Information on Subject Pronouns</i>	20
Unit 2: Basic Vocabulary	22
<i>Vocabulario básico (Basic Vocabulary)</i>	22

### **UNIT 3: INTRODUCTION TO THE PRESENT TENSE AND ADJECTIVES**

3.1 Present Tense of -ar Verbs	28
3.2 Agreement and Placement of Adjectives	30
3.3 Inversion of Subject in Declarative Sentences	32
3.4 Present Tense of SER and ESTAR	33
3.5 Adjectives that Change Meaning with SER and ESTAR	35
3.6 Present Tense of tener and Idioms with tener	36
3.7 Possessive Adjectives	38
Unit 3: Basic Vocabulary	39
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	40

### **UNIT 4: MORE PRESENT TENSE VERBS AND PERSONAL A**

4.1 Present Tense of -er and -ir Verbs	50
4.2 Present Tense of Other Irregular Verbs: Part 1	51
4.3 Personal a	53
4.4 Adjectives Used as Nouns	55
4.5 Omission of the Indefinite Article	56
4.6 Present Tense of Other Irregular Verbs: Part II	57
Unit 4: Basic Vocabulary	58
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	58

### **UNIT 5: THE INFINITIVE, STEM-CHANGE VERBS, AND POR AND PARA**

5.1 Uses of the Infinitive	63
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5.2 Stem-Changing Verbs	65
5.3 Demonstrative Adjectives and Pronouns	66
<i>Demonstratives to say “the former” and “the latter”</i>	67
5.4 Verbs saber and conocer	68
5.5 Prepositions POR and PARA	70
<i>Uses of para that do not always translate as “for”:</i>	70
<i>Uses of por that do not always translate as “for”:</i>	72
Unit 5: Basic Vocabulary	76
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	76

## **UNIT 6: PRONOUNS (PART 1), IMPERFECT TENSE, ADVERBS**

6.1 Verbs Used Reflexively and Reflexive Pronouns	82
6.2 Verbs Used Reflexively versus Non-Reflexively	84
6.3 Clarifying Ambiguity of Reflexive Pronouns	85
6.4 Subjective Use of Reflexive Pronouns	86
6.5 The Impersonal se	88
6.6 The Imperfect Tense	89
6.7 Adverbs	91
Unit 6: Basic Vocabulary	92
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	92

## **UNIT 7: PRONOUNS (PART 2), INTRODUCTION TO THE PRETERIT, AND COMPARISONS**

7.1 Direct Object Pronouns	98
<i>Note about le and les as direct object pronouns</i>	98
7.2 Comparatives and Superlatives	99
<i>Comparisons of Equality</i>	99
<i>Comparisons of Inequality</i>	99
<i>Superlatives</i>	100
<i>Long Comparative Forms</i>	101
7.3 Negatives, Positives and Indefinite Words	102
7.4 Indirect Object Pronouns	104

7.5 Preterit Tense of Regular Verbs and Some Stem-Changing Verbs	106
<i>Helpful Translation Hints</i>	106
<i>Note on Spelling Changes</i>	107
<i>Preterit Meaning</i>	107
Unit 7: Basic Vocabulary	108
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	108
 <b>UNIT 8: PRETERIT (PART 2), "TO BE" VERBS, PRESENT PARTICIPLE AND PROGRESSIVE TENSES</b>	
8.1 Irregular Verbs in the Preterit Tense: Part 1	112
8.2 Irregular Verbs in the Preterit Tense: Part 2	114
8.3 Other Verbs Used to Express "To Be"	116
8.4 Changes in Meaning in the Preterit versus the Imperfect Tenses	118
8.5 The Present Participle and Progressive Forms	120
8.6 The Preterit Tense: -Ir Stem-Changing Verbs and other Spelling Changes	122
Unit 8: Basic Vocabulary	123
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	123
 <b>UNIT 9: PRONOUNS (PART 3)</b>	
9.1 Two Object Pronouns Used Together	126
9.2 Prepositional Object Pronouns	127
9.3 Pronoun Summary	129
9.4 Verbs That Take Indirect Object Pronouns	130
Unit 9: Basic Vocabulary	132
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	132
 <b>UNIT 10: STRUCTURES WITH "HACER," INTRODUCTION TO PERFECT TENSES, TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 1)</b>	
10.1 Non-Systemic Use of Verbs: Hacer	135
<i>Non-systemic uses of hacer in the present</i>	135
<i>Non-systemic uses of hacer in the past</i>	135
<i>"Ago" in Spanish</i>	136



10.2 Other Verbs Used Like Hacer	137
<i>Acabar</i>	137
<i>Llevar</i>	137
<i>Desde = since</i>	138
10.3 Shortened Forms of Adjectives	139
10.4 Forms of el que	140
10.5 The Past Participle	141
10.6 The Present Perfect Tense	143
10.7 Ellipsis of Nouns	145
10.8 The Past Perfect Tense	146
10.9 Emphatic Forms of Possessive Pronouns	148
Unit 10: Basic Vocabulary	150
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	150
<b>UNIT 11: INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJUNCTIVE, COMMANDS, TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 2)</b>	
11.1 Concept of the Subjunctive Mode	156
11.2 Forms of the Present Subjunctive	158
11.3 Summary of Uses of the Subjunctive	162
11.4 Formal Commands	165
11.5 Exclamations	167
11.6 Equivalents of "To Become"	168
11.7 The Present Perfect Subjunctive	170
11.8 Absolute Superlatives	171

11.9 Compound Verbs	172
<i>English -tain = Spanish -tener</i>	172
<i>English -pose = Spanish -poner</i>	172
<i>English -tract = Spanish -traer</i>	173
<i>English -duce, -duct = Spanish -ducir</i>	173
<i>English -dict, at times = Spanish -decir</i>	173
<i>English -vene, at times = Spanish -venir</i>	173
<i>English -scribe = Spanish -scribir</i>	174
<i>Compounds of ver</i>	174
<i>Compounds of hacer</i>	174
<i>Compounds of volver</i>	174
<i>Compound of pedir</i>	174
<i>Compound of salir</i>	174
Unit 11: Basic Vocabulary	175
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	175

## **UNIT 12: MORE USES OF SE, FUTURE AND CONDITIONAL TENSES**

12.1 Se Construction for Unplanned Occurrences	179
<i>Impersonal se construction:</i>	179
<i>Impersonal se + Indirect Object = Unplanned Occurrence</i>	179
12.2 Future Tense	181
<i>hablar</i>	181
12.3 The Future of Probability	183
12.4 Meanings of ya	185
12.5 Cuyo and Cuanto	186
<i>Cuyo</i>	186
<i>Cuanto</i>	186
12.6 Meanings of sino	187
12.7 The Conditional Tense	188
<i>Building on what you know: similarities between future and conditional tenses</i>	189
12.8 The Conditional of Probability	191
Unit 12: Basic Vocabulary	192
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	192

### **UNIT 13: PAST SUBJUNCTIVE, INFORMAL COMMANDS, TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 3)**

13.1 The Neuter Article lo	196
13.2 Word Order	198
13.3 Indirect Commands	200
13.4 The Imperfect Subjunctive	201
13.5 Contrary-to-Fact Sentences	204
13.6 Mandar and Hacer in Causative Constructions	205
13.7 The Negative Meaning of sin and poco	206
Unit 13: Basic Vocabulary	207
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	207

### **UNIT 14: FUTURE AND CONDITIONAL PERFECT TENSES, TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 4)**

14.1 Future Perfect Tense and the Future Perfect of Probability	210
14.2 First Person Plural Commands	212
14.3 Second Person Singular Commands	213
14.4 Augmentatives and Diminutives	215
14.5 Conditional Perfect Tense and Conditional Perfect of Probability	219
14.6 Frequent Noun Endings	221
Unit 14: Basic Vocabulary	223
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	223

### **UNIT 15: PAST PERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE, WORD FAMILIES, RELATIVE PRONOUNS, AND PASSIVE VOICE**

15.1 Past Perfect (Pluperfect) Subjunctive	226
15.2 Imperfect and Past Perfect Subjunctives Used to Replace Conditional Tenses	228
15.3 Relative Pronouns	229
15.4 Verbs Formed from Adjectives	231
<i>Answers to activity above:</i>	232

15.5 Word Families	234
15.6 The Passive Voice	236
<i>subject + form of ser + past participle + por + agent (of action)</i>	236
Unit 15: Basic Vocabulary	238
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	238
<b>UNIT 16: TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 5)</b>	
16.1 Distinctions among Similar Prepositions and Compound Prepositions	241
16.2 Compound Adverbs	243
16.3 Adjectives and Nouns Ending in -ante, -ente, and -iente	245
16.4 More about the Impersonal se	246
16.5 Compound Participles, Compound Infinitives and Absolute Constructions	248
16.6 The Preterite Perfect Tense	249
Unit 16: Basic Vocabulary	250
<i>Vocabulario básico</i>	250
<b>UNIT 17: ADDITIONAL GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES</b>	
17.1 Formation of Compound Nouns	253
17.2 Identical Words and Words Differentiated Only by Accent Mark	255
17.3 Placement of Object Pronouns in Old Spanish	257
17.4 Second Person Plural (Vosotros) Commands	258
17.5 The Future Subjunctive	259
17.6 The Simple Past Perfect Tense	260
Unit 17: Basic Vocabulary	261
Pronunciation Guide	263
Idiom List	268
False Friends List	272

Cultural Notes on Translation	276
<i>Cultural Note I: Note on Spanish Dictionaries and the Alphabet</i>	276
<i>Cultural Note II: Book and Film Titles in Spanish and English</i>	276
<i>Cultural Note III: First Names (Nombres de pila)</i>	277
<i>Cultural Note IV: Telling Time in Spanish</i>	279

## About this Book

This open textbook is currently maintained by Dr. Erin Paul to support the University of Wisconsin-Madison's online Spanish for Reading and Translation course. It is adapted from Jeff Kirsch's print version, *Spanish for Reading Knowledge: A Complete Course in Spanish Grammar with Emphasis on Reading Skills*.

This textbook guides a learner with no previous experience with Spanish through the process of reading and translating formal and academic language in order to use it in research or for personal enrichment.

### ONLINE EDITION

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The online version of this textbook, which is used to support the University of Wisconsin online Spanish for Reading and Translation courses, was adapted and edited by Erin Paul (Ph.D.) with help from Julie M. Dahl (Ph.D.). It is maintained by Erin Paul and any questions can be directed to her at [erin.paul@wisc.edu](mailto:erin.paul@wisc.edu).

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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# Introduction to this textbook

## TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

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To succeed in this course you will need a comprehensive Spanish/English dictionary. Any unabridged bilingual dictionary will work well (Oxford and Larousse are excellent choices). You can also use Word Reference, an excellent online dictionary. In addition to serving as a dictionary, Word Reference has verb conjugation tables that can help you as you progress in the course. Bookmark these resources for future use.

Optional resource: If you feel that your knowledge of English grammar is lacking, you may want to purchase a used copy of *English Grammar for Students of Spanish*. This textbook can help you contextualize what you learn in this class and explain any grammar terms with reference to English. Copies are widely available and affordable.

## SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SPANISH AND ENGLISH

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While English is a Germanic language and Spanish has its roots in Latin, there are still similarities to be found. In this textbook the similarities are pointed out so that you can begin to recognize patterns that exist between the two languages. Here are just a few examples to illustrate the relationship between English and Spanish:

### NOUNS ENDING IN -TION IN ENGLISH = -CIÓN IN SPANISH

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- action = acción
- perfection = perfección
- distraction = distracción

### VERBS ENDING IN ENGLISH -TAIN = -TENER IN SPANISH

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- to contain = contener



- to detain, to arrest = detener
- to entertain = entretener
- to maintain, to keep, to support financially = mantener

## HOW TO LEARN VOCABULARY

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The focus in this course will be on learning the grammatical structures you will need to read and translate from Spanish to English, not memorizing vocabulary. Basic vocabulary will be listed at the end of each unit in this textbook, with the focus being on verbs, expressions, and common parts of speech: adverbs, prepositions, etc. that you would likely encounter in any context. Basic nouns will be provided, especially at the beginning of the course, to help you build a base of high use words. However, since nouns are the easiest to look up when reading a text, we have chosen to include them only minimally. Instead we have opted for teaching the differences in syntax between the two languages. As much as possible, place your focus on memorizing verb endings and grammatical structures. Vocabulary will come with exposure to Spanish – the more you read, the more you will learn.

We will also point out how to make the most of your knowledge of English to save time looking up words. This means memorizing common patterns, such as those previewed above. Knowing these patterns will save you time looking up words in the dictionary because you will be able to make educated guesses about their meaning in order to prioritize verb tenses and syntax.

Also, please keep in mind the following:

- Whenever possible and helpful, English cognates are given in parentheses immediately after vocabulary listings. They are routinely omitted in very obvious cases (such as *entrar*, *preparar*, *estudiar*, *visitar*, etc.), but are given in other less or not obvious cases. At times, they may seem obscure or relatively so. The larger your English vocabulary is, the easier it will be to recognize them.
- The examples of *vida* and “vital/-ity” as well as *nadar* and “natatorium” are two of many in which you see a *d* in Spanish taking the place of a *t* in English. In general, these two consonants are similar.
- The amount of vocabulary presented, if you are a true beginner, may at times seem overwhelming. Nonetheless, many of the new words are related to each other, e.g., *preguntar* (“to ask”) and *pregunta* (“question”); *estudiar* (“to study”), *estudiante* (“student” [n.]) and *estudiantil* (“student” [adj.]). At the beginning of this text, most of the vocabulary given is basic. As you progress in the text, you may be able to choose which vocabulary items may be useful to you and your field of study/interest and which may not.
- Noticing patterns in word families, such as the examples in the previous

bullet point, and making note of the words you think you may encounter in your own research and reading are two of the best practices you can develop while taking this class.

# UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Identify common abbreviations used in a dictionary.
- Learn to differentiate between homonyms that are identical except for written accents.
- Identify proper Spanish punctuation and capitalization.

## *1.1 Abbreviations*

You may see the following abbreviations used in this text. Their meanings are as follows:

adj.	adjective
C.A.	Central America
coll.	colloquial
def. art.	definite article
dem. adj.	demonstrative adjective
d.o.	direct object
esp.	especially
f.	feminine
fam.	familiar (informal)
fig.	figurative
form.	formal
gram.	grammar term
ind. art.	indefinite article
inf.	infinitive
i.o.	indirect object
lang.	language
lit.	literary, literature
m.	masculine
neut.	neuter
n.	noun
pl.	plural
p.p.	past participle
poss. adj.	possessive adjective
prep.	preposition
prep. obj. pron.	prepositional object pronoun
pron.	pronoun
refl. pron.	reflexive pronoun
s.	singular
L.A.	Latin America
Sp.	Spain
sub. pron.	subject pronoun
v.	verb

# 1.2 Syllabication

A word is divided into as many syllables as it has vowels or diphthongs (ai, ei, eu, ie, io, ia, ue, uo, etc.). Single consonants are pronounced in the same syllable as the vowel that follows. Note that the capitalized syllables are the ones that are stressed when said aloud.

CA-sa	house
za-PA-to	shoe
su-pe-RIOR	superior
si-len-CIO-so	silent

Two consonants are usually divided into different syllables except in combinations of a consonant and l, a consonant and r, and the inseparable sounds ch, ll, and rr:

es-pa-ÑOL	Spanish
a-BRIR	to open
con-CEP-to	concept
cons-TRUIR	to construct
ex-pIi-CAR	to explain
ba-TA-lla	battle

# 1.3 Accentuation

## RULE 1

When a word ends in a vowel, *s*, or *n*, the stress falls on the second-to-the-last syllable:

MA-no	hand
MA-dre	mother
HA-blan	they speak
HOM-bres	men

## RULE 2

When a word ends in a consonant, except *s* or *n*, the stress falls on the final syllable. All infinitives fall into this category.

pa-RED	wall
re-LOJ	watch (timepiece)
ca-PAZ	capable
be-BER	to drink

## RULE 3

All words with a stress on the third-to-last syllable require an accent mark. These words are called *palabras esdrújulas*.

es-DRÚ-ju-la	accented on the third-to-last syllable
SÁ-ba-do	Saturday
a-ca-DÉ-mi-co	academic
pa-RÉN-te-sis	parenthesis

## EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to the above rules are indicated by a written accent mark on the stressed vowel. That means that if a word **does not** follow the rules above, an accent mark must be written in on the stressed vowel.

ÁR-bol (ends in an -l, but breaks rule 2)	tree
in-GLÉS (ends in an -s, but breaks rule 1)	English
si-LLÓN (ends in an -n, but breaks rule 1)	armchair
a-ZÚ-car (ends in an -r, but breaks rule 2)	sugar

## ACCENT MARKS TO DISTINGUISH HOMONYMS

Written accent marks are also used to differentiate between otherwise identical words. This can end up being of importance for reading comprehension in some situations. Note the following pairs:

el	the
él	he
si	if
sí	yes
mas	but
más	more, most
mi	my
mí	me (prepositional object pronoun)
tu	your
tú	you
aun	even
aún	still, yet
solo	alone, lonely
sólo	only

As you progress through the text and study the different verb tenses, various cases will be pointed out in which the absence or presence of a written accent mark is the only distinction between two otherwise identical forms of different persons or verb tenses of several verb tenses.



## 1.4 Punctuation and Capitalization

1. An inverted question mark is placed at the beginning of a sentence to indicate intonation:
  - ¿Estás listo?
  - Are you ready?
2. An inverted exclamation is placed before exclamations for the same reason:
  - ¡Qué bien hablan!
  - How well they speak
3. An initial dash is usually used instead of quotations marks to indicate dialogue:
  - -¿Vas o no vas?
  - "Are you going or not?"
  - -No, me quedo aquí.
  - "No, I'm staying here."
4. Spanish does not use capital letters in the following cases in which English does:
  1. Days of the week:
    - Hoy es viernes.
    - Today is Friday.
  2. Months of the year:
    - Mañana comienza abril.
    - April begins tomorrow.
  3. Adjectives of nationality:

- Hugo es uruguayo.
- Hugo is Uruguayan.

4. Names of languages:

- El húngaro no es fácil.
- Hungarian is not easy.

5. Titles:

- El señor Sotomayor vino hoy.
- Mr. Sotomayor came today.

## 1.5 Cognates

Cognates are words that are recognizable in form and meaning. Conversely, words identical or similar in form but which have a different meaning are “false friends.” These words can present particular problems when trying to deduce meaning, and are indicated throughout the text and also appear in a list at the end of the textbook (see False Friends list). One example is *pariente*, which means “relative” and not “parent” (*padre*).

A. Words identical or almost identical in spelling and meaning:

ideal, hospital, final, mental, federal, altar, popular, superior, error, doctor, noble, acceptable, terrible, hotel. *unión*, *televisión*, *ocasión*, radio, *comercial*, *imposible*, *región*, *remoto*

B. Most words ending in *-ción* correspond to the English suffix *-tion*:

perfección	perfection
nación	nation
ambición	ambition
construcción	construction

C. Many words ending in *-tad* or *-dad* correspond to the English suffix *-ty*:

libertad	liberty
estabilidad	stability
entidad	entity
dificultad	difficulty

D. Many words ending in *-ez* correspond to the English suffix *-ity* or *-ness*:

sencillez	simplicity
escasez	scarcity, scariness
timidez	timidity, timidness
vejez	oldness, old age

E. Spanish words ending in *-oso*, and their feminine and plural forms, almost always correspond to the English suffix *-ous*:

industrioso-a	industrious
supersticioso-a	superstitious (fem.)

F. Many Spanish nouns ending in -cio or -cia correspond to the English suffix *-nce*:

inocencia	innocence
silencio	silence

G. Spanish words ending in -mento or -miento usually have the same meaning as their English counterpart:

movimiento	movement
parlamento	parliament

# UNIT 2: BASICS

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Recognize the following grammatical structures:
  - nouns and their plural forms
  - definite and indefinite articles
  - subject pronouns
  - the structure of interrogative sentences
  - negation
- Start to identify the following common vocabulary:
  - numbers
  - days of the week
  - words associated with the family
  - prepositions
  - question words

## 2.1 Gender of Nouns and Definite and Indefinite Articles

All nouns in Spanish are masculine or feminine in gender. \* (A very small number can be both.) Masculine nouns are generally preceded by the masculine definite article corresponding to English “the” or indefinite article corresponding to English “a” or “an” in the singular, “some” or “a few” in the plural. Feminine nouns follow the same pattern.

	Masculine	Feminine
<b>definite article</b>	el libro – the book	la clase – the class
<b>indefinite article</b>	un libro – a book	una clase – a class
	<b>Plural</b>	
<b>definite article</b>	los libros – the books	las clases – the classes
<b>indefinite article</b>	unos libros – some (a few) books	unas clases – some (a few) classes

Most nouns ending in -o are masculine, and most ending in -a are feminine, though exceptions exist. Gender of nouns, in any case, does not present comprehension problems or translation difficulties.

\*Some nouns and pronouns are neuter in gender. You will see these later in the text.

## 2.2 Negation

To render a sentence negative, the word *no* is placed before the verb.

Isabel no está aquí.

Isabel is not here.

---

Be aware that *no* means “no” as well as “not”:

No, Isabel no está aquí.

No, Isabel is not here.

---

## 2.3 Plurals

Words ending in a vowel add an -s to make them plural; those ending in a consonant add -es. Words that end with a -z change the z to c, then add -es:

Singular	Plural
la ciudad – the city	las ciudades – the cities
el día – the day	los días – the days
el pez – the fish	los peces – the fish



# 2.4 Use of the Definite Article

Use of the definite article, as well as the indefinite article, corresponds to English usage and omission in the majority of cases. In a minority of cases Spanish employs the definite article in circumstances in which English speakers would not expect to find it. Nouns denoting an abstract concept, used in a general sense or referring to a general class, titles, the names of a few countries and cities, languages, and nationalities are routinely preceded by a definite article, which is **not** translated into English:

El fútbol es un pasatiempo nacional para los hispanos, brasileños, españoles y portugueses.	Soccer is a national pastime for Hispanics, Brazilians, Spaniards, and Portuguese.
La libertad es necesaria.	Liberty is necessary.
El señor Villareal no está aquí.	Mr. Villareal isn't here.
La India es una nación grande.*	India is a large country.
La Habana es la capital de Cuba.	Havana is the capital of Cuba.
El ruso es difícil, pero el español es fácil,	Russian is difficult, but Spanish is easy.
¿Son religiosos los españoles?	Are Spaniards religious?

\*India is the only country before which it is considered mandatory to use the definite article, not translated into English. Other countries that use it in Spanish also employ it in English: La República Dominicana, El Salvador, El Reino Unido (The United Kingdom). There are some countries that use the definite article in English (The United States, The Philippines) that may not be seen with it in Spanish, in which case you will want to add it. While the definite article has traditionally been used to precede a number of countries (el Perú, la Argentina, el Brasil, el Uruguay, el Japón, el Canadá), the tendency is for it to be used less and less frequently.

The definite article is, however, usually used when the country or city is modified by an adjective or phrase: la España del siglo XV ("Spain of the 15th century") or la Roma del pasado ("Rome of the past").

In a sentence such as Los brasileños aman la música, there are four possible translations. One translation could be the generalization "Brazilians love music." The sentence could also mean "The Brazilians love the music," referring to specific Brazilians and specific music. The other two combinations mix specific and general meanings: "The Brazilians [those specific Brazilians there] love music [in general]"

or “Brazilians [in general] love the music [a specific kind].” Depending on the overall context in which this sentence appears, you should be able to clarify the meaning.

The masculine singular and plural definite article, *el* and *los*, are used before days of the week to translate “on.” The singular is used, for example, to translate “on Monday” and the plural “on Mondays”:

Elena está aquí el lunes.	Elena is here on Monday. (one specific Monday)
La señora Lozano no está allí los sábados.	Mrs. Lozano is not there on Saturdays. (all Saturdays implied)

## 2.5 Possession

Ownership or possession is expressed by the verb *ser* + *de* + owner. You will never see an apostrophe + *s* in Spanish.

---

El libro es de Jorge.

The book is George's.

---

Los libros son de las chicas.

The books are the girls'.

---

Cien años de soledad es una de las novelas de García Márquez.

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* is one of García Márquez's novels.

---

## 2.6 Contractions

There are two contractions that must happen in Spanish. Whenever a + el appear (unless the latter is part of a proper name, e.g., El Salvador), they contract to form al. When de + el appear, they contract to form del. Note in the last example that the contraction del may also indicate possession.

---

Estoy al punto de volverme loco.

I'm at the point of going crazy.

---

Estamos a diez minutos del hotel.

We are ten minutes from the hotel.

---

Los periódicos son del vendedor.

The newspapers are the vendor's.

---

## 2.7 Interrogation

Spanish usually inverts the order of the subject and verb when forming a question. (In addition, as you have seen, a question is both preceded and followed by a question mark.)

In colloquial speech -and, on occasion, in writing- subject and verb are not always inverted, though punctuation will always indicate that the sentence is indeed a question.

¿Están los muchachos en la ciudad?

Are the boys and girls in town (in the city)?

¿Cecilia está allí?

Is Cecilia there?

**¡Ojo!** (This literally means “eye,” but used here means “watch out” or “pay close attention” and is used like the Italian *Nota bene* [N.B. or “note well”].) In many cases, when someone is asking whether someone is “here,” “there,” or “at home,” the words *aquí*, *allí* and *en casa* are understood and not expressed:

¿Está Mamá?

Is Mom here (there, at home)?

¿Están los señores Alférez?

Are Mr. and Mrs. Alférez home (here, there)?

## 2.8 Subject Pronouns

Subject pronouns are the most common and the first of various sets of pronouns you will see.

Note that Spanish has four different ways of expressing “you,” because like all other Romance languages (and some non-Romance languages, e.g., German) it has both familiar (informal) and formal modes of address.

- Tú and vosotros are the familiar forms and are in general used to address children, close friends, people of one’s own age and animals.
- Usted and ustedes are mainly used with one’s elders, people not known well, in business, and to show respect. There can, however, be substantial differences to these guidelines, depending on country, region, social, class, mental, or emotional state, and other special situations.
- Vosotros is used only in Spain and, as those reading Spanish are most likely to see it only in fiction and poetry from there, it is not studied in this textbook, although the verb forms corresponding to it will be listed. In the rest of the Spanish-speaking world, ustedes is used as the plural form of the familiar “you” (as well as of the formal “you”).

Singular	Plural
yo – I	nosotros/as – we
tú – you (fam. s.)	vosotros/as – you (fam.pl.)
él, ella – he, she, it	ellos, ellas – they (m. and f.)
usted (Ud., Vd.) – you (form. s.)	ustedes (Uds., Vds.) – you (form. pl. [fam. pl. in L

### MORE INFORMATION ON SUBJECT PRONOUNS

- For usted and ustedes, the Ud. and Uds. abbreviations are most commonly used, but you may see the Vd. and Vds. abbreviations in older texts.
- The forms *nosotras* and *vosotras* are only used for all-female groups.

- As verb endings (studied in section 3.1 and after) in the first and second persons always differ from each other, subject pronouns are routinely omitted in Spanish and many times are used only for emphasis, such as in this example:
  - Yo soy el inocente y tú eres el culpable.
  - **I'm** the innocent one and **you're** the guilty one.
- In the third persons, as each verb form can refer to any one of multiple subjects, the tendency is to use subject pronouns more often for clarification. However, in the third persons, once the antecedent is known, the subject pronoun is routinely omitted:
  - María está en clase hoy. Es una estudiante muy popular y diligente. Y es de una familia pobre.
  - María is in class today. She's very popular and diligent student. And she is from a poor family.
- Always be sure to find or deduce what is the subject when translating. If it is not apparent, look for the previous noun antecedent, and chances are you have found it. The frequent omission of subject pronouns makes reading and translating in Spanish somewhat more challenging at times.

## Unit 2: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO (BASIC VOCABULARY)

---

Remember that these are very common words that you will likely encounter often and in most contexts. Do your best to memorize these if you don't already know them. Basic Vocabulary lists will focus more on verbs as you work through the course and will generally get shorter as we go.

#### ADVERBIOS (ADVERBS) / PREPOSICIONES (PREPOSITIONS):

---

cerca (de)	near (to)
lejos (de)	far (from)

---

Without the *de* these words are adverbs of place. (La ciudad está lejos. = The city is far away.) With the *de*, they are prepositions and are followed by an object (Mis parientes están cerca de mí. = My relatives are near me.)

#### DÍAS DE LA SEMANA (DAYS OF THE WEEK):

---

el lunes	Monday
el martes	Tuesday
el miércoles	Wednesday
el jueves	Thursday
el viernes	Friday
el sábado	Saturday
el domingo	Sunday

---



## LA FAMILIA (FAMILY):

la abuela	grandmother
el abuelo	grandfather
la esposa	wife
el esposo	husband, spouse*
los esposos	husband and wife
el hermano	brother
la hermana	sister
los hermanos	brothers and sisters, siblings, brothers
la madre	mother
el marido	husband
el padre	father, priest
los padres	parents (priests [occasionally, "fathers"])
el pariente	relative (false friend)
el/la primo/a	cousin
la tía	aunt
el tío	uncle
los tíos	aunt and uncle (occasionally, "uncles")

\*When the first three letters of a Spanish word are e + s + consonant, it may help to recognize it by imagining the word without the initial e. As Spanish does not permit words to begin in s + consonant, an e very frequently appears at the beginning. Among many other such words that that undergo the same phenomenon are : escuela, estado, español, escándalo, espinaca, etc.

## INTERROGATIVOS (QUESTION WORDS):

All interrogatives in Spanish, when directly asking a question or indirectly implying one (No sé cuándo es. = I don't know when it is.), take a written accent mark.

¿cómo?	how (used alone, "what?")
¿cuál/es?	which?, what?
¿cuándo?	when?
¿cuánto?*	how many?, how much?
¿de quién?, ¿de quiénes?	whose?
¿dónde?, ¿adónde?, ¿de dónde?	where?, where to? (to where?), where from?
¿por qué?	why?
¿qué?	what?, which?
¿quién?, ¿quiénes?	who?

\*Cuánto also has feminine, and masculine and feminine plural endings. See section 3.2.

NÚMEROS (NUMBERS):

cero	zero
uno	one
dos	two
tres	three
cuatro	four
cinco	five
seis	six
siete	seven
ocho	eight
nueve	nine
diez	ten
once	eleven
doce	twelve
trece	thirteen
catorce	fourteen
quince	fifteen
dieciséis (diez y seis)*	sixteen
diecisiete (diez y siete)*	seventeen
dieciocho (diez y ocho)*	eighteen
diecinueve (diez y nueve)*	nineteen
veinte	twenty

\*The three-word forms of these numbers are becoming outdated. In the rare case when numbers are spelled out, which form you will see will likely depend on the date of the text.

OTROS ADJETIVOS (OTHER ADJECTIVES):

mucho	many, much, a lot
pobre	poor, unfortunate
poco	few, a little
rico	rich, delicious

OTRAS PALABRAS (OTHER WORDS):

casi	almost (cognate: quasi)
hoy	today
mañana	tomorrow
para	for*
por	for*
si	if
sí	yes
también	also, too

\*The difference between these two prepositions will be studied in section 5.5.

SUSTANTIVOS (NOUNS):

el campo	country, countryside, rural area, field
la chica	girl
el chico	boy
los chicos	boys and girls (or "boys")*
la ciudad	city
el/la estadounidense	U.S. native, American
el fútbol	soccer
el fútbol americano	football
el hombre	man
la muchacha	girl
la muchacho	boy
los muchachos	boys and girls (or "boys")*
la mujer	woman, wife
el país	country, nation
el pasatiempo	pastime

\*The masculine gender is the default in Spanish if the group is mixed, that is, of boys and girls. Chicos could also refer to a group made up of boys only. If it is important to know which of the two translations is the correct one, the situation should clarify the meaning.

VERBOS (VERBS) / PREPOSICIONES (PREPOSITIONS) / CONJUNCIONES (CONJUNCTIONS):

a	to, at
ahora	now
allí	there
aquí	here
con	with
de	of, from, about
e	and (before words beginning in -i, -hi)
en	in, on
entre	between, among
es	(he, she, it) is/(you) are*
está	(he, she, it) is/(you) are*
hay	there is, there are
muy	very
o	or
pero	but
y	and

\*The difference between these forms will be studied in Section 3.4.

# UNIT 3: INTRODUCTION TO THE PRESENT TENSE AND ADJECTIVES

## OBJECTIVES

---

After completing this module, you will be able to:

- Identify -ar verbs and translate them appropriately in the present tense.
- Demonstrate understanding of the nuances of adjective placement.
- Recognize the subtle differences between ser, estar, and tener, all of which can be translated as "to be."
- Memorize the differences between ser and estar when used with the same adjective.

## 3.1 Present Tense of -ar Verbs

Infinitives (which correspond to the English “to go,” “to drink,” etc.) end in *-ar*, *-er* and *-ir*. *-Ar* verbs are by far the most common of the three:

hablar	to speak
beber	to drink
abrir	to open

When a regular *-ar* verb is conjugated, the *-ar* of the infinitive is dropped and the following endings are added: *-o*, *-as*, *-a*, *-amos*, *-áis*, *-an*. Thus the verb *hablar*, conjugated in the present tense, is:

Person		Singular		Plural
<b>1st</b>	yo	hablo (I speak)	nosotros/-as	hablamos (we speak)
<b>2nd</b>	tú	hablas (you speak)	vosotros/-as	habláis (you speak)
<b>3rd</b>	él, ella, Ud.	habla (he/she/it speaks)	ellos, ellas, Uds.	hablan (they/you speak)

The subject pronouns listed in parentheses will not be present in the texts you read and are given here only to help initially. As you learn more and more verb forms, it will become challenging to guess the meanings if you do not really recognize the forms, so taking the time to memorize the endings now will help you save time when translating in the future .

A few generalizations can be made about verb endings, which are true of all regular verbs (*-ar*, *-er*, and *-ir*) in the present tense (and in some other tenses):

- The only form ending in an unaccented *-o* corresponds to *yo*, meaning “I.”
- The only forms ending in *-s* correspond to *tú* and *vosotros* , both meaning “you” (fam.).
- The form ending in vowel + *mos* always corresponds to *nosotros*, meaning “we,” **in all tenses**.
- The only form ever to end in *-n* corresponds to *ellos/-as* and *Uds.*, meaning “they” and “you” (pl.), **in all tenses**.

The present tense has four possible and common translations. Using *hablo* as the model, these are:

- 1. I speak (the most frequent translation)
- 2. I am speaking (the progressive form [see also section 8.5.])
- 3. I do speak (the emphatic form)
- 4. I will (am going to) speak (near future meaning, common in speech)

Context usually dictates that one of these translations is more logical than others, though *hablo español* could just as easily mean “I am speaking Spanish” as “I speak Spanish.” Often the presence of an adverb of time will indicate the most logical meaning or best translation.

Hablo español ahora.	I'm speaking Spanish now.
Te hablo mañana.	I'll speak to you tomorrow.

When the meaning is emphatic, it is common to insert the word *sí* after the subject. The *sí* itself is not translated, but is rather rendered by the inclusion of the emphatic “do” or “does”:

Giorgio <i>sí</i> habla español e italiano.	Giorgio <b>does</b> speak Spanish and Italian.
Yo <i>sí</i> quiero visitar el museo contigo.	I <b>do</b> want to visit the museum with you.

There are also three less frequent meanings of the present tense. Occasionally it is used for a command. (See section 11.4.) It is also used in questions when the English translation is “shall” or “will.” (¿Compro la ropa? [“Shall I buy the clothes?”]) At times, its meaning is past, when used at the “historical present.”

## 3.2 Agreement and Placement of Adjectives

Adjectives in Spanish agree in number and gender with the noun they modify, as, for example seen in the previous reading: una ciudad moderna, próspera (feminine, singular), or centro económico (masculine, singular). In these examples, as the noun ciudad is feminine and singular, it takes the feminine singular form of the adjectives, moderna and próspera. Likewise, the masculine singular noun centro takes the masculine singular form of the adjective, económico.

Adjectives ending in -o have four forms:

mucho	muchos
mucha	muchas

Adjectives ending in -e have two forms, one for all singular nouns and one for all plural ones:

importante	importantes
pobre	pobres

Adjectives ending in a consonant have four endings:

trabajador	trabajadores
trabajadora	trabajadoras

These include adjectives of nationality:

español	españoles
española	españolas

When reading in Spanish, try to get used to looking for adjectives after the noun and translating them before the noun. In theory, an infinite number of adjectives can follow a noun:

Es un país libre, democrático, próspero, moderno, y joven.

It is a free, democratic, prosperous, modern, and young country.

Adjectives that follow the noun inherently imply a contrast:



La ciudad vieja es bella, pero la ciudad nueva no.

The old city is beautiful, but not the new city.

Adjectives of quantity (including numbers, almost all of which are adjectives) precede the noun they modify:

Muchos chicos están aquí.

There are many boys here.

Hay pocas ciudades en el desierto.

There are few cities in the desert.

Existen tres países en la región.

There are three countries in the region.

At times an adjective that normally follows the noun may precede it for emphasis, when no contrast is implied:

La blanca nieve es muy bella.

The white snow is very beautiful.

La vieja ciudad es muy interesante.

The old city is very interesting.

Although there may not necessarily be a way to render the difference in translation of many nouns with an adjective placed before versus after, remember that post-placement (adjective after noun) implies if not states a contrast; pre-placement is for emphasis. The speakers in the two sentences above are emphasizing the whiteness of the snow and oldness of the city, without any implicit contrast with anything else.

In a few cases, however, placing the same adjective before versus after the noun normally changes its meaning. Two such adjectives are *grande* and *antiguo*. (*Grande* changes form, to *gran*, whenever it precedes a singular noun.)

Es un país **grande**.

It is a **large country**.

Es un **gran** país.

It's a **great** country.

Es una ciudad **antigua**, de los tiempos romanos.

It's an **ancient (a very old)** city, from Roman times.

Pedro es mi **antiguo** marido.

Pedro is my **former (ex)** husband.

Occasionally in the plural when *grandes* precedes a noun, it may have the meaning of "major," which in some cases can be a synonym of "great": ¿Quiénes son los grandes poetas de Perú? ("Who are the major [great] poets of Peru?") Also, *grande* does not shorten to *gran* when used in the superlative. (See section 7.2.)

The above should be taken as a general guideline for the placement and meaning of *antiguo*, as there are times when for emphasis it is placed before the noun and mean "very old."

## 3.3 Inversion of Subject in Declarative Sentences

Spanish very often inverts the order of subject (+ adj.) and verb for emphasis or style. Although in simple sentences, as those below, the subject should be apparent, in longer sentences, you may have to stop and study the sentence in order to be sure you have found it. This inversion does not typically cause any change in translation except, perhaps, emphasis.

Es muy rápida la vida en la ciudad.  
Es la vida en la ciudad muy rápida.

Life in the city is very fast.

Es muy difícil el griego.  
Es el griego muy difícil.

Greek is very difficult.

Both of these examples would be more frequently expressed as:

La vida es muy rápida en la ciudad.

Life in the city is very fast.

El griego es muy difícil.

Greek is very difficult

As in English, there is a great variety of placement for prepositional phrases. The first sentence could also be expressed as:

En la ciudad la vida es muy rápida.  
La vida en la ciudad es muy rápida.  
Es la vida muy rápida en la ciudad.

Life in the city is very fast.

## 3.4 Present Tense of SER and ESTAR

Spanish uses two basic verbs that mean “to be,” the infinitives of which are *ser* (of which you have seen the forms *es* and *son*) and *estar* (of which you have seen the forms *está* and *están*). Their complete conjugations follow:

### SER

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	soy	somos
2nd	eres	sois
3rd	es	son

### ESTAR

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	estoy	estamos
2nd	estás	estáis
3rd	está	están

*Ser* is used to:

- equate one thing to another
- tell time
- show possession and origin, and, with adjectives
- to describe a condition that is viewed as the norm or is an inherent characteristic when used with adjectives
- Spanish also uses it when “to be” means “to take place,” such as an event

El español es una lengua romance.	Spanish is a Romance language.
Son las dos y media.	It's two thirty.
La casa es de los señores Cantú.	The house is Mr. and Mrs. Cantú's.
Ana es de Lanzarote; una de las Islas Canarias.	Ana is from Lanzarote, one of the Canary Islands.
El agua es calma.	The water is calm.
La fiesta es mañana.	The party is (takes place) tomorrow.

Estar is used to:

- show location
- to show conditions, changes from the norm, and to express appearance or surprise when used with adjectives.

In the latter usages, see how the translation may differ from a form of "to be."

Los padres están en casa.	The parents are at home.
Las ventanas están abiertas.	The windows are open.
Ella está vieja.	She looks (seems, appears) old.
¡La paella está rica!	The paella tastes(is) delicious!

Although ser and estar do not usually present comprehension problems, it is useful to be aware of the nuances of possible translations that are not a form of "to be."

## 3.5 Adjectives that Change Meaning with SER and ESTAR

These, among other adjectives, change meaning when used with *ser* and *estar*. This is not, however, a long list to be memorized; many of the uses with *ser* describe what is the norm or an inherent characteristic while those of *estar* reflect a condition or state that differs from the norm or is subject to change. Memorize the meanings of these phrases with *ser* and *estar* to make sure you can recognize them when they appear.

<b>ser</b>	<b>estar</b>
ser aburrido – to be boring	estar aburrido – to be bored
ser (un) borracho – to be a drunk	estar borracho – to be drunk
ser distraído – to be absentminded	estar distraído – to be distracted
ser enfermo – to be an invalid	estar enfermo – to be ill
ser interesado – to be selfish	estar interesado – to be interested
ser libre – to be free (unrestrained)	estar libre – to be unoccupied
ser listo – to be smart, clever	estar listo – to be ready
ser nuevo – to be new	estar nuevo – to be different, new in appearance
ser orgulloso – to be haughty	estar orgulloso – to be proud
ser rico – to be rich, to taste good	estar rico – to be delicious
ser seguro – to be safe	estar seguro – to be sure
ser solo – to be lonely	estar solo – to be alone
ser verde – to be green, to be without experience	estar verde – to be unripe
ser vivo – to be sharp, alert	estar vivo – to be alive

## 3.6 Present Tense of tener and Idioms with tener

Tener means “to have” in the sense of “to own” or “to possess.”

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	tengo	tenemos
2nd	tienes	tenéis
3rd	tiene	tienen

Ejemplos:

Tengo tres hijos.	I have three children.
¿Tienes una casa grande?	Do you have a large house?

Many of its most common uses come in the form of idioms, almost all of which are translated as “to be”:

tener ... años	to be... years old
tener calor	to be hot, warm (applied to a person [or animal])
tener celos	to be jealous
tener cuidado	to be careful
tener la culpa	to be at fault, to be to blame
tener éxito (false friend)	to be successful
tener frío	to be cold (applied to a person [or animal])
tener hambre*	to be hungry
tener miedo	to be afraid
tener prisa	to be in a hurry
(no) tener razón	to be right (wrong)
tener sed	to be thirsty
tener suerte	to be lucky
tener vergüenza	to be ashamed

\*Although the cognate is not obvious, it is “famine.”

In the evolution of Spanish, a late shift occurred, by which many words beginning with *f* changed to *h*, to put it very simply. You will encounter other such words in this text that underwent the same phenomenon. *Huir* (“to flee”), for example, was once *fuir* and is related to “fugitive” (someone who flees, Spanish *fugitivo*).

Translated literally, these expressions, when conjugated, are stating, “I have... years, she has cold, etc.,” As such, *años*, *calor*, and all other words presented here are nouns, which are modified by adjectives. Therefore, you will see a form of the adjective *mucho* (or *poco* [“little”]) or the phrase *un poco de* [“a little (bit of)"] modifying these nouns, not the adverb *muy*:

Tienen mucha sed.	They are very thirsty.
Alonso tiene mucho éxito.	Alonso is very successful.
Tengo un poco de prisa	I'm in a little bit of a hurry.

Two other common idioms with *tener* exist. In the first one, after the conjugated form of the verb, *que* is used followed by an infinitive, translating as “to have to do something.” *Tener ganas de* + infinitive means “to feel like doing something.” Since *ganas* (literally, “desires” or “hunger”) is a noun, like in the idioms above, it too is modified by a form of *mucho*, as you can see in the last example.

Tenemos que esperar.	We have to wait.
¿Tienes que estudiar?	Do you have to study?
Tengo ganas de descansar.	I feel like resting.
Amelia no tiene muchas ganas de estudiar.	Amelia does not feel much like studying.

## 3.7 Possessive Adjectives

The following are the short forms of the possessive adjectives in Spanish:

Singular	Plural
mi, mis (my)	nuestro/-a, nuestros/-as (our)
tu, tus (your (fam.))	vuestro/-a, vuestros/-as (your (fam. pl.))
su, sus (his, her, its, your (form.))	su, sus (they/their, your (form. pl. [fam. pl. also in L.A.]))

Spanish possessive adjectives agree with the noun possessed, not the possessor or owner, unlike English. They agree both in number and gender for what is owned.

Tengo mi dinero.	I have my money.
Aquí está nuestra casa.	Here is our house.
Tenemos tus libros.	We have your books.

That the possessive adjective agrees in number and gender with the noun modified should not cause comprehension problems.

Due to the ambiguity of *su* and *sus*, a prepositional phrase can clarify the meaning if necessary. When the prepositional phrase is used, the possessive adjective is dropped and is replaced by the corresponding article. For example, the sentence ¿Dónde está *su* perro? is ambiguous out of context. If the meaning remains unclear, you should see one of the following prepositional phrases to clarify *su*:

¿Dónde está el perro <b>de él</b> ?	Where is his dog?
¿Dónde está el perro <b>de ella</b> ?	Where is her dog?
¿Dónde está el perro <b>de Ud.</b> ?	Where is your (s.) dog?
¿Dónde está el perro <b>de ellos/-as</b> ?	Where is their dog?
¿Dónde está el perro <b>de Uds.</b> ?	Where is your (pl.) dog?



# *Unit 3: Basic Vocabulary*

## VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

### ADJETIVOS:

alguno	some
barato	cheap, inexpensive
bueno	good
cada	each, every
caliente	warm, hot
caro	expensive, dear
difícil	difficult, hard
distraído	absentminded, distracted
enfermo	ill, sick ("invalid," as noun)
fácil	easy
frío	cold
gran/ grande	great, large
malo	bad
medio	half (media- half past the hour)
nuevo	new
orgulloso	proud, haughty
otro	other, another
pequeño	little, small
rico	rich, wealthy, delicious
seguro	safe, sure
solo	alone, lonely
todo	all, every
viejo	old
vivo	alive, clever, sharp

**¡Ojo!** When todo or one of its forms precedes a noun (used as an adjective), no comprehension problem is presented. When todo is used a pronoun, however, you must distinguish between singular and plural meaning:

- Todos están aquí.
- **Everyone** is here.

- Todo es fácil.
- **Everything** is easy.

### ADJETIVOS: LOS COLORES:

amarillo	yellow
anaranjado	orange
azul	blue (cognate: azure)
blanco	white (cognate: to blanch)
castaño	brown, chestnut, hazel
color de café	brown
gris	gray
marrón	brown
morado	purple
naranja	orange
negro	black
pardo	brown
púrpura	purple
rojo	red
rosado	pink
verde	green (cognate: verdant)

### ADVERBIOS:

bien	well
mal	bad, badly
menos	less (combined with adjective- least)
pronto	soon
siempre	always
sólo	only
todavía	still, yet
ya	already (sometimes, "now" or "later"; See s

ADVERBIOS TEMPORALES (ADVERBS OF TIME):

antes	before
después	after, afterwards
esta mañana	this morning
esta tarde	this afternoon
esta noche	tonight
tarde	late
temprano	early
todos los días	everyday

EXPRESIONES:

a casa	home (to home) (expresses motion)
a la vez	at the same time
a tiempo	on time
en casa	at home (expresses location)
hay que + inf.	it is necessary (to do something)
no sólo ... sino también	not only... but also
por eso	therefore, for that reason, that's why
¿qué tal + (form of estar)?	how are you/ is he, she, etc. (doing)?

NACIONALIDADES:

As appropriate, the masculine form of nationalities also serves as nouns for the language of the country. Both forms function as nouns referring to natives of these countries.

alemán	German
austríaco	Austrian
brasileño	Brazilian*
canadiense	Canadian*
español	Spaniard
francés	French
griego	Greek
inglés	British
noruego	Norwegian
portugués	Portuguese
sueco	Swedish
suizo	Swiss

\*These endings (-eño and -ense) are very common adjective endings referring to the natives or inhabitants of countries and cities:

madrileño	native of Madrid
limeño	native of Lima
costarricense	Costa Rican/ native of Costa Rica
estadounidense	American/ native of the United States

All such words can also carry meaning of “pertaining to” without indicating a person:

Es (una) costumbre madrileña cenar muy tarde.	It's a Madrid custom (custom of Madrid) to eat dinner very late.
---	--

NÚMEROS:

treinta	thirty
cuarenta	forty
cincuenta	fifty
sesenta	sixty
setenta	seventy
ochenta	eighty
noventa	ninety
cien(to)	one hundred
mil	one thousand

OTRAS PALABRAS:

algo	something
como	like, such, as, how
más	more (or with adjective- most)
porque	because
que	that, which, who

PRONOMBRES (PRONOUNS):

todo el mundo	everyone (synonymous with todos)
cada uno/-a	each one, every one

SUSTANTIVOS:

---

el agua (fem.)	water*
el/la alumno/-a	student (false friend)
el año	year
el árbol	tree (cognate-arbor, arboreal)
el bolígrafo	pen
el carro	car (L.A.)
la casa	house, home
el centro	center, center of city, uptown, downtown
el coche	car (Sp., esp.)
la comida	food, meal, evening meal
la cosa	thing
el cuaderno	notebook
la cuenta	bill**
el cuento	story, short story**, ***
el cumpleaños	birthday
el día	day
la escuela	school
el/la estudiante	student
la fecha	date (of month, year)
la frase	sentence, phrase
la hija	daughter
el hijo	son
los hijos	children*****
la historia	story (in a general sense), tale, history ***
el lápiz	pencil
la mañana	morning*****
el mes	month
la mesa	table
la noche	evening, night
la nota	grade; bill (currency); note
el papel	paper
la pared	wall
la pizarra	chalkboard
la pregunta	question
la puerta	door**
el puerto	port**
la ropa	clothes, clothing (false friend)



la semana	week
el señor (Sr.)	Mr.
la señora (Sra.)	Mrs.
los señores (Sres.)	Mr. and Mrs.
la señorita (Srta.)	Miss
la silla	chair
la tarde	afternoon
la telenovela	soap opera
el tiempo	time, weather
la ventana	window
la vez	time, occasion
el viaje	trip
la vida	life (cognate- vital, vitality)

\*Agua takes the masculine definite article for phonetic reasons only. It remains feminine and all adjectives modifying it are feminine (see section 3.2.): El agua está fría hoy.

\*\*Be careful to differentiate between the very similar nouns el cuento and la cuenta, as well as el puerto and la puerta.

\*\*\*Cuento and historia are often not synonymous. The former often refers to the literary genre while the latter mean “story” in a general sense. If one wrote of “the story of Romeo and Juliet,” la historia de Romeo y Julieta would be used.

\*\*\*\*When mañana is preceded by an article, its meaning is “morning.” When not, it is an adverb of time and means “tomorrow.”

\*\*\*\*\*Hijos are always one’s own children, regardless of age. Niños refers to small children, which may or may not be one’s own.

## VERBOS:

ayudar	to help
buscar	to look for, to search for
caminar	to walk
cenar	to dine, to have dinner, to eat the evening meal
cocinar	to cook (cognate: cuisine)
comprar	to buy
dejar	to leave (behind), to abandon, to let, to permit
escuchar	to listen
esperar	to wait, to hope, to expect
lavar	to wash (cognate: lavatory)
llegar	to arrive*
llevar	to carry, to take
limpiar	to clean
mirar	to look at (cognate- to <b>admire</b> )
nadar	to swim (cognate: natatorium)
necesitar	to need
pagar	to pay
preguntar	to ask
preparar	to prepare
sacar	to take (photos), to take out, to get a grade
tomar	to take (in/by the hand), to drink, to eat (not to go)
usar	to use, to wear
viajar	to travel (cognate- voyage)

\* It may help to remember that the verb of motion of the two is llegar, which has the g, as in the verb of motion “to go.”

# UNIT 4: MORE PRESENT TENSE VERBS AND PERSONAL A

## OBJECTIVES

---

After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Identify and memorize the present tense endings for -er and -ir verbs and translate the verbs appropriately.
- Recognize common irregular verbs in the present tense.
- Demonstrate understanding of how to translate from Spanish to English when an indefinite article is omitted.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the uses of the infinitive in various scenarios.

## 4.1 Present Tense of -er and -ir Verbs

When a regular -er or -ir verb is conjugated, the -er or -ir of the infinitive is dropped, and the following endings are added: -o, -es, -e, emos (for -er verbs) or -imos (for -ir verbs), -éis (for -er verbs) or -ís (for -ir verbs), and -en.

Note the similarity with hablar: all of the consonants are the same; only the vowels differ.

	<b>Hablar</b>	<b>Beber</b>	<b>Abrir</b>
<b>yo</b>	hablo	bebo	abro
<b>Tú</b>	hablas	bebes	abres
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	habla	bebe	abre
<b>Nosotros</b>	hablamos	bebemos	abrimos
<b>Vosotros</b>	habláis	bebéis	abrís
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	hablan	beben	abren

Verb forms from now on will be presented without the subject pronouns. As each form has its unique vowel or vowel + consonant ending, you should regularly be able to deduce the subject from the verb form.

Remember the four possible common translations of the present tense. Bebo, for example, may translate as:

1. I drink.
2. I am drinking.
3. I do drink.
4. I will (am going to) drink. (Indicating the near future. Context will help decide if this is the correct translation.)

## 4.2 Present Tense of Other Irregular Verbs: Part 1

The following verbs are very high-frequency and all are irregular in the first-person singular, while *ir* is irregular throughout.

	Decir (To say, tell)	Hacer (to do, make)	Ir (to go)
<b>yo</b>	digo	hago	voy
<b>Tú</b>	dices	haces	vas
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	dice	hace	va
<b>Nosotros</b>	decimos	hacemos	vamos
<b>Vosotros</b>	decís	hacéis	vais
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	dicen	hacen	van

The verb *ir* often combines with the preposition *a* + infinitive to render future meaning (esp. near future), as in English.

Voy a trabajar esta noche.	I'm going to work tonight.
Nidia va a cocinar mañana.	Nidia is going to cook tomorrow.
Mis padres van a viajar esta semana.	My parents are going to travel this week.
¿Uds. no van a ir con nosotros?	You aren't going to go with us?

The verb *hacer* is used to express various weather phenomena:

Hace calor.	It's warm/hot.
Hace mucho frío.	It's very cold.
Hace sol.	It's sunny.
Hace viento.	It's windy.
¿Qué tiempo hace?	What's the weather like?
Hace buen tiempo.	The weather is good.
Hace mal tiempo.	The weather is bad.

Note in the second example about that, like idioms with *tener*, those used

with *hacer* also take nouns. Therefore, you will see a form of *mucho*, not *muy* modifying them.

Do not confuse *Hace frío* with *Tengo frío* or *Hace calor* with *Tiene calor*. The expressions with *tener* can only take a person (or animal) as subject:

---

*Hace mucho frío en enero.*

*It's very cold in January.*

---

*Con frecuencia tengo frío.*

*I'm frequently cold.*

---

Also do not confuse *hacer* with “have” or “has” when translating. Although they look similar, their meaning never is the same.

## 4.3 Personal a

When the direct object of a verb is a human being, the marker *a* is placed before it. (Often the marker is not used when the direct object is an indefinite person or persons [Buscan alumnos...], but this is not a translation problem). This *a* is **never** translated. It is at times also seen before countries, cities, concepts and animals when these are personalized, that is, the speaker feels strongly about them.

Mira a Juana.	She's looking at Juana.
Veo a David.	I see David.
Dejamos al perro en casa.	We're leaving the dog at home.
Amo a la libertad.	I love liberty.
Vamos a visitar a España.	We're going to visit Spain.

At times the personal *a* distinguishes between the subject and direct object. In the first example below, the personal *a* indicates the direct object, i.e., "She is waiting for **someone**." ("Whom" is the direct object in the first example, and "who" is the subject in the second.) The main point is simply not to translate the *a*.

No sé a quién espera.	I don't know whom she waits for.
No sé quién espera.	I don't know who is waiting.

When followed by *el*, unless part of a proper name, the personal *a* contracts with it to form *al*.

¿Ayudas al vecino?	Are you helping the neighbor?
No siempre creemos a Jacinta .	We don't always believe Jacinta.

The preposition *a* normally precedes an indirect object, and it is often translated as "to," depending on how the English is rendered:

Voy a mandarle el dinero a mamá.	I'm going to send the money to Mom.	I'm going to send Mom the money.
Llevan a Marta a la fiesta.	They're taking Marta to the party.	

In very occasional cases, when both a direct and an indirect object are spelled out (not used in pronoun form), the personal *a* is omitted before the direct object so

that the reader can tell which is the direct object and which is the indirect, as word order does not specify that the direct object must always precede the indirect.

Presenta su hija a Rafael.

He introduces his daughter to Rafael.

---



## 4.4 Adjectives Used as Nouns

It is very common for adjectives in Spanish to take the place of nouns. Study the following examples.

El viejo no está en el hospital.	The old man is not in the hospital.
El joven asiste a la escuela.	The young boy attends school.
La joven prepara la lección.	The young girl prepares the lesson.
Los ciegos estudian en la universidad.	The blind study at the university.

To write *el hombre viejo*, *el muchacho joven*, or *las personas ciegas* would normally be considered redundant. Although you may encounter it, it is much more common to see the noun omitted and the adjective used in its place.

## 4.5 Omission of the Indefinite Article

The indefinite article is at times omitted in Spanish when it is used in English. In these cases, or when the English sounds awkward or incorrect, merely add the indefinite article to your translation. The common cases in which Spanish omits the indefinite article are:

1. Before a profession unmodified by an adjective:

Su padre es ingeniero.

His father is an engineer.

Soy médica. ¿Y Ud.?

I'm a doctor. And you?

But it is used when the noun is modified:

Su madre es una médica buena.

His mother is a good doctor.

2. Before certain adjectives:

**Cierto** hombre desea su presencia.

A certain man desires your presence.

No hago **tal/ semejante** cosa.

I don't do such a thing.

Leen **otro** libro.

They're reading another book.

3. In an exclamation, after Qué:

¡Qué día largo!

What a long day!

¡Qué clase difícil es!

What a difficult class it is!

4. Because of the ambiguity between the number one (uno) and the indefinite article, the latter is often omitted when the meaning is "a" or "an":

¿Tienes carro?

Do you have a car?

¿Tiene novio?

Does he/she have a boyfriend?

To insert the indefinite article un in the above sentences could imply "one car" or "one boyfriend" versus two.

## 4.6 Present Tense of Other Irregular Verbs: Part II

Here are the conjugations of more high-frequency verbs that are irregular in the first-person singular of the present tense. You need to be able to recognize all of these forms actively.

	<b>Dar (to give)</b>	<b>Caer (to fall)</b>	<b>Oír (to hear)</b>	<b>Poner (to put)</b>
<b>yo</b>	doy	caigo	oigo	pongo
<b>tú</b>	das	caes	oyes	pones
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	da	cae	oye	pone
<b>Nosotros</b>	damos	caemos	oímos	ponemos
<b>Vosotros</b>	dais	caéis	oís	ponéis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	dan	caen	oyen	ponen

More verbs to memorize so that you can quickly translate them:

	<b>salir (to leave/go out)</b>	<b>Traer (to bring)</b>	<b>Venir (to come)</b>	<b>Ver (To see)</b>
<b>yo</b>	salgo	traigo	vengo	veo
<b>tú</b>	sales	traes	vienes	ves
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	sale	trae	viene	ve
<b>Nosotros</b>	salimos	traemos	venimos	vemos
<b>Vosotros</b>	salís	traéis	venís	veis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	salen	traen	vienen	ven

## Unit 4: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

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#### ADJETIVOS:

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ciego	blind
cierto	(a) certain
joven	young
junto	together
largo	long (false friend)
mismo	same, very
mudo	mute
primero	first
próximo	next
semejante	similar, such
simpático	nice, friendly
sordo	deaf
tal	such, such a
tonto	silly, stupid
último	last

#### ADVERBIOS:

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adentro (dentro)	inside
afuera (fuera)	outside
junto	together

# CONJUNCIÓN:

pues	since, as, because, for
------	-------------------------

# EXPRESIONES:

al extranjero	abroad (destination)
creer que no	to think not, not to think so
creer que sí	to think so
en el extranjero	abroad (location)
hacer un viaje	to take a trip
¿no?	isn't it so (true)? (used after an affirmative)
por lo menos, al menos	at least
la semana que viene (la semana próxima)	next week
Es verdad.	It's true
¿No es verdad?	Isn't it so (true)?
¿verdad?	isn't it so (true)? Right?
en alguna parte	somewhere
en ninguna parte	nowhere
en todas partes	everywhere
dar un paseo	to take a walk, ride
poner la mesa	to set the table
por todos lados	everywhere

# LOS MESES DEL AÑO (MONTHS OF THE YEAR):

enero	January
febrero	February
marzo	March
abril	April
mayo	May
junio	June
julio	July
agosto	August
septiembre	September
octubre	October
noviembre	November
diciembre	December

PREPOSICIONES:

contra	against
desde	of, from, since
durante	during

SUSTANTIVOS:

el/la amigo/-a	friend
el colegio	high school (false friend)
la estación	season
el fin de semana	weekend
la gente	people
el invierno	winter
el otoño	autumn, fall
la primavera	spring
el siglo	century
el trabajo	work, written work, term paper
el verano	summer
la verdad	truth

## VERBOS:

abrir	to open
alquilar	to rent
amar	to love
aprender	to learn
asistir	to attend (false friend)
barrer	to sweep
beber	to drink (cognate: imbibe)
comer	to eat
contestar	to answer
creer	to believe (cognates: credible, credo)
deber	to owe; ought, should*
desear	to desire, to wish, to want
discutir	to argue, to discuss
enviar	to send (cognate: envoi, envoy)
escribir	to write
leer	to read (cognate: legible)
mandar	to send, to order (cognate: mandate)
mantener	to maintain, to keep up; to support financially
pasar	to happen; to spend (time)
pasar por	to pass through; to go through
pasar a	to move on [to the next thing]
recibir	to receive
recoger	to pick up, to collect, to gather
secar	to dry
subir	to go up, to climb
trabajar	to work
vender	to sell
vivir	to live

\*Deber is not a synonym of tener que, which indicates strong obligation or necessity. Although they are at times quite close in meaning, deber tends to be “softer,” indicating what one should or ought to do.

\*\*Mantener has all of the irregularities of tener, in the present tense, as well as others to be studied later.

# UNIT 5: THE INFINITIVE, STEM-CHANGE VERBS, AND POR AND PARA

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Learn to recognize stem-changing verbs.
- Accurately translate demonstrative adjectives and pronouns.
- Identify subtle differences between the verbs *saber* and *conocer*.
- Determine the most accurate translation of the prepositions *por* and *para*.



## 5.1 Uses of the Infinitive

1. The use of the infinitive that can most easily cause comprehension problems is when it comes after the contraction *al* and is the equivalent of “upon” or “on” + present participle:

*Al llegar, veo a mis parientes.*

*Upon/On arriving, I see my relatives.*

*Al terminar, vamos a salir a un restaurante.*

*Upon finishing, we're going to go out to a restaurant.*

The above *al* (*al llegar*, *al terminar*) is not the same as the contraction *al* (*a* + *el*), which usually translates as “to the”: *Vamos al concierto.* (We're going to the concert.)

2. Other uses, which seldom cause comprehension problems, include:  
As in English, Spanish routinely uses the infinitive form of the verb after a conjugated one:

*Lucía no desea cocinar.*

*Lucía doesn't want to cook.*

3. The infinitive is the verb form used when the verb is the subject of the sentence. It is sometimes preceded by the masculine singular definite article, which is never translated. (The use or absence of the article does not change the meaning at all, however using the article makes slightly more formal Spanish.)

*(El) Leer ficción me interesa.*

*Reading fiction interests me.*

*Nadar es uno de mis pasatiempos.*

*Swimming is one of my pastimes*

4. The infinitive is the form of the verb you will see after a preposition in Spanish. The preposition is almost never translated\*.

Vamos a trabajar.	We are going to work.
Salgo después de estudiar.	I go out after studying.
Amenaza con salir.	He threatens to leave.
Enrique me ayuda a aprender.	Enrique helps me to learn.
Nos invita a ir.	She invites us to go.
Tratamos de ayudar.	We try to help.

\*One case in which the preposition happens to be translated in English is with the verb insistir: Insiste en hablar = she insists **on** speaking.

**Ojo!** There is a difference between salir de and salir a. Salir a means to “to go out” as in “to go out into the street”: Sale a la calle. Salir de means “to leave a place” and the de is not normally translated: Salimos de la casa.(We leave the house.)

## 5.2 Stem-Changing Verbs

There are many -ar, -er and -ir stem-changing (sometimes called “radical” [“having to do with the root”]) verbs in Spanish.

In the most common patterns, the e of the stem changes to ie, the o to ue, and the e to i. All of these changes occur only in stressed syllables, in other words, in all persons except nosotros and vosotros. That the stems of these verbs change should not present comprehension problems, provided that you recognize the infinitives.

	<b>pensar (to think)</b>	<b>dormir (to sleep)</b>	<b>pedir (to ask for/request)</b>
<b>yo</b>	pienso	duermo	pido
<b>tú</b>	piensas	duermes	pides
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	piensa	duerme	pide
<b>nosotros</b>	pensamos	dormimos	pedimos
<b>vosotros</b>	pensáis	dormís	pedís
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	piensan	duermen	piden

One exception to the above pattern is the verb jugar (“to play” [a sport, a game]), which used to have an o in the stem, but made a late shift to a u, which is the vowel that changes to ue.

In the vocabulary lists in this text, stem-changing verbs are indicated by the vowel(s) to which the stem changes, put in parentheses immediately after the infinitive. Ex. dormir (ue)

## 5.3 Demonstrative Adjectives and Pronouns

Spanish uses three demonstrative adjectives (each of which has its masculine and feminine, singular and plural forms) and shows a degree of subtlety absent in English:

este	this (near the speaker)
ese	that (somewhat further from the speaker)
aquel	that (over there, far from the speaker)

Their forms are as follows:

	Masculine	Feminine
<b>singular</b>	este	esta
<b>plural</b>	estos	estas
<b>singular</b>	ese	esa
<b>plural</b>	esos	esas
<b>singular</b>	aquel	aquella
<b>plural</b>	aquellos	aquellas

Ejemplos:

Esta clase es mi favorita	This class is my favorite (one).
¿Ves ese pequeño libro azul?	Do you see that (nearby) little blue book?
Aquellos turistas son extranjeros.	Those tourists (far away/over there) are foreigners.

The two keys to achieving accurate understanding of demonstrative pronouns are:

1. Remembering that *ese* and *aquel* should be thought of in terms of distance from the speaker and that their subtlety cannot be rendered by one single word in English.
2. Distinguishing between forms of *este* and *ese* (A possibly helpful

mnemonic device is “This and these have the T’s. That and those don’t.”)

The demonstrative adjectives above may all stand alone and function as pronouns, meaning “this one,” “that one,” “these,” and “those.” Until 1959, the demonstrative pronouns were required to bear written accents, as in *éste*, *ése*, *aqué*l, etc., but these accents were deemed unnecessary except to avoid ambiguity by the Royal Spanish Academy of the Language (La Real Academia de la Lengua Española), the most prestigious body that governs the standards of the written language. (This is in Spain. Some Spanish American countries have similar organizations, the linguistic norms of which at times differ from Spain’s. [See Cultural note: I.] In the early 21st century, there is still no agreed on uniformity regarding the use or omission of these accent marks. There is no ambiguity when the demonstrative adjectives are always followed by nouns or when the demonstrative pronouns stand alone. Accents on the latter are not used in the text.

Tengo dos regalos. Este es para mi hermana y ese es para mi prima.

I have two gifts. This one is for my sister and that one is for my cousin.

Esta casa es donde viven mis padres. En aquella viven mis abuelos.

This house is where my parents live. My grandparents live in that one (far away).

### DEMONSTRATIVES TO SAY “THE FORMER” AND “THE LATTER”

The forms *este* and *aquel*, as well as their feminine and plural forms, when referring to two different antecedents also mean “the latter” and “the former,” respectively. Being unaware of this can cause major comprehension problems, unless the context is particularly illustrative of the meaning. Another complicating factor of this usage is that Spanish expresses *este* (or a related form) **before** *aquel*, in the opposite order from English, as well as the fact that they are used much more commonly in Spanish than in English and, therefore, cannot be considered “low frequency” items.

Colombia y Venezuela tienen costas en el Mar Caribe. Este tiene como capital a Caracas, aquel, a Bogotá.

Colombia and Venezuela have coasts on the Caribbean Sea. The former has Bogotá as its capital, the latter, Caracas.

Eugenio y Claudia son nuevos estudiantes este año. Esta es chilena, aquel, neoyorquino.

Eugenio and Claudia are new students this year. The former is a New Yorker, the latter, Chilean.

The demonstrative pronouns also have neuter forms: *esto*, *eso*, and *aquello*. These are used when there is no antecedent mentioned, or to refer to notions, abstracts or concepts.

Esto no es tan difícil como piensas.

This isn’t so (as) difficult as you think.

Aquello simplemente no es verdad.

That simply is not true.

One minor additional usage is that *este* (*esto*, in Spain) is the hesitation word in speaking that corresponds to “er...” or “uh” in English.

## 5.4 Verbs *saber* and *conocer*

Spanish has two verbs that often translate as “to know.” *Saber* is an irregular verb that means to know a fact, a piece of information, or to know something by memory. *Conocer* is a regular verb that means to know a city, place, person, or work of art.

### SABER

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	sé	sabemos
2nd	sabes	sabéis
3rd	sabe	saben

### CONOCER

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	conozco	conocemos
2nd	conoces	conocéis
3rd	conoce	conocen

Although the first person singular of *conocer* may appear irregular, it is not. The insertion of the *z* before the *c* serves to keep the “soft” sound of the *s*. (All verbs ending in vowel + *-cer* and *-cir* follow this pattern.)

Sé donde vive.	I know where he lives.
¿Sabes la respuesta?	Do you know the answer?
Sé el poema de memoria.	I know the poem by memory.
Conozco el poema.	I'm familiar with the poem.
¿Conocen Uds. Andalucía?	Do you know (Are you acquainted/familiar with) Andalusia?
Ellas conocen a mi esposa.	They know my wife.
¿Conoce el camino a la playa?	Do you know the road to the beach?

Saber followed directly by the infinitive means “to know **how** to do something.” The omission of *como* is the norm, though when it occasionally appears it does not cause comprehension problems.

¿Sabes esquiar?	Do you know how to ski?
Raquel sabe traducir documentos del latín al español.	Raquel knows how to translate documents from Latin to Spanish.
No sabemos cómo explicar esto.	We don't know how to explain this.

(Cómo, in the last example, is another indirect interrogative and, as such, takes a written accent mark.)

## 5.5 Prepositions POR and PARA

Both of these prepositions often translate as “for.” In reading comprehension, problems may be posed in cases when they do **not** translate as such or you may miss the most accurate meaning when they have more specific possibilities of translation. This section focuses on those occasions.

Por is the more vibrant and dynamic of these prepositions, while para is the more flat, “neutral” one, as will be seen in some of the cases below. Whenever possible, opt for the translation that provides the most nuance, such as in the following cases.

### USES OF PARA THAT DO NOT ALWAYS TRANSLATE AS “FOR”:

---

#### 1. PURPOSE: “TO,” “IN ORDER TO”

---

Estamos aquí para aprender español.

We’re here (in order) to learn Spanish.

Luis estudia para (ser) ingeniero.

Luis is studying to be an engineer.

#### 2. DESTINATION: “TO,” “HEADED TO,” “TO LEAVE FOR”

---

Mañana vamos a ir para San Andrés.

Tomorrow we’re going to go to San Andrés

#### 3. TO BE USED FOR: NOUN + PARA (**NOT TRANSLATED**) + NOUN

---

Necesitamos más vasos para vino.

We need more wine glasses.

**¡Ojo!** Pay special attention to vasos para vino versus vasos de vino. The latter translates as “glasses (full) of wine”:

Hay varios vasos de vino en la mesa.

There are several glasses of wine on the table.



4. DEADLINE: "BY" (OCCASIONALLY, "FOR")

---

Hay que terminar los informes para el viernes.

It's necessary to finish the reports by Friday.

5. IN THE OPINION OF (OR "FOR")

---

Para ellos, viajar al extranjero es muy importante.

In their opinion (For them), traveling abroad is very important.

6. TO BE ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING

---

Estamos para salir y suena el teléfono.

We are about to leave and the telephone rings.

**¡Ojo!** The above construction is from Spain. In most of the rest of the Spanish-speaking world, the expression *estar por* + infinitive means "to be about to do something." (See usage 12, below.) Context and origin of text should clarify meaning.

7. TO BE DONE

---

Tenemos mucho trabajo para hacer.

We have much work to be done (to do).

Contrast with usage 15 of *por*. *Por* indicates a stronger sense of urgency.

8. COMPARISON, CONTRAST ("CONSIDERING")

---

Para verano, hace bastante frío.

Considering it's (For) summer, it's fairly cold.

9. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

---

para siempre

forever

para nada

not... at all

para empezar

for starters

para variar

just for a change

## EJEMPLOS CON EXPRESIONES IDIOMÁTICAS:

Van a ser amigos para siempre.	They're going to be friends forever.
A Lidia no le gustan las verduras para nada. Sólo quiere comer fruta.	Lidia doesn't like vegetables at all. She only wants to eat fruit.
Para empezar, tiene el hábito de interrumpir.	For starters, he has the habit of interrupting.
Vamos a quedarnos en la ciudad este verano para variar.	We're going to stay in the city this summer just for a change.

## USES OF POR THAT DO NOT ALWAYS TRANSLATE AS "FOR":

### 1. INDEFINITE PLACE: "AROUND"

¿Está Arturo por aquí?	Is Arturo around here?
------------------------	------------------------

### 2. MOVEMENT: "ALONG," "BY"

Caminan por la playa.	They're walking along the beach.
-----------------------	----------------------------------

### 3. MOVEMENT: "THROUGH"

Este verano vamos a viajar por Costa Rica.	This summer we're going to travel through Costa Rica.
--	---

**¡Ojo!** Contrast this with usage 2 of para which indicates destination:

Este verano vamos a viajar para Costa Rica.	This summer we're going to travel to Costa Rica.
---	--

### 4. EXPLANATION: "BECAUSE OF," "ON ACCOUNT OF," "OUT OF"

Por miedo, Soledad no entra en el agua.	Soledad doesn't go into the water out of fear.
---	--

### 5. INDEFINITE TIME: "AROUND"

Por noviembre, es necesario comenzar a estudiar mucho.	Around November, it's necessary to begin studying a lot.
--	--

**¡Ojo!** Contrast this with usage 4 of para:

Para noviembre, es necesario comenzar a estudiar mucho.	By November, it's necessary to begin to study a lot
---	---

## 6. "IN PLACE OF," "INSTEAD OF"

Como mi hermano no puede asistir, voy por él.

As my brother can't attend, I'm going in his place (instead of him).

## 7. "FOR THE SAKE OF," "ON BEHALF OF"

Hago esto por mis padres.

I'm doing this for my parents' sake (on behalf of my parents).

## 8. BY MEANS OF: "BY"

Mandamos el paquete por avión.

We're sending the package by plane.

¿Vienes por autobús o por tren?

Are you coming by bus or by train?

## 9. AGENT: "BY" (FOLLOWING A PAST PARTICIPLE IN A PASSIVE VOICE CONSTRUCTION [SEE SECTION 15.6.]

Son detenidos por la policía.

They are detained (arrested) by the police.

## 10. PARTS OF THE DAY: "IN," "AT"

Pilar estudia por la tarde y trabaja por la noche.

Pilar studies in the afternoon and works at night.

## 11. FROM THE LATIN: "PER"

¿Cuánto gana por hora un abogado?

How much does a lawyer earn per hour?

Also common instead of por is a: Vienen al pueblo una vez a la semana [They come to the town once a (per) week.]

## 12. OPINION: "IN FAVOR OF"

¿Estás por ir allí?

Are you in favor of going there?

## 13. OBJECT OF A SEARCH: VERB OF MOTION + "TO GET"

Va por ayuda.

He's going to get help.

Salen por más agua.

They're going out to get more water.

## 14. "ON ONE'S HONOR"

---

Juro por mi honor que es verdad.

I swear on my honor that it's true.

## 15. "TO BE DONE" ("TO")

---

Tengo un informe por escribir.

I have a report to be written.

This is in essence synonymous with *Tengo un informe para escribir* (usage 7 of *para*), but the sentence with *por* connotes greater urgency, that it is incumbent on the speaker to write the report. The sentence using *para* lacks this urgency and is a more "neutral" utterance.

## 16. PURPOSE: "IN ORDER TO"

---

Hago todo lo posible por hacer ir a Manuel.

I'm doing everything possible in order to make Manuel go.

This sentence is similar to usage 1 of *para*, however the use of *por* connotes strong resolve and deliberate effort, if not emotion. In comparison, the sentence *Hago todo lo posible para hacer ir a Manuel* is more "flat."

## 17. STRONG OPINION: "AS FAR AS ONE IS CONCERNED"

---

Por ella, puedes hacer lo que quieres.

As far as she's concerned, you can do what you want.

This can be contrasted with usage 5 of *para*: *Para ella, puedes hacer lo que quieres*. The sentence with *para* is simply less emotional or less strong, just as "as far as one is concerned" is a stronger expression in English than "in one's opinion."

## 18. IN EXCHANGE FOR

---

Por su testimonio recibe mucho dinero.

In exchange for his testimony, he gets (receives) a lot of money.

19. POR IS USED IN MANY IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS:

por ciento	percent
por Dios	for heaven's sake
por favor	please
por fin	finally
por lo general	generally
por lo visto	apparently, evidently
por suerte	luckily, with luck
por todas partes (todos lados)	everywhere

## Unit 5: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

#### ADJETIVOS:

alto	high, tall
bajo	low, short (height)
bastante	enough*
corto	short
extraño	strange
propio	own (false friend)

#### ADVERBIOS:

bastante	enough, fairly, sufficiently, rather*
hasta	even
tan	so
tanto	as much, so much

\*Note the different as well as overlapping meanings of bastante when used as an adverb versus adjective: Habla bastante. (He speaks enough.) ¿Hay bastantes sillas? (Are there enough chairs?) Hablas bastante bien. (You speak fairly [rather, sufficiently] well.)

#### CONJUNCIONES (CONJUNCTIONS):

así (que)	so, this, therefore
lo que	what, that which
siempre que	whenever, provided that

EXPRESIONES:

algunas veces	sometimes
a menudo	often
a veces	at times
muchas veces	often (many times)
la primera vez	the first time
rara vez, raras veces	seldom, infrequently, rarely

PREPOSICIONES:

hasta	until, up to, as far as
sin	without

SUSTANTIVOS:

la época	epoch, era, time
la era	era
la hora	hour, time (of day)
la manera	manner, way
la medianoche	midnight
el medio	means, medium, middle
el mediodía	noon, midday

VERBOS:

---



almorzar (ue)	to eat lunch
amenazar (con)	to threaten (to) (cognate: to menace)
cerrar (ie)	to close, to shut
comenzar (ie)	to begin, to start*
conducir	to drive, to conduct
conseguir (i)	to obtain, to get, to manage (before an inf.)
convencer (a)	to convince
correr	to run
destacar(se)	to stand out
detener	to detain, to arrest**
devolver (ue)	to return (an object)
dormir (ue)	to sleep (cognate- dormant)
empezar (ie)	to start, to begin*
encender (ie)	to turn on
encontrar (ue)	to encounter, to find
enseñar (a)	to show, to teach
entender (ie)	to understand
entregar	to deliver, to hand in
ganar	to gain, to earn, to win
jugar (ue)	to play (a sport, a game)
jurar	to swear
llover (ue)	to rain
mostrar (ue)	to show
nevar (ie)	to snow
ofrecer	to offer
pedir (i)	to request, to ask for
pensar (ie)	to think
pensar + inf.	to intend (to do something)****
pensar + en	to think about someone or something, to reflect on someone or something****
pensar + de	to think (in the sense of having an opinion about something), often used in a question*****
perder (ie)	to lose
poder (ue)	to be able to, can
preferir (ie)	to prefer
querer (ie)	to want, to love
reconocer	to recognize
recordar (ue)	to remember, to remind

seguir (i)	to follow, to keep on, to continue (doing something), to remain, to be
servir (i)	to serve, to be useful
soler (ue) (+inf.)	to be accustomed/ used (to doing something)
sonar (ue)	to ring, to sound
tocar	to play (music), to touch
traducir	to translate
tratar	to treat
tratar (de + inf.)	to try (to do something)
volar (ue)	to fly
volver (ue)	to return (to a place)

\*These two verbs are generally used synonymously, with equal frequency.

\*\*Like *mantener*, this is a compound form of *tener* and has all the same irregularities.

\*\*\*This frequent expression is easy to mistranslate as, for example, “I am thinking about ...ing.” Be sure to translate it as “I intend to....”

\*\*\*\**Pienso mucho en mi abuelo.* I **think about** my grandfather a lot.

\*\*\*\*\*¿Qué piensan Uds. de la nueva ley? What do you **think of** the new law?

¡Ojo! There are five verbs in the list above that because of their similarity may cause confusion in reading. These verbs have cognates in English, which may serve as a mnemonic device to help avoid confusion.

Verb	Mnemonic Device
pensar (to think)	is “pensive”
perder (to lose)	is “perdition”
pedir (to request/ask for)	is “to petition” (Remember that t and d are phonetically related consonants.)
poder (to be able to/can)	is “potent”
poner (to put)	is “to position” (or “to posit”)

The relationship between *poner* and “to position” will be seen in the preterite tense (section 8.2.), which in the first person singular is *puse*.

# UNIT 6: PRONOUNS (PART 1), IMPERFECT TENSE, ADVERBS

## OBJECTIVES

---

After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Recall how to translate pronouns with reflexive verbs.
- Recognize and accurately translate non-reflexive uses of common reflexive verbs.
- Demonstrate understanding of the differences between impersonal *se* and reflexive verbs.
- Memorize the imperfect tense endings.
- Identify adverbs and prepositional phrases that stand in for adverbs.

## 6.1 Verbs Used Reflexively and Reflexive Pronouns

Verbs used reflexively are accompanied by an object pronoun that refers back to the subject. As you will see, this pronoun is sometimes routinely used in English, other times optional and, yet others, untranslatable. Examples of two verbs (with subject pronouns) used reflexively follow:

### VESTIRSE (I)– TO GET DRESSED (TO DRESS ONESELF)

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	me visto (I get dressed)	nos vestimos (we get dressed)
2nd	te vistes (you get dressed)	os vestís (you all get dressed)
3rd	se viste (he/she/you gets dressed)	se visten (they/you get dressed)

### LEVANTARSE– TO GET UP

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	me levanto (I get up)	nos levantamos (we get up)
2nd	te levantas (you get up)	os levantáis (you all get up)
3rd	se levanta (he/she/you gets up)	se levantan (they/you get up)

When reading or translating, you will have the choice of omitting or including the reflexive pronoun as appropriate, as well as some cases where two translations are possible.

Yo me levanto temprano.	I get (myself) up early.
El niño se lastima cuando se cae.	The child gets hurt (hurts himself) when he falls down.

If a conjugated verb + infinitive construction is present, the reflexive pronoun may precede the conjugated verb or be attached to the infinitive:

Me voy a bañar ahora. Voy a bañarme ahora.	I'm going to take a bath now.
---	-------------------------------

It is somewhat more common in dialogue to see the object pronoun before the conjugated verb. In Latin American Spanish, you are more likely to see the pronoun attached to the infinitive in written Spanish.

Some verbs are used reflexively and the pronoun is never translated. As you see below (as well as above, with *vestirse* and *levantarse*), when listed in the infinitive form, these verbs have the third person singular reflexive pronoun attached to the infinitive. Some such verbs with untranslatable reflexive pronouns are:

atreverse (a)	to dare (to)
arrepentirse (ie)	to repent
dignarse	to deign
jactarse (de)	to brag, to boast (about, of)
quejarse (de)	to complain (about, of)

**¡Ojo!** When putting on, taking off or doing something else to one’s own clothing, in Spanish the definite article replaces the possessive pronoun before the article of clothing, as the reflexive pronoun indicates to whom the action is being done and the possessive pronoun is considered redundant. Note the following translations:

Me pongo los pantalones.	I put on <b>my</b> pants. (Not “the pants.”)
Nos quitamos los zapatos al entrar en casa.	We take off <b>our</b> shoes upon entering the house. (Not “the shoes.”)

The possessive pronoun is used only when the speaker is doing something to someone else’s clothing, which translates literally from English and poses no comprehension problem: *Me pongo tu chaqueta, ¿está bien?* (“I’m putting on your jacket, OK?”)

## 6.2 Verbs Used Reflexively versus Non-Reflexively

Many of the verbs listed in section 6.1 may be used reflexively (with the reflexive pronoun) or non-reflexively (without the pronoun). The reflexive pronoun is used, logically, when one does the action to oneself. It is omitted when one does the action to someone else. Study the pairs below:

Me levanto.	I get up.
Levanto a mi hija.	I get my daughter up.
Ella se lava la cara.	She washes her face.
Ella lava a los niños.	She washes the children.
Me siento.	I sit down.
Siento a los niños.	I sit the children down.
Se viste.	She gets dressed (dresses herself).
Viste a los actores.	She dresses the actors.
Se corta.	He/She/You cuts/cut himself/herself/yourself.
Corta el césped.	He/She/You cuts/cut (mows/mow) the lawn.

# 6.3 Clarifying Ambiguity of Reflexive Pronouns

At times, when the subject and verb are plural, reflexive pronouns may be ambiguous out of context, as they may also carry the reciprocal meaning of “(to) each other”:

Nos despertamos.	We wake (ourselves) up. OR We wake each other up.
Se engañan.	They're deceiving themselves. OR They're deceiving each other.

When such ambiguity occurs, Spanish may use one of two prepositional phrases to differentiate one meaning from the other:

Nos despertamos a nosotros mismos.	We wake (ourselves) up.
Nos despertamos el uno al otro.	We wake each other up.
Se engañan a sí mismos.	They're deceiving themselves.
Se engañan el uno al otro.	They're deceiving each other.

If the two involved parties are women, the second construction shifts to la una a la otra. Likewise, if the parties are masculine plural or feminine plural, the construction becomes los unos a los otros or las unas a las otras, respectively.

# 6.4 Subjective Use of Reflexive Pronouns

The Spanish reflexive pronoun is used in ways that it is not in English, in cases where it cannot be translated literally or at all, such as with the verb *quejarse*, (“to complain”), which in itself has no reflexive meaning:

Me quejo con el profesor.	I complain to the teacher.
---------------------------	----------------------------

English expresses such subjectivity by other means or Spanish possesses a linguistic subtlety absent in English. You have seen such usages listed in section 6.1:

Reflexive		Non-reflexive
irse (to go away)	versus	ir (to go)
dormirse (to fall asleep)	versus	dormir (to sleep)
caerse (to fall down)	versus	caer (to fall)
llevarse (to carry away/off)	versus	llevar (to carry)

Although all but the most basic of these forms are difficult to use in speech by non-native speakers, they are very common, especially in speech but also in writing and should be recognized so that the reader can have a clear idea of their implication. As seen above, English can communicate this subjectivity by adding words such as “away,” “down,” and, as you will see below, “up,” among others. Notes the various ways, when it is possible in English, to communicate this subjectivity that corresponds to the inclusion of reflexive pronouns in Spanish with verbs that are not normally reflexive or otherwise used reflexively. Note in the examples below that the reflexive pronoun is inserted only when something is eaten or drunk in its entirety.

El se come todas las galletas.	He eats up (devours) all the cookies.
Ella se toma toda la leche.	She drinks up (down) all the milk.

Other times, the reflexive pronouns can only be translated parenthetically, or, in reading, intuitively, once you have grasped the basic concept. A verb with which to illustrate this is the verb *morir* (“to die”):



Spanish	English	Interpretation
El paciente murió en el hospital.	The patient died in the hospital.	This is a statement of fact that might be made by someone with no personal connection to the patient.
Ella se murió.	She passed away.	There is emotional involvement present. The speaker is affected by her death.

## 6.5 The Impersonal se

Spanish very frequently uses the reflexive pronoun *se* to render a sentence impersonal. This is a completely different usage from those presented in sections 6.1-6.4. One of the most common usages, with which you may be familiar, is *Se habla español*, which translates as “Spanish (is) spoken.” This construction is used so often because Spanish tends to avoid the passive voice. (See section 15.6.) In the impersonal *se* construction, the verb, always in the third-person singular singular or plural, agrees with the subject. **Note that a form of “to be” is usually present in the English translation.**

Se habla inglés.	English is spoken.
Se enseñan varias lenguas allí.	Various languages are taught there.
Se venden carros usados.	Used cars (are) sold.
Se dice que es buena persona.	It's said he's a good person.

The impersonal *se* may also be translated as the subject pronoun “one,” or in colloquial English as “they” or “you”:

Se estudian muchos cursos aquí.	One studies (They study) many courses here.
Se hablan varias lenguas en Suiza.	They speak (One speaks) several languages in Switzerland.
Se trabaja mucho allí, ¿verdad?	You work (One works) a lot there, right?

If the verb is already reflexive, *uno/-a* or *una persona* is added before the reflexive pronoun to render the sentence impersonal.

Uno se acuesta tarde en aquella casa.	They go (One goes) to bed late in that house.
---------------------------------------	---

# 6.6 The Imperfect Tense

The imperfect tense is one of two simple (versus compound) Spanish verb tenses to express past actions. –Ar verbs have one set of endings; -er and -ir verbs, another.

	Estar	Comer	Vivir
yo	estaba	comía	vivía
tú	estabas	comías	vivías
él, ella, Ud.	estaba	comía	vivía
nosotros	estábamos	comíamos	vivíamos
vosotros	estabáis	comíais	vivíais
ellos, ellas, Uds.	estaban	comían	vivían

The –aba endings stand out, as this is the only occasion in which a b appears in a Spanish verb ending in any tense (except the imperfect tense irregular forms of ir [see below]). The –ía endings appear in other tenses, but with a different stem. Here the infinitive endings are cut off before the new endings are added, unlike other tenses.

**¡Ojo!** Note in the above endings that the first person and third-person singular forms are identical. Context should always make the subject (I, he, she, you, it) clear. The imperfect tense has three possible translations:

Ella leía.	She read. She used to read. She was reading.
------------	--

Note in the last two examples that the imperfect tense describes habitual actions in the past (“used to read”) as well as ongoing or in-process actions in the past (“was reading”). Given the context, one translation may be more appropriate than another translation, but rarely if ever is one translation versus another truly wrong.

In addition to habitual past and in-progress past actions, the imperfect tense is used to tell time, to give descriptions and to express mental states in the past.

Eran las dos.	It was two o'clock.
Hacía viento.	It was windy.
Tenía poco dinero.	He had little money.
No queríamos ir.	We didn't want to go.

Only three verbs are irregular in the imperfect tense:

	<b>ser</b>	<b>ir</b>	<b>ver</b>
<b>yo</b>	era	iba	veía
<b>Tú</b>	eras	ibas	veías
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	era	iba	veía
<b>Nosotros</b>	éramos	íbamos	veíamos
<b>Vosotros</b>	erais	ibais	veíais
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	eran	iban	veían

The forms of *ser* and *ir* are unlike any Spanish verb endings and should be easily recognizable. *Ver* is irregular only because it does not drop the *e* before adding its endings.

Just as the present tense of *ir* + *a* + infinitive expresses what one is going to do in the future, the imperfect tense, followed by the same, expresses what one **was** going to do in the past:

Iban a comprar un sofá hoy, pero la mueblería estaba cerrada.	They were going to buy a sofa today, but the furniture store was closed.
---	--

The above is one case in which the one-word translation, “went,” is not accurate. Nor does the translation “used to go” work here.

## 6.7 Adverbs

Many Spanish adverbs, as you have already seen, are formed by adding the suffix *-mente* to the feminine form of the adjective.

Cristina habla rápidamente.	Cristina speaks quickly.
Iban a comer inmediatamente.	They were going to eat immediately.
Hacen el trabajo cuidadosamente.	They do the work carefully.

As in English, many times the adverbs in *-mente* (corresponding to those in English *-ly*) are avoided by the use of prepositional phrases.

por lo general	generally, in general
por fin	finally
con esperanza	hopefully, with hope
sin duda	doubtless(-ly), without a doubt
por suerte	luckily, with luck
por desgracia	unfortunately

When two or more adverbs ending in *-mente* are used together, the suffix is dropped on all but the last:

Milagros hablaba clara, rápida y precisamente.	Milagros spoke clearly, quickly and precisely.
--	--

Especially in speech, in both Spanish and English the adjective form (masculine singular) in Spanish may be used instead of an adverb (Como rápido, I eat quick[ly]), though this is not an impediment to comprehension.

## Unit 6: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

#### ADJETIVOS:

actual	present, current (false friend)
ambos	both
demasiado	too many, too much
infeliz	unhappy
los/las dos	both
mayor	greater (see section 7.2 )
mejor	better
parecido	similar
peligroso	dangerous
sumiso	submissive
triste	sad

#### ADVERBIOS:

(a)dentro	inside, indoors
(a)fuera	outside, outdoors
algo	somewhat
demasiado	too much, too
entonces	then
ya	already (now, later on)

### EXPRESIONES:

de todo	everything
en aquel / ese entonces	at that time
los demás	the rest, the others
hoy (en) día	nowadays
ya no	no longer

### NÚMEROS CARDINALES:

cien(to)	one hundred
doscientos	two hundred
trescientos	three hundred
cuatrocientos	four hundred
quinientos	five hundred
seiscientos	six hundred
setecientos	seven hundred
ochocientos	eight hundred
novcientos	nine hundred
mil	one thousand
un millón (de)	one million

### NÚMEROS ORDINALES:

primero	first
segundo	second
tercero	third
cuarto*	fourth
quinto	fifth
sexto	sixth
séptimo	seventh
octavo	eighth
noveno	ninth
décimo	tenth

\*Be careful to distinguish the ordinal number cuarto from the cardinal number cuatro. Remember also that, as a noun, cuarto means “room.” Context always clarifies the intended meaning.

PREPOSICIONES:

(a)dentro de	inside of, within
(a)fuera de	outside of

PRONOMBRE RELATIVO (RELATIVE PRONOUN):

lo que	what, that which
--------	------------------



## VERBOS:

acordarse (ue) (de)	to remember*
acostarse (ue)	to go to bed
bajar (de)	to drop, to go down (to descend), to get off (public transportation)
bañarse	to take a bath, to bathe
caerse	to fall down
cepillarse (los dientes)	to brush (one's teeth)
cortarse	to cut oneself
despertarse (ie)	to wake up
divertirse (ie)	to have a good time, to amuse oneself, to enjoy oneself
dormirse (ue)	to fall asleep
encontrarse (ue)	to be located, to be (ill or well), to find oneself (somewhere)**
había	there was, there were
incluir	to include
irse	to go away
lastimarse	to get hurt, to hurt oneself
lavarse	to wash
levantarse	to get up
llamarse	to be called, to be named
llevarse	to carry away/ off
olvidarse (de)	to forget***
parecer	to seem
parecerse a	to resemble, look like (someone)
perderser (ie)	to get (to become) lost
ponerse	to put on (clothing)
probarse (ue)	to try on (clothing)
quedar(se)	to stay, to be****
quitarse	to take off (clothing)
secarse	to dry (off)
sentarse (ie)	to sit down*****
sentirse (ie)	to feel*****
subir (a)	to go up (to ascend), to climb, to rise, to get on (public transportation)
vestirse (i)	to get dressed

\*Acordarse is followed by an untranslated de when an object follows: No me acuerdo de la fecha ("I don't remember the date").

\*\*Encontrarse combines with the preposition con to mean "to run into" or "to meet accidentally or on purpose." It does not mean "to meet" in the sense of "to make the acquaintance of."

\*\*\*Olvidar may be used with both the reflexive pronoun and the preposition de before an object, or both may be omitted, without changing the meaning: Olvido tu cumpleaños or Me olvido tu cumpleaños are identical in meaning ("I forget your birthday.")

\*\*\*\*Quedar may be used reflexively or not, without generally changing the meaning. Regional considerations make it difficult to be precise.

\*\*\*\*\*Be careful, as the forms of these two verbs are always similar (and, in the case of the first person singular of the present, identical). Their meaning, however, is always clear in context.

# UNIT 7: PRONOUNS (PART 2), INTRODUCTION TO THE PRETERIT, AND COMPARISONS

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Recognize the difference between direct and indirect object pronouns.
- Demonstrate knowledge of comparisons and superlatives through accurate translations.
- Memorize negative, positive and indefinite words and their English translations.
- Identify preterit tense verbs by their endings.

## 7.1 Direct Object Pronouns

Direct object pronouns in Spanish are as follows:

Singular	Plural
me (me)	nos (us)
te (you-fam. s.)	os (you-fam. pl. [Spain only])
lo, la (him, her, it, you-form. s.)	los, las (them, you-form. pl.)

Direct object pronouns are routinely placed immediately before a conjugated verb:

Victor me ve en la plaza todos los días.	Victor sees me on the square every day.
-¿Tu cuaderno? No lo veo.	"Your notebook? I don't see it."

Direct object pronouns agree in number and gender with the noun to which they refer:

No sé dónde están <b>tus anteojos</b> . Yo no <b>los</b> tengo.	I don't know where your glasses are. I don't have them.
¿La chica? No <b>la</b> conozco.	"The girl? I don't know her."

Direct object pronouns may be attached to the infinitive or precede the conjugated verb. "I am going to see her," for example, may be seen as *Voy a verla* or *La voy a ver*.

### NOTE ABOUT LE AND LES AS DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

The third-person indirect object pronouns *le* and *les* mean "him" and "them" (masc.) and refer only to male persons. They tend to be more common as direct objects in speech and texts from Spain (called *leísmo*), but are now seen in the entire Spanish-speaking world.

No <b>le</b> veo en el cuarto.	I don't see him in the room.
-¿ <b>Les</b> llamaste?	"Did you call them?"

## 7.2 Comparatives and Superlatives

### COMPARISONS OF EQUALITY

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In comparisons of equality, you will see *tan* ("as") + adjective or adverb, or a form of *tanto* + noun. The adjective, adverb or noun is followed by *como* ("as"):

Virginia es tan simpática como Teresa.

Virginia is as friendly as Teresa.

Manolo canta tan mal como Federico.

Manolo sings as badly as Federico.

Los Castillo tienen tantos coches como los Duarte.

The Castillos have as many cars as the Duartes.

*Tanto como*, with no word in between, simply translates as "as much as" or "as many as."

Uds. hablan tanto como nosotros.

You talk as much as we do.

*Tan*, when it is not used in a comparative sentence, and when coming before an adjective or another adverb, translates as "so":

Antonio es tan simple.

Antonio is so simple.

If a noun follows or precedes the adjective, *tan* translates as "such":

Antonio es una persona tan simple.

Antonio is such a simple person.

### COMPARISONS OF INEQUALITY

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To form a comparison of inequality with an adjective, adverb or noun, place *más* ("more") or *menos* ("less") before the adjective or adverb and place *que* after it:

California tiene más habitantes bilingües que Florida.

California has more bilingual inhabitants than Florida.

Uruguay tiene menos gente que Paraguay.

Uruguay has fewer people than Paraguay.

Comparing actions is done using a verb plus *más que* or *menos que*:

Sandra duerme más que Ángela.

Sandra sleeps more than Angela.

¿Por qué hablas menos que antes en la clase?  
¿Pasó algo?

Why do you speak less than before in class? Did something happen?

## SUPERLATIVES

In the superlative you see the same construction as in comparisons of inequality, with the difference that a definite article agreeing with the subject will precede *más* or *menos*. The superlative phrase takes the preposition *de*, though the English translation is often rendered by “in”:

En el año 2011 Nuevo México todavía tenía el porcentaje más alto de hispanos de todos los estados del país.

In the year 2011 New Mexico still had the highest percentage of Hispanics of all the states in the country.

Este es el vino más caro del restaurante.

This is the most expensive wine in the restaurant.

En el hemisferio norte, el 21 de diciembre es el día más corto del año.

In the northern hemisphere, December 21st is the shortest day of the year.

In the superlative, *grande* does not shorten to *gran* before an adjective and may retain the meaning of “biggest” or “largest”:

Es el más grande error de todos.

It's the biggest error of all.

As in English, there are various irregular comparatives and superlatives:

grande	large
pequeño	small
poco	little, few
bueno	good
malo	bad
mayor	larger, largest, older*, oldest*, greater, greatest
menor	smaller, smallest, younger*, youngest*
menos	less, least, fewer, fewest
peor (cognate: pejorative)	worse, worst

\*This meaning refers only to people.

The comparatives *más bueno* and *más malo* are used occasionally, but with a different meaning that refers to inherent moral qualities:

La señora Cavazos es más buena que las otras.

Mrs. Cavazos is kinder than the others.

Aquel hombre es más malo que nadie.

That man is more wicked (evil) than anyone.

*Más bueno* and *más malo* may also be used in exclamations and denote an absolute superlative (See sections 11.5 and 11.8)

¡Qué vino más malo!

What awful (extremely bad) wine!

¡Qué profesor más bueno!

What a kind (an extremely kind) teacher!

“Older” and “oldest” may also be expressed by *más viejo* while *más pequeño* means not only “younger” and “youngest,” but “smaller” or “smallest.” Nonetheless the irregular forms *mayor* and *menor* are more frequently seen.

**¡Ojo!** Be careful in reading not to confuse *mayor* and *mejor*:

Es la mayor ciudad del país.

It's the largest city in the country.

Es la mejor ciudad del país.

It's the best city in the country.

## LONG COMPARATIVE FORMS

There also exists “long” comparative forms that are used when referring to ideas as well as to specific objects. When referring to an idea, thought or notion, Spanish routinely uses *de lo que* :

El urdu es más difícil de lo que piensas.

Urdu is more difficult than (what) you think.

La ciudad es menos peligrosa de lo que era en el pasado.

The city is less dangerous than (what) it was in the past.

Other times the comparatives agree with the specific noun:

Le ofrecen un sueldo menor del que\* puede aceptar.

They're offering him a lower salary than (what) he can accept.

Siempre compra más carne de la que pueden comer.

She always buys more meat than (what) they can eat.

Hay más testigos de los que necesitamos.

There are more witnesses than we need.

Nos daba más tareas de las que podíamos hacer.

He used to give us more homework than (which) we could do.

\*The *del* is the contraction of *de + el*, the *el* referring to the noun *el sueldo*.

Also be aware that before a number *que* changes to *de* and the meaning is still “than”:

Los Olivares tienen más de cuatro hijos.

The Olivares have more than four children.

## 7.3 Negatives, Positives and Indefinite Words

The following are the Spanish negative words and their logical opposites:

nada	nothing
algo	something
nadie	no one, nobody
alguien	someone, somebody
nunca, jamás*	never
siempre	always
ninguno**	no (adjective)
alguno**	some, a few
tampoco	neither (not...either), nor
también	also
ni...ni	neither (not...either), nor
o...o	either...or

\*These two words are synonymous, but jamás is the slightly stronger and less frequent of the two.

\*\*Ninguno becomes ningún and alguno, algún, before a masculine singular noun. (See section 10.3)

Unlike no (when meaning “not” [versus “no,” opposite of “yes”]), the above negatives are all considered “strong” negatives. As such, they have two possibilities of placement: they may be seen before the main verb, or after the main verb when no precedes it. Be aware that two negatives (the “double” negative) do **not** cancel each other out to form a positive statement. The meaning remains the same regardless of position and the only subtlety is that the placement of a “strong” negative before the verb tends to be more emphatic.



Nunca voy.	I <b>never</b> go. (I don't <b>ever</b> go.)
No voy nunca.	I never go.
Nada dice.	She says <b>nothing</b> . (She doesn't say <b>anything</b> .)
No dice nada.	She says nothing.

Spanish may employ three negatives and, in theory, an infinite number of them, without their ever canceling each other out:

Ella no dice nada nunca.	She never says anything.
No va a la playa con nadie tampoco.	Nor does he ever go to the beach with anyone.

Note that the English translation of negatives that normally mean “nothing,” “no one” and “never” becomes “anything,” “anyone,” and “ever” when another negative is already present, as English does not permit a double negative without changing the meaning of the sentence.

**¡Ojo!** Jamás can mean “ever” as well as “never.” In a question it means “ever”; in a declarative statement it means “never”:

¿Jamás va Ud. a esa tienda?	Do you ever go to that store?
No voy allí jamás (nunca).	I never go there.

Alguna vez (literally, “sometime”) is also best translated as “ever” in a question:

¿Vienes alguna vez a la capital?	Do you ever come to the capital?
----------------------------------	----------------------------------

**¡Ojo!** Be aware that alguno changes meaning when it comes **after** the noun and when there is a preceding negative in the sentence. It then takes on an opposite, strong negative meaning:

No dejan propina alguna.	They don't leave any tip <b>at all</b> .
¿No tienes dinero alguno?	Don't you have any money <b>at all</b> ?

## 7.4 Indirect Object Pronouns

Spanish indirect object pronouns are the same in form as direct object and reflexive pronouns, except in the third persons.

Singular	Plural
me – (to) me	nos – (to) us
te – (to) you-fam. s.	os – (to) you-fam. pl. [Spain only]
le – (to) him, her, it, you-form. s.	les – (to)them, you-form. pl.

Especially in the third persons, you will often see what can be described as a “redundant” indirect object pronoun when a prepositional phrase clarifies (or emphasizes) it. This is because the pronoun, which may refer to an object as well as a person, must be present in the first place so that the prepositional phrase is clarifying or emphasizing it.

Emilio le dice la verdad.

Emilio tells her (him, you) the truth.

But:

Emilio le dice la verdad a él.

Emilio tells him the truth.

Emilio le dice la verdad a ella.

Emilio tells her the truth.

Emilio le dice la verdad a Ud.

Emilio tells you the truth.

Likewise:

Simón les cuenta mentiras.

Simón tells them/you [pl.] lies.

But:

Simón les cuenta mentiras a ellos.

Simón tells them lies.

Simón les cuenta mentiras a Uds.

Simón tells you (pl.) lies.

There is also flexibility in the placement of the prepositional phrase. Some of the above examples could also be Emilio le dice a Ud. la verdad and Simón les cuenta a ellos mentiras.

No clarification is ever needed with the first and second persons, though a prepositional phrase may be used for emphasis. (See section 8.2)

Me dice la verdad.	He tells me the truth (tells the truth to me).
Me dice la verdad a mí.	He tells <b>me</b> the truth (the truth <b>to me</b> ).

As with direct object and reflexive pronouns, when a conjugated verb + infinitive is present, the indirect object may either precede the conjugated verb or be attached to the infinitive:

¿Vas a comprarme el boleto?	Are you going to buy me the ticket?
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Or:

¿Me vas a comprar el boleto?	Are you going to buy the ticket for me?
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As can be seen in the second English translation above, the indirect object can at times translate as “for” instead of, or as well as “to.” Although the Spanish examples above are synonymous, the English are not necessarily so, though context should clear up the mild ambiguity if needed.

Especially in more literary writing, the indirect object pronoun is at times seen with the verb *ser* (and occasionally *estar* and other intransitive verbs) and often translates as “for” + prepositional object pronoun. Study these examples:

Esto le es difícil. (Esto es difícil para ella.)	This is difficult for her.
Nos es imposible. (Es imposible para nosotros.)	It's impossible for us.
Estas respuestas me son convincentes. (Estas respuestas son convincentes para mí.)	The answers are convincing to (for) me.

The parenthetical sentences are the more common of the two possibilities, and these provide no particular comprehension difficulty, while the ones not in parentheses may pose a problem in understanding.

## 7.5 Preterit Tense of Regular Verbs and Some Stem-Changing Verbs

The imperfect and the preterit are the two simple (not compound) past tenses. Here are the forms of the regular preterite:

	tomar	beber	abrir
yo	tomé	bebí	abrí
tú	tomaste	bebiste	abriste
él, ella, Ud.	tomó	bebió	abrió
nosotros	tomamos	bebimos	abrimos
vosotros	tomasteis	bebisteis	abristeis
ellos, ellas, Uds.	tomaron	bebieron	abrieron

¡Ojo! Did you notice the two forms that are identical to the present tense? Hint: look at the nosotros forms.

### HELPFUL TRANSLATION HINTS

You need to recognize these forms, some of which are very similar, and be able to translate them accurately. Here are some possibly helpful hints to remembering:

- The yo form still ends in a vowel: accented é or í.
- The tú form ends in -te, which is identical to the object pronouns you have learned that correspond to tú.
- The third person singular still ends in a vowel, always an accented ó (or íó).
- The nosotros form, **in all tenses**, ends in -mos.
- You may wish to view the -is of the vosotros form as a plural marker, as tomasteis, for example, is the plural of tomaste (in Spain).
- The third person plural always ends in an -n, **in all tenses**. The preterit

inserts an -r in the ending, between vowels.

- The nosotros forms of -ar and -ir verbs in the preterit are the same as the present tense. Context will tell you which it is.

**¡Ojo!** In the third person singular of -ar verbs, the written accent is the only distinguishing feature from the first person singular of the present tense: tomó (he, she, you took) versus tomo (I take). Pay special attention, as this is only the first of several such cases. The subject pronouns may be present to help you readily distinguish the meaning, but more often than not they are omitted.

## NOTE ON SPELLING CHANGES

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Regular -er and -ir verbs that have an e, i or u before the infinitive ending routinely change the i of the third person endings (i.e., -ió and -ieron) to y, giving preterit forms such as leyó and leyeron (for leer) and construyó and construyeron (for construir ["to construct"]).

## PRETERIT MEANING

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When you see a preterit tense, it is helpful to know that it is used for actions that happened once and are viewed as completed; sequential actions (one completed before the next begins); a change in mental state; to describe the beginning or the end of an action. (The imperfect narrates the "middle" aspect of an action, that is, one that was ongoing.)

Se acostó a las once.	She went to bed at eleven o'clock.
Me levanté, me bañé y salí.	I got up, bathed and left.
Por fin decidimos salir.	We finally decided to go out.
Comenzó a llover.	It began to rain.
Dejó de ir a su casa.	I stopped going to his house.

## Unit 7: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

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#### ADVERBIOS:

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anoche	last night
anteayer	the day before yesterday
ayer	yesterday

#### EXPRESIONES:

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de vez en cuando	from time to time, once in a while
dejar + de + infinitive	to stop doing something
echar una carta (al correo)	to mail a letter
en seguida	right away, immediately
hacer cola	to stand (to wait) in line
hacer las maletas	to pack one's suitcases

## PREPOSICIONES:

a la derecha de	to the right of
a la izquierda de	to the left of
al lado de	next to, alongside of
debajo de	underneath
delante de	in front of
detrás de	behind
encima de	on top of
hasta	until, up to, as far as; even (adv.)
junto a	next to
según	according to

## VERBOS:

aguantar	to stand, to tolerate, to put up with
alegrar(se)	to make happy, to become happy, to be happy
almorzar	to eat lunch
arreglar	to fix, to repair, to arrange
asustar(se)	to frighten, to scare, to be frightened
atender (ie)	to pay attention to, to take care of, to look after (false friend)
calentar (ie)	to heat (up), to warm (up)
cambiar	to change
coger	to take hold of, to catch*
contar (ue)	to tell, to count
costar (ue)	to cost
desayunar(se)	to eat breakfast
enamorarse (de)	to fall in love (with)
escoger	to choose*
esconder(se)	to hide
exigir	to demand
experimentar (ie)	to experiment, to experience (false friend)
firmar	to sign
fracasar	to fail
luchar	to fight (a war, for a cause)
mudarse	to move (residence)
nacer	to be born (cognate: nascent)
odiar	to hate (cognate: odious)
pelear(se)	to fight
probar (ue)	to prove, to taste
proteger	to protect
resolver (ue)	to solve, to resolve
reunir	to get together, to reunite
revisar	to check, to examine (baggage), to inspect, to revise
temer	to fear (cognate: timorous)
unir	to unite

\*All verbs ending in e or i + -ger or -gir change the g to j before a and o for phonetic reasons, for example, cojo, escojo, proteja (see section 11.2).



# UNIT 8: PRETERIT (PART 2), "TO BE" VERBS, PRESENT PARTICIPLE AND PROGRESSIVE TENSES

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Memorize common irregular verbs in the preterit tense and learn to recognize patterns in similar stems and spelling changes.
- Recognize verbs that are also used to express "to be."
- Demonstrate comprehension of the different translations of certain verbs when conjugated in the preterit or imperfect.
- Identify and accurately translate the present participle and progressive forms.

## 8.1 Irregular Verbs in the Preterit Tense: Part 1

Spanish has many irregular verb forms in the preterit. Memorizing these so that you can quickly recognize them will speed up the translation process.

Two verbs have identical irregular preterite forms.

	<b>ir</b>	<b>ser</b>
<b>yo</b>	fui	fui
<b>tú</b>	fuiste	fuiste
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	fue	fue
<b>nosotros</b>	fuimos	fuimos
<b>vosotros</b>	fuisteis	fuisteis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	fueron	fueron

Context always clarifies the meaning. Fui con Uds. must mean “I went with you,” and not “I was with you,” because *estar* would be used in the latter case to express location. Los niños fueron buenos necessarily means “The children were good,” because the meaning with the verb *ir* does not make sense.

Some common irregular preterits may be grouped together by the similarities in their stem. Note that the endings (-e, -iste, -o, -imos, -isteis, -ieron) of all irregular preterits below and in following sections are identical to each other. They do not have accent marks.

	<b>estar</b>	<b>tener</b>	<b>andar (to walk)</b>
<b>yo</b>	estuve	tuve	anduve
<b>tú</b>	estuviste	tuviste	anduviste
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	estuvo	tuvo	anduvo
<b>nosotros</b>	estuvimos	tuvimos	anduvimos
<b>vosotros</b>	estuvisteis	tuvisteis	anduvisteis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	estuvieron	tuvieron	anduvieron

Three irregular verbs that switch the vowel of their root to -i follow:

	venir	hacer	querer
yo	vine	hice	quise
tú	viniste	hiciste	quisiste
él, ella, Ud.	vino	hizo*	quiso
nosotros	vinimos	hicimos	quisimos
vosotros	vinisteis	hicisteis	quisisteis
ellos, ellas, Uds.	vinieron	hicieron	quisieron

\*The third person singular of hacer must change the c to z to preserve the “soft” sound of the s.

Besides its meaning referring to worth of value (Vale mucho. [It’s worth a lot.]), valer is also used in the third person singular in various expressions, especially in Spain:

¿Vale?	Is that all right? Okay?
Eso no vale.	That’s no good.
Más vale así.	It’s better that (this) way.
Más vale tarde que nunca.	Better late than never.

Valer la pena is the most commonly used expression with the verb valer.

Esta película vale la pena.	This film is worthwhile.
Valió la pena asistir.	It was worthwhile to attend.

## 8.2 Irregular Verbs in the Preterit Tense: Part 2

More irregular verbs in Spanish include those that take a *j* in the stem. It is a regular feature of Spanish that the combination *jie* never occurs. Therefore only *-eron*, not *ieron* follows for the third-person plural forms:

	<b>decir</b>	<b>traer</b>	<b>traducir*</b>
<b>yo</b>	dije	traje	traduje
<b>tú</b>	dijiste	trajiste	tradujiste
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	dijo	trajo	tradujo
<b>nosotros</b>	dijimos	trajimos	tradujimos
<b>vosotros</b>	dijisteis	trajisteis	tradujisteis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	dijeron	trajeron	tradujeron

\*All verbs ending in *-ucir* have the same preterit ending. These include such common verbs as *producir* ("to produce"), *conducir* ("to drive"), *reducir* ("to reduce") and almost all other verbs ending in *"-duce"* in English.

The verb *dar* is irregular only because it is an *-ar* verb that takes the endings for a regular *-er* or *-ir* verb.

	<b>dar</b>
<b>YO</b>	di
<b>TÚ</b>	diste
<b>ÉL, ELLA, UD.</b>	dio
<b>NOSOTROS</b>	dimos
<b>VOSOTROS</b>	disteis
<b>ELLOS, ELLAS, UDS.</b>	dieron

Pay special attention so as not to confuse the preterit tense forms of *poner* and *poder*.

These forms should be distinguishable, as *poder* retains the *d* of the infinitive. In

the preterit of poner, e.g. puse, one can see that the cognate “to position” or “to posit” becomes more evident.

	<b>poner</b>	<b>poder</b>
<b>yo</b>	puse	pude
<b>tú</b>	pusiste	pudiste
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	puso	pudo
<b>nosotros</b>	pusimos	pudimos
<b>vosotros</b>	pusisteis	pudisteis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	pusieron	pudieron

Additional verbs that change the stem to a u are:

<b>yo</b>	supe	
<b>tú</b>	supiste	
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	supo	hubo
<b>nosotros</b>	supimos	
<b>vosotros</b>	supisteis	
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	supieron	

Hubo is the preterit tense of the impersonal hay (“there is/there are”). Note that it is only conjugated in the 3rd person singular form because it is impersonal. Hubo often denotes an action or event in the past and may have a different translation:

Hubo un golpe de estado en Chile en 1973.

There was a coup d’état in Chile in 1973.

A coup d’état occurred (happened) in Chile in 1973.

## 8.3 Other Verbs Used to Express "To Be"

Besides *ser* and *estar* (as well as certain idioms with *tener* and weather expressions with *hacer*), several other common verbs at times may translate as "to be." Three of these, already seen with other meanings, are *quedar(se)*, *seguir* and *encontrarse*. (A fourth, *llevar*, will be studied in section 10.2).

Like *estar*, *quedar(se)* is used to express a "resultant state" (state or condition resulting from an action), but is stronger than *estar*:

Mi papá estuvo furioso al saber las noticias.  
Mi papá (se) quedó furioso al saber las noticias.

My dad was furious upon hearing the news.

When the subject is human, *quedar* may also mean "to be":

Tomás se quedó satisfecho con los resultados.

Tomás was satisfied with the results.

When a form of "to stay" or "to remain" does not sound like the best translation or does not make sense in context, chances are that a form of "to be" is the best way to render the Spanish. In the above case, the only way to differentiate between *estuvo* and (se) *quedó* if you are translating to English is to underline *se quedó* to show that it is the more emphatic of the two.

*Quedar* may also express location when the subject is not human:

Quetzaltenango, la segunda ciudad de Guatemala, queda en el oeste del país.

Quetzaltenango, the second largest city in Guatemala, is in the west of the country.

The use of *quedar* versus *quedarse* is subject to many subtleties and regional variations that rarely if ever affect its translation for "to be."

*Encontrarse* may also express location, regardless of whether the subject is human or not.

-¿Dónde te encuentras ahora mismo?

"Where are you right now?"

Varios glaciares se encuentran en el sur de Chile.

Several glaciers are in the south of Chile.  
Several glaciers are found in the south of Chile.  
Several glaciers are located (situated) in the south of Chile.

*Encontrarse* may also express a state of health:

-¿Cómo te encuentras hoy?

"How are you today?"

-Me encuentro muy bien. ¿Y tú?

"I'm very well. And you?"

Seguir, especially when followed by an adjective or a location, often has the meaning of "to be" + "still":

-¿Elsa sigue enferma?	"Is Elsa still sick?"
-Sí, sigue en el hospital.	"Yes, she's still in the hospital." "Yes, she remains in the hospital."

Although there are cases when these verbs may be translated both by their original or literal meaning as well as "to be" (see last example), other times, when the translations "to remain," "to stay," and "to find (oneself)" do not sound correct or fail to make sense, you may find that their meaning is often best rendered with the verb "to be."

## 8.4 Changes in Meaning in the Preterite versus the Imperfect Tenses

Some verbs that express mental abilities or emotional states or others that simply describe a shift in meaning, at times subtle and at times not, between the preterite and imperfect tenses. The imperfect tense maintains the basic meaning of the verb, while the preterite tends to connote an action. This takes place in a **limited number** of verbs (largely, those that follow). Read the following pairs closely:

¿Podías abrirlo?	Could you open it? (Were you capable of opening it?)
¿Pudiste abrirlo?	Could you and <b>did</b> you open it? Did you manage to open it?
Los carros no podían pasar.	The cars were unable to get through.
Los carros no pudieron pasar.	The cars were unable and <b>did not</b> get through. (The cars failed to get through.)
Queríamos asistir.	We wanted to attend.
Quisimos asistir.	We tried to attend.
Vicente no quería bailar.	Vicente didn't want to dance.
Vicente no quiso bailar.	Vicente refused to dance.
Tenía que barrer el piso.	I had to sweep the floor.
Tuve que barrer el piso.	I had to and <b>did</b> sweep the floor.

The first sentences of the first two pairs present nothing new. The subtlety comes in the preterite, where the meaning is not only “was/were (un)able,” but also the implication that an action took place, whether or not it met with success.

The analogy can be continued in the third through fifth pairs. The imperfect merely describes a mental state, while the preterite communicates that the subjects put their will into effect by “trying to” in the third pair, “refusing to” in the fourth (Spanish also has other verbs meaning “to refuse” [negarse a] and “to try” [tratar de]), and doing the action deemed necessary in the fifth.

If you remember that the preterite tense is used to describe the beginning and final aspects of completed actions, the concept becomes useful in understanding the changes in meaning of the following verbs in the preterite versus the imperfect:



Sabía la dirección.	I knew the address.
Supe la dirección.	I found out the address.
Ella me conocía.	She knew me.
Ella me conoció.	She met me.
Los niños tenían miedo.	The children were afraid.
Los niños tuvieron miedo.	The children became afraid/got scared.

In the above cases, the initial aspect of the event is “finding out,” “meeting” and “becoming,” respectively. Logically, one must find out a piece of information before knowing it; one has to meet another person before knowing him or her; one becomes frightened (afraid, scared, etc.) before the state of fear continues in the past. (Spanish also has other verbs that mean “to find out”: averiguar, descubrir [literally, “to discover”]).

When the verb haber is used impersonally in a past tense, its tendency is to describe in the imperfect tense, while it tends to denote an action in the preterite. In the latter case, it has various accurate translations (see section 8.2.):

Había mucha comida en la fiesta.	There was a lot of food at the party.
Hubo un terremoto.	There was an earthquake. An earthquake occurred/happened/took place.

You may see many exceptions to the above generalization, as hubo could also occur in the first sentence. The inverse (había to describe an action or event) is possible, but somewhat rare.

## 8.5 The Present Participle and Progressive Forms

The Spanish present participle, the forms of which correspond to the verb + “-ing,” is as follows:

caminar	caminando
ver	viendo
discutir	discutiendo

As seen in preterite forms such as *cayeron* and *construyeron*, in -er and -ir verbs whose stems end in a vowel, the *i* of the present participle becomes a *y*:

traer	trayendo
leer	leyendo
oír	oyendo
huir	huyendo

Stem-changing verbs ending in -ir show *e* to *i* and *o* to *u* shifts (pedir becomes *pidiendo* and *dormir*, *durmiendo*), but these should not cause comprehension difficulties.

The present participle of *ir* is *yendo*, but it is seldom seen in formal writing.

As in English, the present participle may stand alone and has two possibilities of translation:

Viajando, se aprende mucho.	(By) Traveling, one learns a lot.
Especializándose en comercio, encontró trabajo fácilmente.	(By) Majoring in business, she found work easily.

Other times the present participle is employed when one would not expect it, and it translates as the equivalent of “while” + subject + verb:

Estando yo en el carro, me di cuenta de que no sabía exactamente dónde estaba.	While I was in the car, I realized I didn't know exactly where I was.
--	---

Remember that while English generally uses the present participle when a verb is the subject of the sentence, Spanish uses the infinitive (section 5.1):

Leer ciencia ficción le aburre.	Reading science fiction bores her.
---------------------------------	------------------------------------

The present participle combines with the forms of *estar* to make the progressive forms, used for actions taking place at a specific moment. The translation must be a form of “to be” + the present participle. *Estar* may combine in any tense with the present participle, though this construction is most frequently seen in the present and imperfect tenses.

Ahora mismo están escribiendo.	Right now they're writing.
Tito estaba leyendo ayer a las dos.	Tito was reading yesterday at two o'clock.

Spanish generally uses the progressive forms less than English does. Remember that *vengo*, for example, may translate as “I come,” “I do come,” “I’ll come,” and “I am coming.” Likewise the imperfect, *venía*, may translate as “I came,” “I used to come,” or “I was coming.” The multiple possibilities for translations of the simple present tense reduce the need for frequent use of the progressive form (*estar* + gerund), making their usage less common than in English.

The present participle is also used as an adverb (modifying the verb) and combines with verbs other than *estar*, especially those of motion.

Anda perdiendo tiempo.	He goes around wasting time.
Entró corriendo.	She entered running.
Seguíamos trabajando.	We continued (kept on) working.

## 8.6 The Preterit Tense: -Ir Stem-Changing Verbs and other Spelling Changes

Unlike -ar and -er stem-changing verbs, -ir verbs show a one-letter stem change (the first letter if the verb has a two-letter change in the present tense) in the third persons of the preterite, as they do in the present participle.

	<b>Pedir (i)</b>	<b>Dormir (ue)</b>
<b>yo</b>	pedí	dormí
<b>tú</b>	pediste	dormiste
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	pidió	durmió
<b>nosotros</b>	pedimos	dormimos
<b>vosotros</b>	pedisteis	dormisteis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	pidieron	durmieron

Present participles: pidiendo, **durmiendo**

Other verbs have orthographic changes that appear in the first-person singular of the present tense. All verbs ending in -car, -gar and -zar undergo this change.

sacar	saqué
llegar	llegué
comenzar	comencé

Once you recognize the infinitive and the tense, none of the above changes should present comprehension difficulties.

## Unit 8: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

#### ADJETIVOS:

cercano	near
cuerto	sane
difunto	dead, deceased (cognate: defunct)
lejano	far, distant
silvestre	wild
saludable	healthy
sano	healthy (false friend)

#### ADVERBIO:

atrás	behind, back
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#### EXPRESIONES:

con anticipación	ahead of time
de hecho	in fact
de repente	suddenly
de súbito	suddenly
encontrarse con	to run into, to meet (accidentally or by plan)
estar de vacaciones	to be on vacation
guardar cama	to stay in bed
hacer un viaje	to take a trip
valer la pena (valgo)	to be worthwhile

## SUSTANTIVOS:

el ambiente	atmosphere
el medio ambiente	environment
la muerte	death (cognate: mortal)
el/la muerto/-a	dead man/woman
el recurso	resource

## VERBOS:

andar	to walk, to go
aplazar	to postpone
averiguar	to find out
concluir	to conclude
cuidar (de/a)	to care (for), to take care (of)
desarrollar	to develop
enfermarse	to get sick
evitar	to avoid
fallecer	to succumb, to die
gobernar (ie)	to govern
guardar	to save (seat), to guard, to keep
intentar	to attempt (false friend)
parar	to stop
perecer	to perish
prestar	to lend, to loan
prometer	to promise
regalar	to give as a gift (cognate: to regale)
respirar	to breathe
salvar	to save
soñar (ue) (con)	to dream (of, about) Be careful not to confuse this verb with sonar ("to ring," "to sound").

# UNIT 9: PRONOUNS (PART 3)

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Recognize and accurately translate sentences with two object pronouns.
- Memorize prepositional object pronouns and their English translations.
- Review all pronouns.
- Identify and translate correctly verbs that take indirect object pronouns such as *gustar*.

## 9.1 Two Object Pronouns Used Together

When two object pronouns are used together, the **indirect** always precedes the **direct**. If meaning still remains unclear, the mnemonic device I-D (indirect, direct) may be helpful in remembering their order.

Pablo nos las dice.

Pablo tells them to us (tells us them).

Mi hermano me lo contó.

My brother told it to me.

Of the three types of non-prepositional object pronouns (reflexive, indirect, direct), although all three are never present in the same clause, their order is reflexive, indirect, direct (mnemonic device: R-I-D):

Guillermo se las bebió.

Guillermo drank them up.

When Spanish finds two object pronouns in the third person, the indirect (the first one) changes to *se*. If the context is not clear, a prepositional phrase clarifies the meaning of the indirect object. If, for example, the meaning of *Se la digo* is not apparent in context, any of the following prepositional phrases can be added to clarify the meaning of the *se*: *a Ud*, *a él*, *a ella*, *a Uds.*, *a ellos*, *a ellas*.

The two object pronouns are never separated (unless there are two verbs and one pronoun clearly refers to one verb, while the other does to another, eg., *Me ayuda a comprenderlo* ["He helps me to understand it"]). If an infinitive or present participle is present, the pronouns either precede the conjugated verb or are attached to either of the former.

Va a dármelo.

He's going to give it to me.

Me lo va a dar.

He's going to give it to me.

Está diciéndomelo.

She's telling it to me.

Me lo está diciendo.

She's telling it to me.

In written Spanish, there is a slight preference that the pronouns be attached to the infinitive (or present participle).



## 9.2 Prepositional Object Pronouns

These tend not to cause comprehension difficulty, as all are the same as subject pronouns, with two exceptions, the meanings of which are deducible:

Es para mí.	It's for me (myself).
Es para ti.	It's for you (yourself). (fam. s.)

Note above the two possible translations. Spanish also employs prepositional reflexive pronouns, all of which correspond to the English “-self” or “-selves.” The prepositional reflexive pronouns have a different third person pronoun.

mí	myself
ti	yourself (fam.)
sí	himself, herself, yourself (form.), itself
nosotros/-as	ourselves
vosotros/-as	yourselves (fam.pl.)
sí	themselves, yourselves (form. [fam.pl. in L.A.])

Note the multiple meanings of *sí*, which are determined by the subject to which the pronoun refers.

Esto en <i>sí</i> no es difícil.	This in itself is not difficult.
Guillermina lo repite para <i>sí</i> .	Guillermina repeats it to herself.

*Sí* may be followed by a form of *mismo* for emphasis or clarification.

Lo hacen por <i>sí mismas</i> .	They're doing it for (by) themselves. (fem.)
Lo repetí para <i>mí mismo</i> .	I repeated it to myself.

The necessity for the prepositional reflexive pronoun object (*sí*) as well as the simple prepositional pronoun object (*él*, *ella*, etc.) can be seen in the following contrast:

Eloísa lo compró para <i>ella</i> .	Eloísa bought it for her.
Eloísa lo compró para <i>sí (misma)</i> .	Eloísa bought it for herself.

In the first example, Eloísa bought something for another person. Without the

existence of *sí*, Spanish would not be able to express that “She bought it for herself.” Similarly:

Rolando lo trajo para él.	Rolando brought it for him.
Rolando lo trajo para sí (mismo).	Rolando brought it for himself.

When combined with preposition *con*, *mí*, *ti* and *sí* become *conmigo*, *contigo* (as previously seen) and *consigo*. The third persons singular and plural (all expressed by *consigo*) take on a reflexive meaning:

Gerardo está enojado consigo.	Gerardo is angry with himself.
Siempre llevan al perro consigo.	They always take the dog along with them (themselves).

## 9.3 Pronoun Summary

Study the different sets of Spanish pronouns for purposes of comparison. Focus especially on the third persons (singular: *el, ella, Ud*; plural: *ellos, ellas, Uds.*). If necessary, see sections 2.8, 6.1, 7.1, 7.4, and 9.2, which explain each type of pronoun.

Subject	Reflexive	Direct	Indirect	Prepositional	Prepositional Reflexive
<b>yo</b>	me	me	me	mí	mí
<b>tú</b>	te	te	te	ti	ti
<b>él</b>	se	lo/le	le	él	sí
<b>ella</b>	se	la	le	ella	sí
<b>Ud.</b>	se	lo/la/le	le	Ud.	sí
<b>nosotros/as</b>	nos	nos	nos	nosotros/-as	nosotros/-as
<b>vosotros/as</b>	os	os	os	vosotros/-as	vosotros/-as
<b>ellos</b>	se	los/les	les	ellos	sí
<b>ellas</b>	se	las	les	ellas	sí
<b>Uds.</b>	se	los/las/les	les	Uds.	sí

## 9.4 Verbs That Take Indirect Object Pronouns

One of the more confusing, high-frequency verbs in Spanish for the non-native speaker to form as well as to comprehend is *gustar*, which generally translates as “to like.” However, the object liked is the grammatical subject of the sentence, for *gustar* literally translates as “to be pleasing.” Note the word order flexibility in the Spanish sentences:

A Donaldo le gusta nadar.	
Or	
Le gusta nadar a Donaldo.	Donald likes swimming.
Or, somewhat less common:	
Nadar le gusta a Donaldo.	

---

As *gustar* normally refers to objects, it is used almost exclusively in the third person. When the object liked is plural, you will see a plural verb:

Le gustan los deportes.	She likes sports.
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If the meaning of *le* is not obvious in context, a prepositional phrase clarifies:

A ella le gustan los deportes.	She likes sports.
--------------------------------	-------------------

---

Although English does not have the verb “to *gust*,” it has its approximate opposite, “to disgust” (the more exact translation of which is the less harsh “to displease.”) To translate literally that something is “displeasing” (or “pleasing”) to someone may help to understand this construction. As many other Spanish verbs function in the same manner, it is important to recognize what is the subject (look for subject-verb agreement) and what is the indirect object (look at the pronoun or, if clarified, the prepositional object pronoun):

Nos gusta bailar el tango.	We like to dance the tango.
----------------------------	-----------------------------

---

In the above sentence, no clarification is ever necessary. If, however, one wanted to emphasize what the subject is in English, the phrase *a nosotros* could be added, most likely at the beginning of the sentence, but also at the end.

The sentence *Le gusta el merengue* is ambiguous out of context. If clarification were needed, a prepositional phrase would be added, such as:

A Ud. le gusta la música merengue.	You like merengue music.
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**¡Ojo!** When *gustar* is used in the first or second person, which is not the norm, it carries a sexual or romantic connotation: –¿Te gusto? (“Do **you** like **me**?” [Literally, “Am I (sexually, romantically) pleasing to you?”])

Other common verbs and expressions that function like *gustar* are:

aburrir	to be boring, to bore
agradar	to be pleasing
caer bien/mal	to like/ dislike someone; to make a good/bad impression on someone
dar asco	to be disgusting, to be repulsive
disgustar	to be displeasing, to be annoying (false friend)
doler (ue)	to hurt, to ache, to be painful
encantar	to like very much, to love
faltar	to be lacking, to be missing
interesar	to be interested in, to interest
sentar (ie) bien/mal	to sit well with/ not sit well with, to agree/disagree with

## Unit 9: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

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#### ADJETIVO:

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capaz*	capable
gratis	free (at no cost) (false friend)
libre	free (unoccupied; unrestrained)

\*The -az ending corresponds to word ending in English “-acious.” (The word “capacious” exists, with a slightly different meaning, in English.) Therefore, audaz = audacious, locuaz = loquacious, etc. Likewise, the suffix -oz corresponds to English “-ocious,” giving atroz = atrocious, precoz = precocious, etc.

#### ADVERBIO:

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gratis	free (at no cost)
--------	-------------------

#### EXPRESIONES:

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a despecho de	in spite of
a partir de	as of, from (such a date)
a pesar de	in spite of
dar un paseo	to take a walk (ride)
en balde	in vain
hacerse daño	to hurt oneself
pese a	in spite of (lit.)
montar en bicicleta	to ride a bicycle
montar a caballo	to ride a horse

## PREPOSICIONES CON OBJETOS (PREPOSITIONS WITH OBJECT):

conmigo	with me
contigo	with you (fam. s.)
consigo	with him (himself), with her (herself), with you (yourself) (form. s., form. pl. [fam. pl. in L.A.]

## SUSTANTIVOS:

el dolor	pain, sorrow
la edad	age
la mitad	half
la sangre	blood (cognate: sanguine)
el ser humano	human being

## VERBOS:

despedir (i)	to dismiss, to fire
despedirse de	to say good-bye to, to take leave of
disfrutar (de)	to enjoy
enfadarse	to get angry
enojarse	to get angry
gastar	to spend (money); to waste (time)
gozar (de)	to enjoy
ingresar	to join
jubilarse	to retire
reírse (i) (de)	to laugh (at)
relajarse	to relax
romper(se)	to break
sangrar	to bleed
sonreír (i)	to smile

# UNIT 10: STRUCTURES WITH "HACER," INTRODUCTION TO PERFECT TENSES, TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 1)

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Recognize “non-systemic” uses of hacer, acabar and llevar and translate them correctly.
- Memorize irregular past participle forms.
- Recognize and translate the present perfect and past perfect tenses.



## 10.1 Non-Systemic Use of Verbs: Hacer

### NON-SYSTEMIC USES OF HACER IN THE PRESENT

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The verb *hacer* is regularly used under certain conditions in the present tense to communicate present perfect meaning (“have done,” “has spoken,” “have been reading,” etc.). As the actual tense and the translation do not correspond to each other, this use of *hacer* may be called non-systemic, as it does not conform to the verb systems of Spanish or English.

A recent past action that continues into the present or has bearing on the present typically is expressed by the present perfect in English (e.g., “My mother has been ill recently.”) This would also take a present perfect tense in Spanish (see section 10.6), but it is equally common to see this expressed as:

*hace* + duration of time + *que* + verb in the present tense

Hace dos días que ella no quiere comer.

She **has** not **wanted** to eat for two days.

---

(Avoid the literal translation: “It makes two days that she does not want to eat.”)

The word order may also vary and in this case the word *desde* is added without changing the meaning:

verb in the present tense + *desde hace* + duration of time

No quiere comer desde hace dos días.

She **has** not **wanted** to eat for two days.

---

### NON-SYSTEMIC USES OF HACER IN THE PAST

---

*Hacer* may be used in the third-person singular of the imperfect tense, following the same formula to render past perfect meaning (“had done,” “had spoken,” “had been reading,” etc.):

*hacía* + duration of time + *que* + verb in the imperfect tense

Hacía dos días que no quería comer.

She **had** not **wanted** to eat for two days.

---

Again, the word order may vary and when this occurs the word *desde* is added without changing the meaning:

verb in the past tense + *desde hacía* + duration of time

No quería comer desde hacía dos días.

She **had** not **wanted** to eat for two days.

---

As this construction is extremely frequent in Spanish, learn the following formulas:

hace + duration of time + que + present tense	=	present perfect meaning
hacía + duration of time + que + imperfect tense	=	past perfect meaning

In other words, when both tenses match in the present or imperfect tenses, and all other necessary elements are present, the meaning or the translation of the sentence will be non-systemic, i.e., it will not correspond to the tenses used to achieve it:

Hace cuatro años que viven en Suiza.	They <b>have lived (have been living)</b> in Switzerland for four years.
Hacía muchos veranos que pasaban vacaciones en Sitges.	They <b>had spent (had been spending)</b> vacations in Sitges for many summers.

As seen above, you have the option of translating this construction in a progressive form whenever it sounds appropriate or better than the non-progressive rendering.

## "AGO" IN SPANISH

Hace also means "ago." This occurs, unlike in the above cases, when the tenses of the sentences or clauses do **not** correspond. (Remember that, grammatically, hace, although not translated as such, is still a verb.) In theory, when meaning "ago," hace may combine with any logical tense, though it is most frequently seen with the preterite:

Terminé el proyecto hace dos horas.	I finished the project two hours ago.
-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

If the word order is changed so that the sentence begins with hace, the word que is normally inserted after the expression of duration of time and is not translated:

Hace dos horas que terminé el proyecto.	Two hours ago I finished the project. I finished the project two hours ago.
---	--

To repeat, when the two tenses match (are in the same tense) and the other conditions mentioned are present, the non-systemic meanings will be invoked. When the verb tenses do not match, hace means ago.

**¡Ojo!** Be careful not to confuse the preposition hacia (no accent) ("toward") with hacía. Context should leave no doubt as to meaning:

Venía hacia mí.	She was coming toward me.
Venía aquí desde hacía años.	She had been coming here for years.

Remember that hacer is also used in the third person in a number of weather expressions (section 4.2).

## 10.2 Other Verbs Used Like Hacer

Two other common verbs are also used non-systemically.

### ACABAR

---

Acabar (“to finish,” “to end”) is used in the present tense, followed by de + infinitive, and translates as “to **have just done** something”:

Acaban de firmar el tratado.

They **have just signed** the treaty.

---

As with *hacer* when combined with a present tense verb, the present tense equals present perfect meaning in the above example.

Just as we saw when *hacía* combines with a past tense verb, usually the imperfect, the imperfect tense of *acabar* equals past perfect meaning:

Acababan de firmar el tratado.

They **had just signed** the treaty.

---

### LLEVAR

---

The verb *llevar* plus duration of time often translates as a form of “to be” and when combined, as it often is, with a present participle, means “to have been doing (something)”:

Llevo cinco años en este pueblo deprimente.

I have been (living) in this depressing town for five years.

---

Lleva veinte minutos tronando.

It has been thundering for twenty minutes.

---

The first example above is merely another way of expressing *Hace cinco años que vivo en este pueblo deprimente*.

Likewise, *llevar* is used in the same circumstance but in the imperfect tense and translates as “**had been**” (past perfect tense) or, with the present participle, “**had been doing**” (something):

Su familia llevaba más de ciento quince años en este país.

Her family had been (living) in this country for more than 115 years.

---

## DESDE = SINCE

---

As is often the case in English, the mere inclusion of the word *desde* ("since") in a sentence with a present tense verb normally renders the meaning to be **present perfect**. Likewise, when *desde* appears in a sentence in the imperfect tense, the meaning routinely shifts to past perfect tense.

---

Mi tío está aquí desde enero.

My uncle **has worked (has been working)** here since January.

---

Trabajaban en esa fábrica desde junio.

They **had worked (had been working)** in that factory since June.

---

## 10.3 Shortened Forms of Adjectives

Various adjectives drop the final -o before masculine singular nouns or adjectives preceding it. This shortened (apocopated) form should not cause any comprehension difficulty.

<b>alguno</b>	algún día – some day
<b>bueno</b>	un buen hombre – a good man
<b>malo</b>	un mal examen – a bad exam
<b>ninguno</b>	ningún dinero – no money
<b>primero</b>	el primer día – the first day
<b>tercero</b>	el tercer mes – the third month
<b>uno</b>	un buen ejemplo – a/one good example

Bueno and malo may also follow the noun without any change in meaning:

El señor Barrales es un muy buen hombre.  
El señor Barrales es un hombre muy bueno.

Mr. Barrales is a very good man.

The adjective cualquiera (“any”) drops the -a before any singular noun:

Te veo cualquier día.

I can see you any day.

Lee cualquier novela que encuentra.

He reads any novel he finds.

Cualquiera is also used as a pronoun to mean “anyone”:

Cualquiera puede comprender eso.

Anyone can understand that.

## 10.4 Forms of *el que*

The definite articles combine with *que* to give the meaning “he who,” “she who,” “the one(s) who/that,” and “those who/ that”:

El que trabaja más, no siempre gana más.	He who (The one who) works more (the most) doesn't always earn more (the most).
La que ganó es mi amiga Belisa.	She who (The one who) won is my friend Belisa.
Los que no pueden ayudarse a sí mismos, no pueden ayudar a otros.	Those who can't help themselves can't help others.
Las que ocurrieron en agosto fueron las peores tempestades.	Those that occurred in August were the worst storms.

Less commonly, the singular forms may be replaced by *quien* and the plural, by *quienes* without changing the meaning:

Quien no coopera, no va a tener éxito.	He who doesn't cooperate isn't going to be successful.
Quienes tienen la culpa deben confesársela.	Those who are at blame should confess it.

*El que* and its forms may refer to people or to objects, whereas *quien* and *quienes* only refer to people.

*El que* also has a neuter form, *lo que*, which in addition to meaning “what” (as in “that which”), means “which” when preceded by a comma. In this case it has no specific one-word antecedent, but rather refers to the entire preceding clause:

Estela llegó tarde a la cena, lo que les desagradó a sus padres.	Estela arrived late to dinner, which displeased her parents.
--	--

The neuter *lo cual* is equally common in this meaning:

Perdieron bastante dinero en la Bolsa, lo cual les enfadó.	They lost a fair amount of money in the stock market, which angered them.
--	---

Remember that *lo que* also means “what.” In this case it is not preceded by a comma and joins two clauses:

No ganó lo que quería.	He didn't earn (win) what he wanted (to).
------------------------	---

Of the two, only *lo que* can begin a sentence:

Lo que necesito es ganar más dinero.	What I need is to earn more money.
--------------------------------------	------------------------------------

## 10.5 The Past Participle

The past participle corresponds to the English “been,” “done,” “eaten,” “spoken,” etc., all irregular participles that stand out, as well as to regular past participles, that take the same form as the English simple past tense, as in “walked,” “desired,” “opened,” etc.

The regular past participles of verbs in Spanish are:

	-AR	-ER	-IR
<b>Infinitive</b>	pasar	comer	venir
<b>Past Participle</b>	pasado	comido	venido

Like English, Spanish employs a number of irregular past participles. (These do not always correspond to verbs that are irregular in other tenses.)

<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
abrir	abierto (opened [open])
cubrir	cubierto (covered)
decir	dicho (said, told)
descubrir	descubierto (discovered, uncovered)
escribir	escrito (written)
hacer	hecho (done, made)
morir	muerto (died [dead])
poner	puesto (put)
resolver	resuelto (solved, resolved)
romper	roto (broken)
ver	visto (seen)
volver	vuelto (returned)

Compound forms of these verbs, such as suponer (“to suppose”) and devolver (“to return”), have the same irregularity in their participles: supuesto, devuelto.

As in English, past participles may serve as adjectives and in this case they agree with the noun they modify. Sometimes they immediately follow the noun; others, they are separated from it, usually by *ser* or *estar*:

Nos dio una respuesta bien pensada.	He gave us a well-thought answer.
La lámpara está rota.	The lamp is broken.
El poema "Y colgaríamos naranjas en cada nube" fue escrito por la costarricense Ana Istaru.	The poem "And We Would Hang Oranges on Each Cloud" was written by the Costa Rican Ana Istaru.

The feminine forms of some past participles, as well as some masculine ones, may form nouns of related meaning, as these below that you have already seen:

la comida	food, meal, evening meal
la llegada	arrival
el puesto	position, job, placement, stand (where something is sold)
la salida	exit, departure

Additional nouns formed from past participles include:

la bebida	beverage
la dicha	happiness, good fortune
el dicho	refrain, proverb
la entrada	entrance, entrée, ticket
los escritos	writings
el hecho	fact, deed
el/la muerto/-a	dead person
el pasado	past
la vista	view
la vuelta	return



## 10.6 The Present Perfect Tense

The present perfect tense is formed by the present tense of the auxiliary verb *haber* (which gives the forms *hay* [an alternate form], *había*, and *hubo* [all already studied]), + the past participle, studied in section 10.5. *Haber*, not *tener* (which means “to have” in the sense of “to own” or “to possess”), is the auxiliary verb used to form all compound tenses in Spanish.

IR	Translation
he ido	I have gone
has ido	you have gone (fam.)
ha ido	he/she/you (form.) has/have gone
hemos ido	we have gone
habéis ido	you (fam. pl.) have gone
han ido	they/you (form. pl. [fam. pl. in L.A.]) have gone

In most of the Spanish-speaking world, the present perfect tense is used in a very similar manner to its English counterpart, and in both languages refers to a recent past event that continues into the present or has bearing on it:

El pobre ha estado desempleado recientemente.	The poor (unfortunate) man has been unemployed recently.
El número de muertos ha aumentado este año por razones desconocidas.	The number of dead (people) has increased this year for reasons unknown.
Han vivido en Egipto por un año.	They have lived in Egypt for one year.

The last example, in which a duration of time is expressed, is also commonly rendered by the non-systemic construction using *hace* (section 10.1):

Hace un año que viven en Egipto.	They have lived in Egypt for one year.
----------------------------------	--

The present tense forms of *haber* occasionally occur followed by *de* + infinitive and translate as “to be to,” “to be supposed to,” or “must” (when referring to probability):

Hemos de estudiar esta noche.	We are (supposed) to study tonight.
Ha de llover mañana.	It's supposed to rain tomorrow.
Han de saber la respuesta.	They must know the answer.



# 10.7 Ellipsis of Nouns

The forms of the definite article (el, la, los, las) + de often take the place of a previously mentioned or understood noun. As long as you know which is the noun antecedent, this should not pose comprehension problems. Note in the examples below the differing translations in English.

No sólo encontré mi pasaporte, sino también el de Katia.	I not only found my passport, but <b>Katia's</b> too. (literally, "that of Katia.")
Prefiero esta camisa y la gris.	I prefer this shirt and <b>the gray one</b> .
Los de color blanco son de Patricia.	<b>The white ones</b> are Patricia's. (antecedent understood)
Su esposa es la del vestido largo.	His wife is <b>the one in</b> the long dress.
Nuestra hija es la del pelo negro.	Our daughter is <b>the one with</b> the black hair.

## 10.8 The Past Perfect Tense

Just as the **present** tense of haber + past participle are used to form the **present perfect tense**, the **imperfect** tense of haber + past participle are used to form the **past perfect tense**. You have already seen one form of the imperfect tense of haber, *había*, which stands alone to mean “there was” or “there were.” The past perfect tense is as follows:

	Decir	
<b>YO</b>	había dicho	I had said/ told
<b>TÚ</b>	habías dicho	you (fam.) had said/ told
<b>ÉL, ELLA, UD.</b>	había dicho	he/she/you (form.) had said/told
<b>NOSOTROS</b>	habíamos dicho	we had said/told
<b>VOSOTROS</b>	habíais dicho	you (fam. pl.) had said/told
<b>ELLOS, ELLAS, UDS.</b>	habían dicho	they/you (form. pl. [fam. pl. in L.A.]) had said/told

The past perfect tense (also called the pluperfect tense) in Spanish has the same meaning as in English and in both languages it is used to refer to the more distant in time of two past events:

Cuando vinimos a casa, vimos que se había limpiado.	When we came home, we saw that it had been cleaned.
---	---

In the above example, the past perfect tense communicates that the two past actions were not simultaneous, but rather that the cleaning of the house took place prior to the arriving at home.

At times there is a specified past point of reference (instead of a conjugated verb in the past); other times this point of reference is unexpressed and simply understood:

A los diecinueve años, Alfonso nunca había manejado un automóvil.	At age 19 Alfonso had never driven a car.
---	---

Habíamos estado en Ibiza ocho días.	We had been in Ibiza for a week.*
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

\* Be aware that *ocho días* often translates as “a week” in Spanish. (When days are counted, starting with, for example, Monday, it is counted as day one and day eight). Likewise, *quince días* at times translates as “two weeks” rather than 15 days.

Remember that the last example can be expressed with the non-systemic use of *hacer*:

Hacia ocho días que estábamos en Ibiza.

We had been in Ibiza for a week.

---

# 10.9 Emphatic Forms of Possessive Pronouns

All of the possessive pronouns already studied (mi, tu, su, nuestro, vuestro and their feminine and plural forms, as appropriate) also have corresponding emphatic or “long” forms, which have one of two meanings:

	Possessive Pronouns	Translation
1st person sing.	mío	of mine, <b>mine</b> , <b>my</b> (emp.)
2nd person sing.	tuyo	of yours (fam.), <b>yours</b> , <b>your</b> (emp.)
3rd person sing.	suyo	of his, of hers, of its or yours (fam.), <b>his</b> , <b>hers</b> , <b>its</b> , <b>yours</b> (emp.)
1st person plural	nuestro	of ours, <b>ours</b> , <b>our</b> (emp.)
2nd person plural	vuestro	of yours (fam. pl.), <b>yours</b> , <b>your</b> (emp.)
3rd person plural	suyo	of theirs, of yours (formal), <b>theirs</b> , <b>your</b> (emp.)

All of these possessives have four forms each: masculine and feminine in both the singular and plural. Note that the first and second persons plural (nuestro, vuestro) are identical to the simple possessives already studied:

Es nuestra casa	It's our house.
Es una casa nuestra.	It's a house of ours. It's <b>our</b> house. (emphatic)

In English, emphasis is communicated via information and stress (when spoken) while in Spanish the use of the long form of the possessive plays this role:

Esta es la casa nuestra, no la suya.	This is <b>our</b> house, not <b>his</b> .
--------------------------------------	--

If, out of context, the above meaning is not clear, the form of suyo is replaced by the corresponding definite articles and a prepositional phrase:

Esta es la casa nuestra, no <b>la de él</b> .	This is <b>our</b> house, not <b>his</b> .
---	--

Study these further examples:

El coche azul es mío y el blanco es suyo (el de ella).	The blue car is mine and the white one is hers.
Rosa no es amiga mía.	Rosa isn't a friend of mine.
No son papeles suyos (de Ud.).	They're not papers of yours.
¿Todas estas llaves son tuyas?	Are all these <b>your</b> keys? (emphatic) Are all these keys <b>of yours</b> ?

The minimal ambiguity of the last sentences is negligible and both translations are accurate renderings of the Spanish.

## Unit 10: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

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#### ADVERBIOS:

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aún	still, yet
acá	here (used for motion toward the speaker)
ahí	there (nearby)
allá	there (far away)
infelizmente	unfortunately
ni siquiera	not even
súbitamente	suddenly

#### CONJUNCIONES:

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puesto que	because, as, since
ya que	because, as, since



## EXPRESIONES:

a su vez	in (his, her, their) turn
cambiar de idea	to change one's mind
con (mucho) gusto	with (much) pleasure, gladly
dar lo mismo	to make no difference
en cambio	on the other hand
en lugar de	instead of, in place of
estar de acuerdo (con)	to be in agreement, to agree (with)
estar de buen (mal) humor	to be in a good (bad) mood
hacer hincapié en	to stress, to emphasize, to insist on
pedir prestado	to borrow*
por excelencia	par excellence
por otra parte	on the other hand
quedar en (+inf.)	to agree (to do something)
quedarse con	to keep (something)
tener voluntad	to be willing, to feel like

\*The past participle here functions as an adjective and agrees in number and gender with what was borrowed. Spanish has no one verb meaning "to borrow."

## SUSTANTIVOS:

el/la abogado/-a	lawyer, attorney
el amo/-a de casa	stay-at-home dad/mom
el asunto	matter, issue, question (not interrogative)
la cuestión	issue, question (not interrogative)
el cura	priest
la cura	cure
el derecho	right, law (field of study)
la falta	lack (false friend)
el/ la juez/ jueza	judge
el juicio	judgment, trial, verdict; opinion (a mi juicio)
la monja	nun
la muchedumbre	crowd
las noticias	news (la noticia– piece of news)
el papel	role, paper
la pérdida	loss
el/la periodista	journalist
el préstamo	loan
el presupuesto	budget
el principio	beginning; principle
el/la rabino/-a	rabbi
el testigo	witness

## VERBOS:

agradecer	to thank, to be grateful for
apoyar	to support (politically, emotionally), to lean (physically)
aumentar	to increase (cognate: augment)
cambiar	to change
carecer	to lack
cargar	to charge (to an account), to load
comportarse (bien/mal)	to behave (well/badly)
deprimir	to depress*
desobedecer	to disobey
dibujar	to draw
elegir	to elect
equivocarse	to make a mistake (false friend)
fabricar	to manufacture (cognate: to fabricate)
guardar	to save (something for someone)
hallar	to find
invertir (ie)	to invest
juzgar	to judge
lograr	to manage (to do something), to obtain, to achieve
llenar	to fill
llorar	to cry
manejar	to manage, to handle, to drive
merecer	to deserve
meter(se)	to put (to meddle)
molestar	to bother (false friend)
montar	to put together, to assemble
obedecer	to obey
poseer	to possess, to own
realizar	to achieve, to carry out (false friend); to realize (a dream, a goal)**
renunciar (a)	to resign (from) (false friend)
significar	to mean
solicitar	to apply for, to solicit

\*Almost all verbs ending in -primir correspond to those in English ending in “-press”: The meanings of reprimir, oprimir, suprimir, etc. should now be readily deducible.

One exception is imprimir, which means “to print” (or “to imprint”) not to “impress,” which is rendered by impresionar.

\*\*Realizar also may translate as “to realize” but only in limited circumstances, such as Claudio realizó su sueño de estudiar en Santiago (“Claudio realized his dream of studying in Santiago.”) Remember that “to realize,” when it means “to become aware of,” is expressed by darse cuenta (de).

# **UNIT 11: INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJUNCTIVE, COMMANDS, TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 2)**

## **OBJECTIVES**

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Learn about the subjunctive mode and its uses.
- Memorize present and present perfect subjunctive forms.
- Recognize different verbs that mean “to become.”

## 11.1 Concept of the Subjunctive Mode

Both Spanish and English have the subjunctive mode of verbs, in contrast with the indicative mode, to which all verb tenses studied up until now belong. Unlike in English, in which the subjunctive mode is, in essence, vestigial, it is routinely used in Spanish, even by the uneducated, in four different tenses.

The subjunctive mode is extremely common in Spanish. While the indicative mode expresses facts, certainly, reality, truths, and beliefs (affirmation of what one perceives to be reality), the subjunctive mode expresses doubt, uncertainty, emotions, pending (future) actions (not yet completed and whose probable completion is therefore unknown), indefinites, nonexistence, persuasion, volition, as well as opinions and attitudes when combined with a negative and/or with most impersonal expressions.

Some examples of the indicative:

Vimos que llegó.	We saw that he arrived. (known reality)
Sé que hablas inglés.	I know that you speak English. (information)
Es cierto que lo sabe.	It's true that he knows it. (certainty)
Es aquí donde comimos.	Here is where we ate. (definite place)
Cree que es verdad.	She believes it's true. (affirmation of belief in what one perceives to be reality or true)

Now focus on the different ways of translating the subjunctive, which is almost always preceded by *que* or a conjunction.

- direct object pronoun plus infinitive:

Quiere que (yo) <b>vaya</b> .	She wants <b>me to go</b> .
-------------------------------	-----------------------------

- prepositional phrase plus infinitive:

No es posible que ella <b>venga</b> .	It's not possible <b>for her to come</b> . It's not possible that she come. It's not possible that she will come. (future)
---------------------------------------	--

- literal translation plus word of uncertainty:

Aunque **esté** enferma...

Although she **may** be ill...  
Although **perhaps** she's ill...

- 
- use of English subjunctive:

Si **estuviera** aquí...

If she **were** here...

Es necesario que estén allí.

It's necessary that you all **be** there.

- 
- word-for-word translation from English:

Cuando lo **sepa**, te lo digo.

When I know it, I'll tell it to you.

- 
- use of English future tense

No es posible que **vayan**.

It's not possible that they **will go**.

---

## 11.2 Forms of the Present Subjunctive

Forms of regular verbs have their subjunctive ending in what is often called the “opposite vowel.” For –ar verbs, the opposite vowel is e. For –er and –ir verbs, the opposite vowel is a. With regular verbs, it now becomes more important to know whether the verb’s form in the subjunctive is from an –ar versus an –er or –ir verb, as the endings in the present subjunctive versus the present indicative normally differ by only one vowel.

	<b>tomar</b>	<b>leer</b>	<b>abrir</b>
<b>yo</b>	tome	lea	abra
<b>tú</b>	tomes	leas	abras
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	tome	lea	abra
<b>nosotros</b>	tomemos	leamos	abramos
<b>vosotros</b>	toméis	leáis	abráis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	tomen	lean	abran

Subjunctive forms of –ar and –er verbs undergo the stem change in the same persons as in the present indicative:

	<b>pensar</b>	<b>volver</b>
<b>yo</b>	piense	vuelva
<b>tú</b>	pienses	vuelvas
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	piense	vuelva
<b>nosotros</b>	pensemos	volvamos
<b>vosotros</b>	penséis	volváis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	piensen	vuelvan

In –ir stem-changing verbs, the e to ie type gives an i in the first and second persons plural:



**sentir**

<b>1st</b>	sienta	sintamos
<b>2nd</b>	sientas	sintáis
<b>3rd</b>	sienta	sientan

The o to ue type of stem-changing verbs uses a u in these same two persons:

**dormir**

<b>1st</b>	duerma	durmamos
<b>2nd</b>	duermas	durmáis
<b>3rd</b>	duerma	duerman

In –ir stem-changing verbs of the e to i type, the entire present subjunctive shows the stem change:

**pedir**

<b>1st</b>	pida	pidamos
<b>2nd</b>	pidas	pidáis
<b>3rd</b>	pida	pidan

Remember that verbs ending in vowel plus –cer or –cir insert a z in the first person singular of the indicative, which appears in the entire present subjunctive, **as it is the first person singular of the present indicative on which the present subjunctive is based** (except in stem-changing verbs and the four irregular verbs):

**traducir**

<b>1st</b>	traduzca	traduzcamos
<b>2nd</b>	traduzcas	traduzcáis
<b>3rd</b>	traduzca	traduzcan

These forms of the subjunctive of irregular verbs may be easier to recognize than

those of regular verbs. This is one of many cases in Spanish in which one tense “builds on” another. By mastering or recognizing earlier-studied forms, it becomes easier to recognize other new ones as they are presented.

tener		
1st	tenga	tengamos
2nd	tengas	tengáis
3rd	tenga	tengan

Other verbs irregular in the first person singular that undergo the same phenomenon are:

Example verbs infinitive > 1st person sing. Present Indicative	Subjunctive
decir > digo	diga
hacer > hago	haga
oír > oigo	oiga
poner > pongo	ponga
salir > salgo	salga
traer > traigo	traiga
venir > vengo	venga
ver > veo	vea

The verbs dar and estar are technically irregular in the present subjunctive because of the accent marks on some forms, which indicate spoken stress and also differentiate them from otherwise identical forms.

	dar	estar
yo	dé (versus de [prep.])	esté (versus este [dem. adj.])
tú	des	estés
él, ella, Ud.	dé	esté
nosotros	demos	estemos
vosotros	deis	estéis
ellos, ellas, Uds.	den	estén

The only truly irregular verbs in the present subjunctive are the following four, in which the differences from the present indicative should help these forms stand out:

haber	haya
ir	vaya
saber	sepa
ser	sea

The *ir + a + infinitive* construction, which renders future meaning without using the future tense in the indicative mode (e.g., *Sé que van a tener tiempo*), can also do the same in the subjunctive mode.

Dudo que vayan a tener tiempo para hacer todo lo necesario.	I doubt that you're going to have time to do everything necessary.
---	--

## 11.3 Summary of Uses of the Subjunctive

Although you do not have to know actively when to use the subjunctive, it is helpful to know nuances of translation (e.g., uncertainty and doubt) as well as the general patterns and possibilities of translating it. These are in general not difficult.

### A. EMOTION\*

Me alegro que estés aquí.	I'm glad (that) <b>you are</b> here
No me gusta que hagas eso.	I don't like <b>you to do</b> that. I don't like <b>for you to do</b> that. I don't like <b>that</b> you do that.

\*At times, emotional reactions, especially to past events, are expressed by some speakers with the indicative (more often in Latin America than Spain), but this should not lead to a comprehension problem. (Occasional exceptions to the above summary of uses also exist in some in other cases, more in speaking than in writing.)

### B. PERSUASION, VOLITION

Quiere que ayudemos.	He wants <b>us to help</b> .
Me recomienda que no vaya.	She recommends that I <b>not go</b> . She recommends <b>me not to go</b> .

### C. DOUBT, DENIAL

Dudan que podamos venir.	They doubt <b>we can</b> come.
Niegan que sea así.	They deny <b>it is</b> that way.

### D. OPINIONS STATED NEGATIVELY

No creen que tengas razón. **	They don't think <b>you are</b> right.
No me parece que lo necesitemos.	It doesn't seem to me that <b>we need</b> it.

**\*\***When the disbelief is strong, the indicative is used. The subjunctive normally indicates doubt.

## E. IMPERSONAL EXPRESSIONS

Conviene que lo hagamos.	It's advisable that <b>we do</b> it.
Es curioso que diga eso.	It's curious that <b>she say(s)</b> that.
No es verdad que venga. ***	It's not true that <b>he's coming</b> .
Es posible que nos ayuden.	It's possible that <b>they may help</b> us.

**\*\*\***When expressions of certainty are used affirmatively, the indicative is used: Es verdad que viene ("It's true that he's coming").

## F. PENDING ACTIONS

Te digo cuando salga.	I'll tell you when <b>I leave</b> .
Los vamos a ayudar en cuanto podamos.	We'll help them as soon as <b>we can</b> .

## G. INDEFINITES AND UNKNOWNNS

Buscamos un hotel que sea barato.	We're looking for a hotel that <b>is</b> inexpensive.
Aunque haga mal tiempo mañana, vamos a salir de viaje.	Although the weather <b>may be</b> bad tomorrow we're going to leave on a trip.

## H. NONEXISTENCE

No hay nadie que pueda traducírmelo.	There's no one who <b>can</b> translate it for me.
No hay nada que sea barato aquí.	There's nothing that <b>is</b> inexpensive here.

## I. PURPOSE

Te lo explico para que lo entiendas.	I'm explaining it to you so that <b>you (may/might)</b> understand it.
Hace todo lo posible porque su marido esté libre. ****	She's doing everything possible so that her husband <b>may be</b> free.

**\*\*\*\***Porque occasionally has the meaning of "so that" or "in order that," as does para que, but implies strong emotional resolve on the part of the speaker. The translation does not usually differ. When translating porque as "because" does not make sense, chances are you will see that it is followed by a subjunctive and translating it as "so that" or "in order that" is logical.

J. AFTER WORDS OF UNCERTAINTY IN A MAIN CLAUSE

Quizá(s) lo sepa.	Perhaps she <b>knows (may know)</b> it.
Tal vez lo busque.	Maybe .
Acaso nos lo digan.	Perhaps they <b>may (will)</b> tell it to us.

K. PURPOSE

Although it does not meet the normal criteria for subjunctive use, the conjunction *como*, when indicating cause (and translated as “because,” “as,” or “since”) may be followed by the subjunctive:

Como no venga, no venimos tampoco.	As <b>she is</b> not <b>coming</b> , we’re not either.
------------------------------------	--

L. CERTAINTY

Expressions meaning “the fact is”- *el (hecho de) que* and *es un hecho que*- which likewise do not conform to the criteria for subjunctive use, are required by grammar rules to take a subjunctive in Spanish:

El que te diga eso no significa que sea verdad.	The fact that he tells you that does not mean it is the truth.
Es un hecho que Enrique VIII se divorciara de Catalina de Aragón, hija de los Reyes Católicos, Fernando e Isabel. *****	It is a fact that Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon, the daughter of the Catholic Kings, Ferdinand and Isabella.

\*\*\*\*\*Divorciara is an example of imperfect subjunctive. See section 13.4.

M. IN INDEFINITE FIXED PHRASES

Pase lo que pase, tienes que hacer algo.	<b>Comewhat may</b> , you have to do something.
Sea como fuere, hay que aceptarlo.*****	<b>Be</b> that as <b>it may</b> , it’s necessary to accept it.

\*\*\*\*\*Fuere is the future subjunctive, only used vestigially. (See section 17.5)  
**¡Ojo!** There are certain instances in which it is imperative to recognize the subjunctive form versus the indicative form of regular verbs, as the one-letter difference changes the whole meaning of the sentence. This occurs most frequently with the verb *decir*, which, when used to tell someone what to do, takes the subjunctive. When it is used merely to inform or pass on information (without telling someone what to do), it takes the indicative. This happens occasionally with other verbs of communication, such as *escribir* and *telefonar*.

Me dice que lo estudie.	He tells <b>me to study</b> it. (command)
Me dice que lo estudia.	He tells me that <b>he’s studying</b> it. (information)
Le escribe que vuelva a casa.	She writes (to) <b>her to return</b> home. (command)
Le escribe que vuelve a casa.	She writes (to) <b>her that she’s returning</b> home. (information)

## 11.4 Formal Commands

All formal commands (the affirmative and negative forms of Ud. and Uds.) take the present subjunctive. The subject pronouns either goes after the command or is omitted.

Diga la verdad.	Tell the truth.
No digan mentiras.	Don't tell lies.
Lean Uds. este artículo.	Read this article.

All object pronouns are attached to affirmative commands and precede negative commands.

Díganos todo.	Tell us everything.
No me diga nada del asunto.	Don't tell me anything about the matter.

It remains important at times to remember infinitive endings so that you know, for example, that *escribe* means "he (she, you) write(s)" and that *escriba* is the command "write." Context should clarify when a command is being given. (Exclamation points are common, but optional, with commands in Spanish). When affirmative commands have object pronouns attached to them, they should be easy to recognize:

Léamelo.	Read it to me.
Véndaselo.	Sell it to him (her, them).

The negative commands corresponding to the above ones are *No me lo lea* and *No se lo venda*.

At times one sees the command as a plus infinitive:

¡A marchar!	Leave! (Get going!)
-------------	---------------------

Other times one sees the present indicative used as a command:

Tú te callas.	You be quiet.
---------------	---------------

Impersonal commands, especially on signs in public, are often expressed by nothing more than the infinitive:

No entrar.	No entrance.
No fumar.	No smoking.
Salir aquí.	Exit here.



# 11.5 Exclamations

Exclamations should present few or no comprehension problems.

¡Qué bien hablan español!  
¡Cómo hablan bien el español!

How well they speak Spanish!

The above are both common and equivalent renderings of the English. Other exclamations are fairly literally translated; many of these insert the word *más* before an adjective as an intensifier:

¡Qué libro más largo!

What a very long book!

¡Qué lectura más difícil!

What a very difficult reading!

¡Qué vacaciones más aburridas!

What a very boring vacation!

*Vaya* plus the indefinite article may be used in this construction instead of *qué*:

¡Vaya unos problemas que tenemos!

What problems we have!

## 11.6 Equivalents of "To Become"

Spanish has no single verb that renders all of the equivalents of "to become." When it implies "to transform" or "to convert" ("to turn into"), Spanish uses one of two obvious cognates:

La tormenta se convirtió en ciclón.	The storm became (turned into) a cyclone.
Los Arreaga se convirtieron al protestantismo.	The Arreagas became Protestants (converted to Protestantism).
El agua se transformó en hielo.	The water turned into (became) ice.

In most instances, however, one of several other less obvious verbs renders "to become." In the examples that follow, notice that the reflexive pronoun is not translated.

Hacerse, which you have already seen, is the most "generic" of these verbs and has the most widespread usage.

Los Gudiño se hicieron ricos.	The Gudiños became rich.
La situación se está haciendo normal.	The situation is becoming normal.

Ponerse is most often seen to indicate a change in emotional or physical state.

Mi padre se pone alarmado si llego a casa muy tarde.	My father becomes alarmed if I arrive home very late.
Nando se puso pálido al ver el accidente.	Nando turned (became) pale upon seeing the accident.

Volverse may apply to a general situation or to an emotional state, but it often carries the connotation of a sudden or quick and sometimes violent or surprising change. Volverse loco is the equivalent of "to go crazy" (literally or physically).

Gabriel se volvió furioso cuando rompí la cámara.	Gabriel became furious when I broke the camera.
La manifestación se volvió violenta.	The protest became violent.

Quedar(se) also occasionally translates as "become," especially when a negative or unfortunate connotation is implied. In this usage quedar may or may not appear as reflexive:

El señor Marroquín quedó viudo.	Mr. Marroquín became a widower.
El científico se está quedando enfadado.	The scientist is becoming angry.

When you see any of the above four verbs and a literal translation does not make sense, it is likely that the desired translation is “to become.”

A common expression that also translates as “to become” is *llegar a ser*, which may also be rendered as “to come to be.” The implication, as in the English translation, is that the process may take or have taken place over a long period of time.

Llegaron a ser ricos a través de mucho trabajo duro.	They became (came to be) rich by means of much hard work.
Venancio Pelayo llegó a ser presidente del senado.	Venancio Pelayo became president of the senate.

## 11.7 The Present Perfect Subjunctive

The present perfect subjunctive is formed by the present subjunctive of the auxiliary verb *haber* + past participle:

### DECIR

haya dicho	I have said/ told
hayas dicho	you (fam.) have said/ told
haya dicho	he/she/you (form.) have said/told
hayamos dicho	we have said/told
hayáis dicho	you (fam. pl.) have said/told
hayan dicho	they/you (form. pl. [fam. pl. in L.A.]) have said/told

This tense is used when one of the conditions cuing the subjunctive exists (see section 11.3) and the time frame of the subordinate clause is present perfect (see section 10.6):

Es dudoso que la ladrona haya vuelto.	It's doubtful that the thief has returned.
Es una lástima que Jacobo se haya enfermado.	It's a pity that Jacobo has gotten sick.
Espero que hayan resuelto la cuestión.	I hope you/they have resolved the issue.

## 11.8 Absolute Superlatives

When a very high degree of quality is expressed and no comparison is intended, Spanish employs the suffix *-ísimo* and its feminine and plural forms as the equivalent of “extremely” or “very (very).” (Those familiar with musical terminology from the Italian may recognize this ending to be almost identical to that of such words as “*pianissimo*” and “*fortissimo*,” among others.)

---

¿No crees que es una escritora de muchísimo talento?

Don't you believe she's an extremely talented writer?

---

Adela se puso furiosísima.

Adela became extremely furious.

---

There are a number of low frequency irregular absolute superlatives, all vestiges of Latin. One of the most common is *pésimo* (“extremely bad”) and most of the others end in *-érrimo*.

## 11.9 Compound Verbs

You have already seen verbs such as *mantener* and *detener*, which have as their root *tener*, and *suponer*, which has as its root *poner*. Many such verbs exist and they almost always have the same irregularities as those seen in the “root” verbs. Once you know the meaning of these verbs, which at times may be logically deduced, they present no general comprehension problems, provided you recognize the irregularities of the root verb.

Although some of these are not truly compound verbs, the groupings below are meant to facilitate recognition of as many verbs as possible:

### ENGLISH -TAIN = SPANISH -TENER

abstenerse (de)	to abstain (from)
contener	to contain
detener	to detain, to arrest
entretener	to entertain
mantener	to maintain, to keep, to support financially
retener	to retain
sostener	to sustain, to support

### ENGLISH -POSE = SPANISH -PONER

componer	to compose
deponer	to depose
descomponer	to decompose, to break down
imponer	to impose
oponer	to oppose (oponerse a- to be opposed to)
proponer	to propose
yuxtaponer	to juxtapose

Other verbs ending in *-poner* but which have a different ending in English include *posponer* (“to postpone”) and *reponer* (“to replace”).

## ENGLISH -TRACT = SPANISH -TRAER

atraer	to attract
contraer	to contract
distraer	to distract
extraer	to extract
sustraer	to subtract, to take away, to remove

## ENGLISH -DUCE, -DUCT = SPANISH -DUCIR

conducir	to conduct, to drive
deducir	to deduce
inducir	to induce
introducir	to introduce
producir	to produce
reducir	to reduce
seducir	to seduce

One verb you have already seen but which has a different ending in English is *traducir*, “to translate.”

## ENGLISH -DICT, AT TIMES = SPANISH -DECIR

bendecir	to bless
contradecir	to contradict
maldecir	to curse, to slander, to speak ill of
predecir	to predict, to forecast

## ENGLISH -VENE, AT TIMES = SPANISH -VENIR

convenir	to be suitable/ appropriate, suit; to convene, to agree
intervenir	to intervene
prevenir	to prevent, to warn, to forestall
provenir	to come from, to originate

**ENGLISH -SCRIBE = SPANISH -SCRIBIR**

---

describir	to describe
inscribir	to inscribe, to enroll
prescribir	to prescribe
proscribir	to proscribe, to prohibit
suscribir	to subscribe

**COMPOUNDS OF VER**

---

prever	to foresee
rever	to revise, to look over, to review

**COMPOUNDS OF HACER**

---

deshacer	to undo
contrahacer	to imitate, to copy, to counterfeit
satisfacer	to satisfy

**COMPOUNDS OF VOLVER**

---

devolver	to return (something)
envolver	to wrap, to pack

**COMPOUND OF PEDIR**

---

despedir(se)	to dismiss, to fire (to take leave of, to say good-bye to)
impedir	to stop, to impede, to prevent

**COMPOUND OF SALIR**

---

sobresalir	to stand out, to excel, to jut out
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## Unit 11: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

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#### ADVERBIOS:

---

acaso	perhaps
quizá(s)	perhaps
tal vez	maybe

#### CONJUNCIONES:

---

a condición de que	provided that
a fin de que	so that, in order that, with the purpose that
a menos que	unless
antes (de) que	before
comoquiera	however (in whatever manner)
de modo que	so that, in a manner (way) that
después (de) que	after
dondequiera	wherever
en cuanto	as soon as
hasta que	until
para que	in order that, so that
quienquiera	whoever
tan pronto como	as soon as

## EXPRESIONES:

de una vez	once and for all
echar a perder	to ruin
echarse + a + inf.	to begin to do something
es dudoso	it's doubtful
es imprescindible	it's indispensable
es (una) lástima	it's a pity, it's too bad
es menester	it's necessary
es una pena	it's a pity
es preciso	it's necessary (false friend)
una vez	once
salir bien/mal	to go well/badly, to turn out well/badly

## INTERJECCIÓN:

ojalá	if only, I hope
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## VERBOS:

advertir (ie)	to warn
avisar	to inform, to notify (false friend)
amanecer	to dawn, to wake up (in a place)
anochecer	to get dark, to spend the night (in a place)
asombrar	to astound
bastar	to be sufficient
convenir (ie)	to be advisable/suitable; to suit, to be appropriate (false friend)
desempeñar	to carry out, to play (un papel = a role)
desmayarse	to faint
dudar	to doubt
echar	to throw (out)
medir (i)	to measure
mentir (ie)	to lie
nacer	to be born
negar (ie)	to deny, to negate
presenciar	to witness
sentir (ie)	to regret, to be sorry
sugerir (ie)	to suggest

# UNIT 12: MORE USES OF SE, FUTURE AND CONDITIONAL TENSES

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Memorize the future and conditional tense endings.
- Memorize the imperfect subjunctive endings.
- Practice translating contrary-to-fact sentences that use the past subjunctive and conditional.

## 12.1 *Se Construction for Unplanned Occurrences*

With a **limited number** of verbs, mainly those that follow, Spanish often uses a construction based on the impersonal *se*, followed by an indirect object pronoun, then the verb (most often in the preterite tense) to express unplanned occurrences, communicating a level of subtlety that is not always present in English.

### IMPERSONAL SE CONSTRUCTION:

---

Se acabó el dinero.

The money ran out/was exhausted.

---

### IMPERSONAL SE + INDIRECT OBJECT = UNPLANNED OCCURRENCE

---

Se nos acabó el dinero.

The money ran out on us.

---

By using the impersonal *se* + indirect object pronoun, the speaker or writer shifts blame away from the person involved. (In English, a stark example of this may be seen in “Dad, I wrecked the car” [blame accepted] versus “Dad, the car got wrecked [while I happened to be driving it]” [blame shifted].)

Study this construction in the sentences that follow. Although it does not affect the translation, note that the verb agrees with the grammatical subject. As *perros* (first sentence) is plural, so is the verb. *Coche* (second sentence), as a singular noun, takes a singular verb.

¿Se te escaparon los perros?	Did the dogs get away from you?
Se les descompuso el coche.	The car broke down on them.
Se nos olvidó la cámara.	We accidentally forgot the camera.
Se nos quedaron dos maletas en casa.	We accidentally left two suitcases at home.
Se le rompió un plato.	A dish got broken "on him."
Se les murió su querido vecino.	Their dear neighbor died "on them."
Se le cayó la bandeja.	She accidentally dropped the tray.

## 12.2 Future Tense

The future tense of regular verbs is formed by adding the endings of the present tense of haber (he, has ha, hemos, habéis, han), minus the h, to the infinitive.\*

### HABLAR

Person	Singular		Plural	
1st	hablaré	I will speak	hablaremos	we will speak
2nd	hablarás	you (fam.) will speak	hablaréis	you (fam. pl.) will speak
3rd	hablará	he/she/ you will (form.) speak	hablarán	they/ you will speak(form. pl. in Sp.) [fam. pl. in L.A.]

\*The original tense was formed by two words (e.g., hablar he), which fused into one.

Note that all the forms of the future tense except the nosotros form carry a written accent. You need to be careful to distinguish among tenses, especially in the first person singular, in which an accented é appears in both the future and the preterite tenses. The difference is that the future adds the ending to the infinitive while the preterite adds the same ending to the stem:

Hablé con él.	I spoke with him. (preterite)
---------------	-------------------------------

Hablaré con él.	I will speak with him. (future)
-----------------	---------------------------------

The future tense is used for near-future as well as distant-future actions. When referring to near-future actions, it connotes stronger purpose or resolve than the similar-meaning ir + a + infinitive construction.

Lo voy a ayudar.	I'm going to help him.
------------------	------------------------

Lo ayudaré.	I <b>will</b> help him.
-------------	-------------------------

Various verbs that show irregularities in the preterite (and in some cases, other tenses) have an irregular or shortened stem in the future tense, although the endings are the same as for regular verbs:

decir	diré, dirás, dirá, diremos, diréis, dirán
haber	habré, habrás, habrá, etc.
hacer	haré, harás, hará, etc.
poder	podré, podrás, podrá, etc.
poner	pondré, pondrás, pondrá, etc.
querer	querré, querrás, querrá, etc.
saber	sabré, sabrás, sabrá, etc.
salir	saldré, saldrás, saldrá, etc.
tener	tendré, tendrás, tendrá, etc.
valer	valdré, valdrás, valdrá, etc.
venir	vendré, vendrás, vendrá, etc.
caber (to fit)	cabré, cabrás, cabrá, etc.

The verb *caber* is highly irregular. The present tense (indicative) is *quepo*, *cabes*, *cabe* etc. The preterite is *cupe*, *cupiste*, *cupo*, etc. The present subjunctive (based on the present indicative) is *quepa*, *quepas*, *quepa*, etc.



## 12.3 The Future of Probability

Spanish commonly uses the **future** tense to indicate probability or conjecture in the **present** moment. This is another non-systemic use of verbs and it is very important to recognize, to avoid missing the intended meaning. It is worthwhile to begin to be aware of this concept now, as Spanish uses three other tenses non-systemically to refer to probability or conjecture. Note the varying possibilities of the English translation:

¿Dónde estará Juan?

Where can Juan be?  
Where do you think Juan is?  
I wonder where Juan is.

¿Qué hora será?

What time can it be?  
What time do you think it is?  
I wonder what time it is?

Remember: **future** tense + probability = **present** meaning.

You will be reading in a context, which should clarify the meaning. Some sentences, out of context, are ambiguous:

**Future meaning:**

**Future of probability (refers to present):**

Volverán al  
parque.

They will return to the  
park.

They will return to the park./ They must be returning to the  
park.

As in the last example, at times the insertion of the word “probably” is sufficient to translate the meaning in the present tense.

**¡Ojo!** There is no special way of indicating probability in the future time frame. In such cases a word such as *probablemente* is normally inserted.

Another way of indicating probability -in various tenses- is *deber de* + infinitive.

Debe de estar perdida.

She must be (probably is) lost.

Debió de hacerlo ayer.

He probably did (must have done) it yesterday.

Debían de salir tarde.

They must have left (probably left) late.

In recent years, however, the *de* is sometimes omitted, creating ambiguity, due to the meaning of *deber* when referring to obligation:

Debe estudiarlo.

He must be studying it. (probability)  
He ought to study it. (obligation)



## 12.4 Meanings of ya

The adverb *ya*, besides its meaning of “no longer” with the negative (*ya no*) and “because,” “as,” or “since” when combined with *que* to form a conjunction, may vary in translation according to the tense with which it is used. The tendency is for *ya* to mean “**now**” when used with a **present tense** or a **command**; “**already**” with any **past tense** (including the present perfect); and “**later on**” with a **future tense**.

¡Ya voy!	I’m coming now!
¡Hágalo ya!	Do it now!
Ya han llegado	They have already arrived.
Ya viajamos a Martinica el año pasado.	We already traveled to Martinique last year.
Ya te lo diremos.	We’ll tell it to you later on.
Ya sabrás la respuesta.	You’ll know the answer later on.

\*Note in the first expression that, although the verb *ir* is used, the translation is “to come.” This is a fixed phrase and isolated case. Barring this example, the verbs *ir* and *venir* are never interchangeable, unlike in spoken, colloquial English. (*Ya vengo* is also heard and seen to mean “I’m coming,” but this does not present a translation problem.)

## 12.5 Cuyo and Cuanto

### CUYO

---

Cuyo is an adjectival relative pronoun that you have already seen and that usually translates as “whose.” As you see below, it links two nouns and agrees in number and gender with the one it precedes:

Madrid es una ciudad cuyas calles conocemos muy bien.

Madrid is a city whose streets we know very well.

---

Gabriela Mistral y Pablo Neruda, cuya patria es Chile, han ganado el premio Nóbel de Literatura.

Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda, whose homeland is Chile, have won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

---

### CUANTO

---

Cuanto, when not functioning as an interrogative, may be employed as an adjective or pronoun. In the former case, it agrees in number and gender with the noun it modifies and means “all those” or “as many as”:

---

Solicitaron fondos a cuantas personas pudieron.

They solicited funds from all those (as many as) they could.

---

When used as a pronoun, cuanto is invariable in form and is the equivalent of “all that” or “as much as”:

---

A pesar de hacer cuanto pudo, perdió el caso.

In spite of doing all he could, he lost the case.

---

The above could also be expressed as *A pesar de hacer todo lo que pudo...* without changing the meaning.

Cuanto has a shortened form *cuán*, which is seen occasionally before adjectives or adverbs and is considered informal in style.

---

No sabían cuán tarde era.

They didn't know how late it was.

---

## 12.6 Meanings of sino

Sino is used after a negative to express “but” in the sense of “but rather” or “on the contrary.” It is used for contrast and is followed by *que* (not translated) before a conjugated verb.

Certain statements may employ either *pero* or *sino*, but the meaning shifts slightly from the simple “but” (no contrast implied) to “but rather”:

---

No votaron, sino que discutieron el asunto.

They didn't vote, but rather [they] discussed the matter.

---

No votaron, pero discutieron el asunto.

They didn't vote, but they did discuss the matter.

---

See these further examples:

---

No fueron por autobús, sino por tren.

They didn't go by bus, but rather by train.

---

Nélida no sigue siendo una mera empleada, sino que llegó a ser jefa de su departamento.

Nélida is no longer a mere employee, but rather became head of her department.

---

Varsovia es grande, pero, como otras ciudades grandes, tiene muchos problemas.

Warsaw is large, but, like other large cities, it has many problems.

---

Sino must be translated with care, as it has two other meanings, the first of which is “but” in the sense of “except”:

---

Nadie se ha enterado de eso sino ella.

No one has found out about that except her.

---

When combined with *no*, its other common meaning is “only”:

---

No tengo sino diez minutos para explicar la cuestión.

I only have ten minutes to explain the issue.

---

Remember the expression *no sólo... sino también*:

---

No sólo no me lo dijo ayer, sino también se negó a revelármelo hoy.

Not only did he not tell it to me yesterday, but also he refused to reveal it to me today.

---

## 12.7 The Conditional Tense

The conditional tense of regular verbs is formed with the infinitive as the stem and uses the same endings as does the imperfect tense of –er and –ir verbs.

IR

Person	Singular		Plural	
1st	iría	I would go	iríamos	we would go
2nd	irías	you (fam.) would go	iríais	you (fam. pl.) would go
3rd	iría	he/she/ you would (form.) go	irían	they/you (form. pl. in Sp.) [fam. pl. in L.A.] would go

Be careful to look for the infinitive + the endings, to distinguish the conditional tense from the imperfect tense of –er and –ir verbs:

comíamos	we were eating (used to eat, ate )
comeríamos	we would eat

The same verbs that have an irregular stem in the future tense have the same irregular stem in the conditional tense:

decir	diría, dirías, diría, diríamos, diríais, dirían
haber	habría, habrías, habría, etc.
hacer	haría, harías, haría, etc.
poder	podría, podrías, podría, etc.
poner	pondría, pondrías, pondría, etc.
querer	querría, querrías, querría, etc.
saber	sabría, sabrías, sabría, etc.
salir	saldría, saldrías, saldría, etc.
tener	tendría, tendrías, tendría, etc.
valer	valdría, valdrías, valdría, etc.
venir	vendría, vendrías, vendría, etc.
caber (to fit)	cabría, cabrías, cabría, etc.

The conditional tense is used and translated in Spanish as it is in English:

Me dijo que vendría a las ocho.	She told me she would come at eight o'clock.
¿Harías eso jamás?	Would you ever do that?

## BUILDING ON WHAT YOU KNOW: SIMILARITIES BETWEEN FUTURE AND CONDITIONAL TENSES

The conditional and future tenses share much in common:

1. Both use the infinitive as the stem (unlike all other verb tenses studied so far).
2. In both tenses, the same verbs have irregular stems.
3. Their use is analogous. The conditional tense expresses what would happen in the future from a past point in time (Ayer me dijo que estaría aquí ["Yesterday he told me he would be here"]) versus the future tense, from a present point in time Hoy me dice que estará aquí ["Today he tells me that he will be here."]).

**¡Ojo!** Some verbs have very similar forms in the conditional and imperfect tenses. Pay close attention to quería (imperfect) and querría (conditional). Two verbs similar in form that are easily confused are hacer and haber. Be careful to distinguish between haría (I/he/she/you would do) and habría (there would be). Now that all of the simple (one-word) indicative tenses have been studied, for purposes of comparison, see the following chart:

	Llegar (To arrive)	Translation
present	llego	I arrive/am arriving
imperfect	llegaba	I arrived/ was arriving
preterite	llegué	I arrived
future	llegaré	I will arrive
conditional	llegaría	I would arrive
present participle	llegando	arriving
past participle	llegado	arrived



## 12.8 The Conditional of Probability

Just as the **future** tense is used to indicate probability or conjecture in the **present** moment, so is the **conditional** tense used to express the same in the **simple past** moment. (See section 12.3) This non-systemic usage is analogous to that of the future of probability. Again, note the various possibilities of translation:

¿Dónde estaría Juan?

Where could Juan be?  
Where do (did) you think Juan was?  
I wonder(ed) where Juan was.

¿Qué hora sería cuando se fue?

What time could it be when he left?  
What time do (did) you think it was when he left?  
I wonder(ed) what time it was when he left.

Remember:

- future tense + probability = present tense meaning
- conditional tense + probability = simple past tense meaning

Again, there exist conceivably ambiguous sentences out of context. *Volverían al parque*, in its conditional meaning, translates as “They would return to the park” (i.e., if they wanted to, if they had time). In the conditional of probability, the same sentence translates as “They probably returned to the park.”

Context should help you identify which of the two translations is best.

## Unit 12: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

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#### ADJETIVOS:

---

bien educado	well mannered*
familiar	family, pertaining to the family (false friend)
íntimo	close (friend), intimate
malcriado	ill-behaved
mal educado	ill mannered*
siguiente	following
tal	such, such a
unido	close-knit

---

\*Traditionally educado has referred to manners and educación to social skills. (Instruido has been the adjective used to mean “educated” and instrucción the noun to mean “education.”) As Spanish evolves, educado and educación are now routinely heard and written with the meaning of “educated” and “education.” Rely on context (or, occasionally, date of the text) to determine the meaning.

#### ADVERBIO:

---

efectivamente	in fact (false friend)
---------------	------------------------

---

## EXPRESIONES:

a lo mejor	at best, most likely
los años + multiple of 10	the ____s [decade] Ex. the 60s; the 1960s
cumplir años	to have a birthday
es difícil que	is unlikely that (versus: es difícil- it's difficult/hard)
es fácil que	it's likely that (versus: es fácil- it's easy)
estar a cargo (de)	to be in charge (of)
yo, de usted (él, ella, etc.)*	if I were you (he, she, etc.)

\*This expression usually takes the place of the imperfect subjunctive (see section 13.4) or, occasionally, the past perfect subjunctive (see section 15.1), in which case it means "If I had been you (he, she, etc.)."

## PREPOSICIONES:

dentro de	within
frente a	in the face of
mediante	by means of, through

## SUSTANTIVOS:

la amistad	friendship (cognate: amity)
el amor	love (cognate: amorous)
el apellido	last name
el apodo	nickname
el familiar	family member, intimate friend (false friend)
el intento	attempt (false friend)
la red	net, network, Internet

## VERBOS:

acudir	to come (to the rescue), to help, to aid
añorar	to yearn for
apreciar	to appreciate, to esteem, to hold in esteem
compartir	to share
cortar(se)	to cut (oneself)
cumplir	to fulfill; to accomplish
despreciar	to scorn, to look down on, to disdain, to deprecate
disminuir	to diminish
echar de menos	to miss (a person or place)
enterarse (de)	to find out (about)
extrañar	to miss (a person or place)
fracasar	to fail
ignorar	to be ignorant, not to know (false friend)*
lograr	to obtain, to achieve, to manage (to do something)
luchar	to struggle, to fight
recoger	to pick up, to gather

\*These are the traditional meanings of **ignorar**. Recently it has been used by some with the meaning that corresponds to the English, “not to pay attention to,” which will likely become standard in parts of the Spanish-speaking world.

# UNIT 13: PAST SUBJUNCTIVE, INFORMAL COMMANDS, TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 3)

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Memorize the past perfect subjunctive forms and its various uses.
- Recognize when to translate the past perfect subjunctive as the conditional tense.
- Identify the long forms of relative pronouns and different uses of *lo* and accurately translate them.
- Expand your vocabulary by recognizing verbs formed from adjectives and word families.
- Recognize and translate the passive voice when formed with *ser*.

## 13.1 The Neuter Article lo

Besides masculine and feminine, Spanish also has a neuter gender. You have already seen examples of this in the demonstrative pronouns, *esto*, *eso* and *aquello*, which refer to concepts, ideas, abstracts or nouns with no antecedent. While masculine nouns and pronouns often end in *-o*, the neuter gender always does.

The neuter definite article *lo* combines with the masculine singular form of the adjective to translate, for example, as “the good part,” “the bad thing,” etc.

Lo bueno es que ya no tienen que vivir en esa ciudad peligrosa.	The good thing is that you no longer have to live in that dangerous city.
Lo malo es que no sabrás hablar el idioma.	The bad part is that you won't know how to speak the language.
Lo triste es que lo echo de menos tanto.	The sad thing is that I miss him so much.
Los verbos fueron lo más difícil del examen.	The verbs were the most difficult part of the exam.

Therefore, when you see *lo* followed by an adjective, add a word such as “thing,” “part,” or “aspect” to your translation.

*Lo* is also followed by past participles in the masculine singular form to translate as “what has been” + **past participle**:

Lo dicho es desafortunado.	What <b>has been said</b> is unfortunate.
Lo perdido no se puede recuperar.	What <b>has been lost</b> cannot be recovered.
Lo aprendido a menudo se olvida.	What <b>has been learned</b> is often forgotten.

*Lo* also may be followed by any form of an adjective or adverb, plus *que*, to render the English “how” plus adjective or adverb:

No creerán lo bien que Asensio habla catalán.	You (pl.)/They will not believe how well Asensio speaks Catalan.
Verás lo hermosas que son las playas puertorriqueñas.	You will see how beautiful the Puerto Rican beaches are.

Before the verbs *ser* and *estar*, *lo* may appear as a predicate, seemingly a direct object (although these three verbs are intransitive and therefore do not admit, technically, direct objects). In these cases, *lo* is never translated literally and usually not at all.

-¿Están listos? -Sí, lo estamos.	"Are you ready?" "Yes, we are."
-¿Tu padre es ingeniero? -Sí, lo es.	"Is your father an engineer?" "Yes, he is (one)."

With haber, any form of the direct object pronoun may appear, but it is not usually translated, or, if so, not literally:

-¿Hay impuestos? -Sí, los hay.	"Are there taxes?" "Yes, there are (some)."
-¿Había suficiente tiempo? -No, no lo había.	"Was there enough time?" "No, there wasn't."
-¿Hay decisiones que tomar? -Sí, las hay.	"Are there decisions to make?" "Yes, there are (some)."

Lo appears in certain idioms, some of which you have seen in this text:

a lo mejor	maybe, perhaps, at best
lo más pronto posible	as soon as possible
a lo lejos	in the distance
por lo visto	apparently, evidently
lo de menos	the least of it

Also remember that the meaning of lo que at the beginning of a sentence or when it joins two clauses is "what" or "that which," while lo cual or lo que, preceded by a comma, mean "which":

Lo que debes hacer es aprender la gramática.	What you should do is (to) learn the grammar.
El gerente nos dijo lo que queríamos oír.	The manager told us what we wanted to hear.
Hay que entregar los trabajos mañana, lo cual (lo que) no será fácil para todos.	It's necessary to hand in the term papers tomorrow, which will not be easy for everyone.

**¡Ojo!** Spanish has a little-used neuter subject pronoun in the third person, ello. It refers to an idea concept, abstract, or an unknown object and has no grammatical antecedent: Ello es que no hay posibilidad de ganar. ("The fact is that there's no possibility of winning.")

Somewhat more common is the prepositional object ello, which refers to the same as the subject pronoun ello: No quisieron hablar más de ello. ("They refused to talk more about it.")

## 13.2 Word Order

Word order in Spanish is much more flexible than in English. It is possible to find the subject at the end of a sentence for stylistic or emphatic reasons; likewise the direct object may be found at the beginning of a sentence. Verbs can occur at the beginning, middle or end of a sentence. As in English, there exists the same flexibility for the placement of prepositional phrases almost anywhere within the sentence.

Regardless of the word order in Spanish, the essential meaning does not change except, occasionally, for subtle shifts in emphasis. Study the following, which are all renditions of the English, "The Aztecs practiced these sacrifices before the arrival of the Spaniards."

1. Los aztecas practicaban estos sacrificios antes de la llegada de los españoles.
2. Estos sacrificios los practicaban los aztecas antes de la llegada de los españoles.
3. Practicaban los aztecas estos sacrificios antes de la llegada de los españoles.
4. Antes de la llegada de los españoles practicaban los aztecas estos sacrificios.
5. Antes de la llegada de los españoles los aztecas practicaban estos sacrificios.
6. Antes de la llegada de los españoles estos sacrificios los practicaban los aztecas.\*

\*In Spanish, whenever a direct object precedes the subject and verb (e.g., sacrificios in numbers 2 and 6), a redundant direct object pronoun (los in the same two sentences) must be placed before the verb and is **not** translated.

Keep in mind that normal word order is often changed in the following cases:

- The subject usually follows the verb, and sometimes its noun objects, when the subject has lengthy modifiers:



Cruzan esta región cincuenta y dos ríos que descienden de los Andes y forman oasis en sus valles.

Fifty-two rivers, which descend the Andes and form oases in its valleys, cross this region.

---

- Words desired to emphasize are often placed at the beginning of the sentence:

A mi padre le pareció justa la opinión del comité, pero a mi hermano no.

To my father the committee's opinion seemed fair, but not to my brother.

---

- In adverbial clauses at the beginning of a sentence, the subject often follows the verb:

Cuando vengan los médicos, necesitaremos su ayuda.

When the doctors come, we will need your help.

---

## 13.3 Indirect Commands

Indirect commands in Spanish are formed by *que* plus the present subjunctive. “Let,” “have,” “may” or “I hope” are the words normally used to translate such commands into English.

Que llegues seguro.	May you arrive safely. (I hope you arrive...)
Que me digan la verdad ahora.	Have (Let) them tell me the truth now.
Que lo escriba la profesora.	Let (Have) the teacher write it.
¡Que lo hagan ellos!	Let (Have) them do it!
¡Que se lo diga yo!	Let me tell it to them!

Frequently you find the order of subject and the verb, if the former is expressed, inverted after the *que* (as in the last three examples.)

The above construction does not occur in the first person plural. (See section 14.2.)

Before the *que* there is always something understood such as “I hope” or “I want.” Although it may seem to appear that way, the subjunctives in indirect commands are technically not in main clauses.

Occasional indirect commands occur without the *que* in fixed phrases.

¡Viva Colombia!	Long live Colombia!
Alabado sea Dios.	(May) God be praised.

## 13.4 The Imperfect Subjunctive

The imperfect ([simple] past) subjunctive in Spanish is formed from the third person plural of the preterite tense (caminaron, comieron, hicieron, etc.), cutting off the -aron or -ieron, and adding one of two different sets of endings. The endings are the same for regular and irregular verbs, though technically no verb is irregular in this tense, as all verbs form this tense in the same manner, whether using an irregular or regular stem.

	<b>caminar</b>	<b>comer</b>	<b>hacer</b>
<b>yo</b>	caminara	comiera	hiciera
<b>tú</b>	caminaras	comieras	hicieras
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	caminara	comiera	hiciera
<b>nosotros</b>	camináramos	comiéramos	hiciéramos
<b>vosotros</b>	caminarais	comierais	hicierais
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	caminaran	comieran	hicieran

Or:

	<b>caminar</b>	<b>comer</b>	<b>hacer</b>
<b>yo</b>	caminase	comiese	hiciese
<b>tú</b>	caminases	comieses	hicieses
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	caminase	comiese	hiciese
<b>nosotros</b>	caminásemos	comiésemos	hiciésemos
<b>vosotros</b>	caminaseis	comieseis	hicieseis
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	caminasen	comiesen	hiciesen

The endings in -ase and -iese are more prevalent in Spain, but both forms of the imperfect subjunctive are heard and written in both Spain and Latin America. If you have learned the preterite well, especially that of irregular verbs, the imperfect subjunctive should be easy to recognize.

**¡Ojo!** The accent mark on the second and third persons singular as well as on the

third person plural form of all regular –ar verbs is the only distinguishing feature between the future tense and the imperfect subjunctive:

- caminarás (future), caminaras (imperfect subjunctive)
- caminará (future), caminará (imperfect subjunctive)
- caminarán (future), caminaran (imperfect subjunctive)

The following verbs, like *hacer*, have irregular preterites, which are the basis for the imperfect subjunctive, listed below in the first person singular (identical in form to the third person singular):

andar	anduviera, anduviese
caber	cupiera, cupiese
dar	diera, diese
decir	dijera, dijese
estar	estuviera, estuviese
haber	hubiera, hubiese
hacer	hiciera, hiciese
ir	fuera, fuese*
poder	pudiera, pudiese
poner	pusiera, pusiese
querer	quisiera, quisiese
saber	supiera, supiese
ser	fuera, fuese*
tener	tuviera, tuviese
traducir	tradujera, tradujese
traer	trajera, trajese
venir	viniera, viniese

\*Note again that, as the preterite forms of *ir* and *ser* are identical, so are the forms of the imperfect subjunctive. Context clarifies which is the verb in question.

The imperfect subjunctive is used in the same cases in which the present subjunctive appears, with the difference that the action of the subordinate (subjunctive) clause is normally in the past. The verb in the main clause is usually also in a past tense (preterite, imperfect, or conditional).

Quería que lo trajeras.	I wanted you to bring it.
Era buena idea que Débora viniera.	It was a good idea for Deborah to come.
Sería preferible que él no dijese eso.	It would be preferable that he not say that.
Esperaban que pudiera asistir.	They hoped I could attend.

As the present subjunctive at times may be translated as “may” + main verb, the

imperfect subjunctive may at times be translated as “might” (technically, the past tense of “may”) + main verb:

Esperaba que lo hiciese.

I hoped she might do it.

The above example could also be translated as “I hoped she would do it.” Both are equally correct, although the first translation emphasizes doubt. As with the present subjunctive, note in the above examples that there is no pattern for translating all imperfect subjunctives.

With three verbs, *querer*, *poder* and *deber*, one may find the imperfect subjunctive in the main clause to render a polite or “softening” effect. This is especially common with the verb *querer*:

¿Quisiera ayudarme?

Would you please help me?

Debieras hacerlo.

You really ought to do it.

¿Pudieras traerlo?

Could you please bring it?

Although the above is the norm, other combinations of verb tenses are encountered. For example, a present tense verb in the main clause may be followed by a past subjunctive.

Esperan que tuviéramos éxito.

They hope we were successful.

Inversely, a present subjunctive may appear after a main verb in a past tense or the conditional when the action of the subordinate clause clearly refers to a present or future moment.

Nos gustaría que vengas ahora.

We would like you to come now.

The imperfect (or past perfect [see section 15.1.]) subjunctive is also found in a pseudo-main clause (i.e., when the main clause is not present, but rather understood, leaving what was the original subordinate clause now as the only one) to indicate a contrary-to-fact situation, an unlikely action or a regret, depending on the tense employed:

¡Ojalá cantara como ella!

If only (He wished) he could sing like her.\*

Quién + imperfect or past perfect subjunctive also refers to the wishes of the speaker, expressing improbability or regret:

¡Quién pudiera viajar a Nueva Zelanda!

If only I could travel to New Zealand!

¡Quién lo hubiéramos ganado! \*\*

If only we had won it!

\*The present subjunctive, as you have seen, may also follow *ojalá*, and indicates a desire that still may be carried out: *Ojalá nos digan los resultados hoy.* (“I hope they tell us the results today.”)

\*\* See Past Perfect (Pluperfect) Subjunctive, section 15.1.

## 13.5 Contrary-to-Fact Sentences

The imperfect subjunctive is regularly used in “if” clauses that combine with a main clause that takes a verb in the conditional tense to form contrary-to-fact sentences. These are sentences in which the stated action is clearly untrue or it is unlikely to occur.

---

Si me mudara allá, me moriría del calor.

If I moved (were to move) there, I'd die from the heat.

---

Si yo fuera tú, trataría de aprobar el examen ya.

If I were you, I'd try to pass the exam now.

---

The order of the clauses may be switched with no change in meaning:

---

Debido a la humedad, abandonaríamos la costa si fuera verano.

Due to the humidity we would leave the coast if it were summer.

---

After the expression *como si* (“as if”), which inherently denotes a contrary-to-fact situation or state, the imperfect subjunctive (or past perfect subjunctive [see section 15.1.]) must be used:

---

Se comporta como si fuese (fuera) príncipe.

He acts (behaves) as if he were a prince.

---

Habla como si supiera (supiese) todo, pero sabe bastante poco.

She speaks as if she knew everything, but she knows fairly little.

---

## 13.6 *Mandar and Hacer in Causative Constructions*

The verbs *mandar* and *hacer* are used with an infinitive or a subjunctive clause to express the notion of having something done, or having someone do something. *Mandar*, in one of its common meanings (“to order”), is the somewhat stronger of the two verbs, but they are otherwise translated synonymously when used in this construction. Whenever you see either verb followed by an infinitive, be aware that the meaning is likely causative (called such as one is causing something to happen.)

Using both verbs as well as both an infinitive and a subjunctive clause, here are the most common possible ways in which to translate the sentence “They had (made [ordered]) Armando (to) come”:

Mandaron venir a Armando.	Hicieron venir a Armando.
Mandaron que Armando viniera (viniese).	Hicieron que Armando viniera (viniese).

Study these further examples:

Les hice pintar las paredes de las sala.	I had them paint the living room walls.
Haremos que Regina venga mañana.	We'll have Regina come tomorrow.
Mandó podar los arbustos.	She had the bushes pruned.

## 13.7 The Negative Meaning of *sin* and *poco*

Although *sin* and *poco* are not negatives per se, these words routinely subvert positive meaning. *Poco*, used before an adjective, causes it to mean the opposite, with the translation of “(very) little + adjective” or with the prefix “un-” or “in-.” *Sin* + infinitive usually translates as an adjective preceded by one of the same two prefixes.

Ese asunto ha sido muy poco estudiado.	That matter has been studied very little (very little studied).
La lluvia es muy poco frecuente en el Desierto Atacama en Chile.	Rain is very infrequent in the Atacama Desert in Chile.
La cuestión de construir el puente está todavía sin resolver.	The issue of building the bridge is still unresolved.
¿Es verdad que las obras completas de Clarice Lispector* quedan sin coleccionar?	Is it true that Clarice Lispector's complete works remain uncollected?

\*Brazilian novelist and short story writer (1920-1977).

When *poco* is preceded by *un*, it translates as “a little” and the negative meaning is absent.

Este puente es un poco estrecho.	This bridge is a little narrow.
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## Unit 13: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

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#### ADJETIVOS:

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culto	well-educated, cultivated
angosto	narrow
estrecho	narrow
plano	flat

---

#### ADVERBIO:

---

allá	there (far away)
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---

#### EXPRESIONES:

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abrirse paso	to make one's way
darse por vencido	to give up
ir a parar	to end up (in a place)
puede ser	it may be, maybe
pasarlo bien/mal	to have a good/bad time
que yo sepa	as far as I know
tener en cuenta	to take into account, bear in mind

---

#### PREPOSICIÓN:

---

tras	after
------	-------

---

## SUSTANTIVOS:

el comienzo	beginning
el desarrollo	development
la desigualdad	inequality
la fuente	source, fountain
la igualdad	equality
la meta	goal
el prejuicio	prejudice
el tomo	volume, tome

## VERBOS:

aparecer	to appear, to show up
abarcар	to encompass, to span, to include
disculpar(se)	to excuse, pardon (oneself)
ejercer	to exercise (influence; profession)
esforzarse (ue) (en)	to make an effort (to)
matar	to kill
obstinarse (en)	to persist (in)
plantear	to pose (a question), to present
regir(i)	to rule
suspender	to fail (academically) (false friend)

# UNIT 14: FUTURE AND CONDITIONAL PERFECT TENSES, TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 4)

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Memorize the future perfect and conditional perfect forms.
- Recognize and accurately translate first-person plural and second-person singular commands.
- Distinguish between nosotros commands and statements.
- Distinguish between tú commands and the second- and third-person singular of the indicative.

## 14.1 Future Perfect Tense and the Future Perfect of Probability

The future perfect tense is formed by the irregular future of the auxiliary verb *haber* plus the past participle:

	<b>hacer</b>	<b>traducción</b>
<b>yo</b>	habré hecho	I will have done
<b>tú</b>	habrás hecho	you (fam.) will have done
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	habrá hecho	he, she, you (form.) will have done
<b>nosotros</b>	habremos hecho	we will have done
<b>vosotros</b>	habréis hecho	you (fam. pl.) will have done
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	habrán hecho	they, you (form. pl. [fam. pl. in L.A.]) will have done

The future perfect tense is used largely as it is in English, that is, to express an action that will have been completed or finished by some future point in time.

Para octubre se habrán casado.	They will have gotten married by October.
Con suerte, Leopoldo se habrá hecho abogado en dos años.	With luck, Leopoldo will have become a lawyer in two years.

Just as the future tense is used to express probability or conjecture in the present moment, the future perfect is used to express the same in the future perfect time frame. Study the following:

- **future** tense + probability = **present** meaning
- **future perfect** tense + probability = **present perfect** meaning

Again, note the possibilities of translation:

¿Dónde habrá estado Juan?	Where could Juan have been? Where do you think Juan has been? I wonder where Juan has been?
---------------------------	---

At times the insertion of the word “probably” also suffices to translate the concept: “Where has Juan probably (likely) been?”

Conceivably ambiguous examples of the “true” future perfect versus the future perfect of probability exist, but meaning should be clarified in context:

Hace dos días que no veo a Gloria. ¿Dónde habrá estado?	I haven't seen Gloria for two days. Where could she <b>have been</b> ? Where do you think she <b>has been</b> ? I wonder where she <b>has been</b>
Jenaro todavía no ha vuelto.	Jenaro still hasn't returned.
Habrà estado esperando algo.	He must <b>have been</b> waiting for something.

Note that English also occasionally uses the same tense to express the same phenomenon, e.g., “**Will** the others **have noticed**?” the meaning of which is the same as “**Do you think** the others **have noticed**?”

# 14.2 First Person Plural Commands

The affirmative command for nosotros/as (first person plural) is expressed most commonly by vamos + a + infinitive, or less commonly by the present subjunctive. When negative, the nosotros command, like all others, employs the present subjunctive.

The nosotros affirmative command of ir is irregular and is simply vamos.

Affirmative commands:

Vamos a salir esta noche. Salgamos esta noche.	Let's go out tonight.
Vamos a alquilar una película. Alquilemos una película.	Let's rent a film (movie).
Vamos a la lectura de poesía.	Let's go to the poetry reading. (We're going to the poetry reading. [See last example below to contrast the two sentences.])

Negative commands:

No salgamos esta noche.	Let's not go out tonight.
No alquilemos una película.	Let's not rent a film.
No vayamos a la lectura de poesía.	Let's not go to the poetry reading.

In some cases, such as Alquilemos una película, it becomes important to know the infinitive ending in order to distinguish between the present indicative (alquilamos ["we rent/are renting"]) and the command (alquilemos ["let's rent"]).

Affirmative commands with vamos + a + infinitive may be ambiguous out of context:

Vamos a hacerlo.	Let's do it. We're going to do it.
------------------	---------------------------------------

## 14.3 Second Person Singular Commands

The affirmative tú commands are the same as the Ud. form of the present tense. The negative tú commands (like all other negative commands) are formed with the present subjunctive. Object pronouns, as always, are attached to affirmative commands, thus making them easier to recognize:

Tú command with object pronoun attached:

Escríbele.

Write to him.

Third person singular with object pronoun:

Le escribe.

He (She, You [form.]) write/s to him.

In negative tú commands, as with all others, object pronouns are not attached to verb forms. In these cases, it is more important to know if a verb is of the -ar versus the -er or -ir type so that you recognize the opposite vowel used in the subjunctive that forms the negative commands.

No le escribas.

Don't write to him.

No le escriba.

He (She, You [form.]) doesn't write to him.

No le escribas.

You (fam.) don't write to him.

No me contestes.

Don't answer me.

No me contesta.

He (She, You [form.]) is/are not answering me.

No me contestas.

You (fam.) are not answering me.

There are eight common irregular affirmative tú commands that need to be recognized:

decir

di

say, tell

hacer

haz

do, make

ir

ve

go

poner

pon

put

ser

sé

be

salir

sal

leave, go out

tener

ten

have

venir

ven

come

The negative of these commands takes the subjunctive (No digas, No hagas, etc.)

Coincidentally, you have seen five of these forms in quite different circumstances. Di is also the first person preterite of dar; ve is also the third person singular present tense of ver; sé is also the first person present tense of saber; and ven is the third person plural present tense of ver. (Additionally, sal is also the feminine noun that means “salt.”)

When these words are in context, however, there should never be any ambiguity.

Compare:

Di la verdad.	Tell the truth.
Di un regalo.	I gave a gift
Sé bueno.	Be good.
Sé la respuesta.	I know the answer.
Ve a casa.	Go home.
Ve la casa.	She sees the house.
Ven a casa.	Come home.
Ven la casa.	They see the house.
Sal de aquí.	Get out of here. (Leave here.)
Pásame la sal, por favor.	Please pass me the salt.



## 14.4 *Augmentatives and Diminutives*

Augmentative and diminutive endings are frequently attached especially to nouns, as well as to other parts of speech, and make them undergo a sometimes subtle, sometimes major shift in meaning. They occur with extremely high frequency, especially in the spoken language, and the exact meaning is often very hard to detect by non-native speakers, as their usage may be extremely subjective.

There are exceptions to many things that can be written about diminutives and augmentatives and the following remarks should be taken only as general guidelines.

The most common diminutive endings are -ito (-eto), -illo (-cillo, -ecillo), -ico, -ín, -chón, -uelo, and their variants, especially of -ito (-cito, -ecito), depending on the ending of the noun. The preferred diminutive endings and frequency of usage vary substantially among the different Spanish-speaking countries and areas of the world. While the Spanish of Spain tends to limit these suffixes to nouns, in Latin America they also appear commonly with adjectives and other parts of speech, e.g., *ahora* = “now,” *ahorita* = “right now.” (In Spain, “right now” is expressed with the intensifier *mismo*: *ahora mismo*.)

While the exact sense of diminutives and augmentatives is often very hard to translate exactly, what is important to know is the following: diminutives usually connote **smallness**, **affection**, **a warm or emotional tone**, **emphasis** or a combination thereof. (These often correspond to the French ending -ette, which has been incorporated into some English words to indicate smallness.) See the examples below and their translations:

Juan	John
Juanito	Jonny
niña	(female) child, girl
niñita	nice and/or little girl
joven	young woman
jovencita	young girl
poco	little
poquito	very little
novela	novel
novelita	novelette, novella

Other diminutives and augmentatives have become standardized in the language. You do not need to memorize the lists below. Just read them and notice the patterns. While an idea of smallness or largeness may be present, there is no emotional or subjective connotation present:

caja	box
cajón	drawer
rata	rat
ratón	mouse
bolso	purse, handbag
bolsillo	pocket
camión	truck
camioneta	pick-up truck, station wagon
cigarro	cigar
cigarrillo	cigarette
camisa	shirt
camiseta	T-shirt
pan	(loaf of) bread
panecillo	roll
calle	street
callejuela	alley
zapatos	shoes
zapatillas	slippers
palabra	word
palabrota	obscenity, swear word
casa	house
caserón	mansion, large or broken-down house

In the first two examples and the last one, the word in the augmentative may undergo a change in gender, for example: caja (fem.) and cajón (masc.).

The most common augmentative endings are -ón, -ote, -azo and -udo. The exact shade of meaning conveyed by augmentatives may be even more difficult to detect. What is important to know is that in general augmentatives may carry connotations of **largeness, intensity, negativity** or a combination thereof, often with some sort of a pejorative idea. Study these examples and their translations:

hombre	man
hombrón	large man
mujer	woman
mujerona	large woman
mujerzuela	uncouth woman
pelo	hair
pelón (adj.)	balding, hairless
peludo (adj.)	very hairy, big and hairy

Occasionally, the -azo suffix may imply admiration:

bigote	mustache
bigotazo	great big (impressive) mustache

More often the -azo suffix denotes a thrust or a blow:

puño	fist
puñetazo	punch
flecha	arrow
flechazo	arrow wound

Some augmentative endings are almost always blatantly pejorative. These include: -aco, -acho, -ajo, -astro, -uco and -ucho.

Mi hermano se cree poeta, pero en realidad es un poetastro.

My brother thinks he's a poet but in reality he's a third-rate poet..

One also finds occasional "diminutive" verbs, which carry an -it, -iz or -e suffix before the infinitive ending:

marchar	to go away
marchitarse	to wither, to wilt
dormir	to sleep
dormitar	to snooze
lagrimar	to cry, to weep
lagrimear	to tear up, to begin to cry
llover	to rain
lloviznar	to drizzle

Proceed with caution when you come across an augmentative or diminutive. If the meaning does not seem logical, indeed it may not be. Consulting a good dictionary and/or thoroughly studying the context will often clarify any doubts.

## 14.5 Conditional Perfect Tense and Conditional Perfect of Probability

The conditional perfect tense is formed by the conditional tense of the auxiliary verb haber and the past participle:

	traer	traducción
<b>yo</b>	habría traído	I would have brought
<b>tú</b>	habrías traído	you (fam.) would have brought
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	habría traído	he, she, you (form.) would have brought
<b>nosotros</b>	habríamos traído	we would have brought
<b>vosotros</b>	habríais traído	you (fam. pl.) would have brought
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	habrían traído	they, you (form. pl. [fam. pl. in L.A.] would have brought

The conditional perfect tense is used largely as it is in English. It indicates what someone would or would not have done in a past moment. See the following examples in context:

Yo no habría hecho aquello.	I wouldn't have done that.
Conrado no habría dicho eso.	Conrado wouldn't have said that.

As the **conditional** tense expresses probability or conjecture in the (simple) **past** moment, so does the **conditional perfect** tense express probability in the **past perfect** moment. You should pay special attention to this non-systemic use of the four tenses used to express probability and to avoid confusion among them, as well as with the literal (systemic) meaning of the tenses. In the compound tenses, the meaning is “perfected” or compounded from the simple (one-word) tense. Study the following chart to see the parallels:

Tense + Probability	= Meaning (Time Frame)
future	present
future perfect	present perfect
conditional	(simple) past
conditional perfect	past perfect

See all four tenses below and note their translations:

Future of Probability

¿Quién será?	Who do you think it <b>is</b> ?
--------------	---------------------------------

Conditional of Probability

¿Quién sería?	Who do (did) you think it <b>was</b> ?
---------------	--

Future Perfect of Probability

¿Quién habrá sido?	Who do you think it <b>has been</b> ?
--------------------	---------------------------------------

Conditional Perfect of Probability

¿Quién habría sido?	Who did you think it <b>had been</b> ?
---------------------	--

See also the four compound indicative tenses that you have studied and their basic meanings (not those of probability), to be sure that you can distinguish between them:

he visto	I have seen
había visto	I had seen
habré visto	I will have seen
habría visto	I would have seen

## 14.6 Frequent Noun Endings

The ending *-ero/a* tends to indicate a profession or trade related to the root of the noun, as in *banquero* ("banker"). Other less common suffixes that express the same meaning are *-ín*, as in *bailarín* ("dancer"); *-ario* as in *veterinario* ("veterinarian"); *-ista*, as in *modista* ("seamstress," "dressmaker"); and *-dor* as in *contador* ("accountant").

Noun endings in *-ista* generally only have one singular form. The gender of the person is seen in the definite or indefinite article: *el pianista* = male pianist, *la novelista* = female novelist.

The ending *-ería* (or at times *-era*) often denotes a place of business, a particular kind of factory, or a profession or trade that comes from the root of the noun, as in *ingeniería* ("engineering")

The suffix *-ada* usually indicates a quantity, as in *cucharada* ("spoonful").

### Profesiones y oficios (trades):

---

Study these examples. You do not need to memorize them. Simply notice the ending patterns so that you can begin to recognize professions and places of business by the ending.

el/la bailarín/ina	dancer, ballerina
el/la bibliotecario/-a	librarian
el/la bomber/-a	firefighter
el/la cajero/-a	cashier
el/la camarero/-a	waiter, waitress, server
el/la carnicero/-a	butcher
el/la cartero/-a	letter carrier
el/la cocinero/a	cook
el/la contador/a	accountant
el/la costurero/a	tailor, seamstress
el/la enfermero/a	nurse
el/la fontanero/a	plumber
el/la modista	dressmaker, seamstress
el/la obrero/a	laborer, worker
el/la peluquero/a	hair stylist
el/la periodista	journalist
el/la vendedor/-a	salesperson

### Lugares (places):

la biblioteca	library
la carnicería	butcher shop
la mueblería	furniture store/ furniture factory
la papelería	stationery store
la zapatería	shoe store



## Unit 14: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

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#### ADJETIVOS:

---

dicho	said, above-mentioned
leal	loyal
real	royal; real
susodicho	above-mentioned

---

#### ADVERBIOS:

---

apenas	hardly, barely
atrás	back
últimamente	recently (false friend)

---

#### EXPRESIONES:

---

por consiguiente	therefore, for that reason, that's why
por lo tanto	therefore, for that reason, that's why
tocar/llamar a la puerta	to knock at/on the door

---

## VERBOS:

apresurarse	to hurry (up)
apuntar	to point, to point at, to point out, to indicate
burlarse (de)	to make fun (of)
disfrutar (de)	to enjoy, to have a good time
exigir	to demand
rechazar	to reject, to turn down
saludar	to greet
soportar	to tolerate, to put up with (false friend)
urgir	to be urgent

# UNIT 15: PAST PERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE, WORD FAMILIES, RELATIVE PRONOUNS, AND PASSIVE VOICE

## OBJECTIVES

---

After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Memorize the past perfect subjunctive forms and its various uses.
- Recognize when to translate the past perfect subjunctive as the conditional tense.
- Identify the long forms of relative pronouns and accurately translate them.
- Expand your vocabulary by recognizing verbs formed from adjectives and word families.
- Recognize and translate the passive voice when formed with ser.

## 15.1 Past Perfect (Pluperfect) Subjunctive

The past perfect (pluperfect) subjunctive is formed by the imperfect subjunctive of haber (the -<ra or the -se form) + past participle:

	escribir	traducción
<b>yo</b>	hubiera/hubiese escrito	(if, that) I had written
<b>tú</b>	hubieras/hubieses escrito	(if, that) you (fam. s.) had written
<b>él, ella, Ud.</b>	hubiera/hubiese escrito	(if, that) he/she/you had written
<b>nosotros</b>	hubiéramos/hubiésemos escrito	(if, that) we had written
<b>vosotros</b>	hubierais/hubieseis escrito	(if, that) you (fam. pl.) had written
<b>ellos, ellas, Uds.</b>	hubieran/hubiesen escrito	(if, that) they/you (form.pl. [fam. pl. L.A.]) had written

The past perfect subjunctive is used when English employs the past perfect tense and when Spanish cues the subjunctive:

Era maravilloso que Josefina hubiera aprendido tantas lenguas tan bien.

It was marvelous that Josefina **had learned** so many languages so well.

Dudábamos que hubieran tenido una coartada legítima.

We doubted that they **had had** a legitimate alibi.

It is also used with “if” clauses in the past and combines with the conditional perfect (or, at times, the conditional) in the main clause:

¿Me lo habrías dicho si lo hubieras sabido?

Would you have told me if you **had known** it?

Si hubieran comprado ese terreno, ahora serían ricos.

If you/they **had bought** that land, now you/they would be rich.

Like the imperfect subjunctive, the past perfect subjunctive also occurs after como si (“as if”):

Habló como si hubiera entendido todo.

She spoke as if she **had understood** everything.

Ojalá and Quién may also be followed by the past perfect subjunctive to express an impossible or improbable situation or a regret (see also section 13.5.):

Ojalá hubiera estado allí.

If only (I wish) I **had been** there.

¡Quién hubiera tenido la suerte de Paco!

I wish (If only) I **had had** Paco's luck!

When the subject of both clauses is the same, the *si* + past perfect subjunctive is at times replaced by *de* + *haber* + past participle:

Si hubiéramos sabido eso, no habríamos venido.  
De **haber sabido** eso, no habríamos venido.

If we **had known** that, we would not have come.

See the four subjunctive tenses studied, for purposes of contrast:

Subjunctive Tense	Spanish	Traducción
present subjunctive	trabaje	(that) I (may) work
imperfect subjunctive	trabajara/trabajase	(that) I worked, might work
present perfect subjunctive	haya trabajado	(that) I have worked
past perfect subjunctive	hubiera/hubiese trabajado	(that) I had worked

## 15.2 Imperfect and Past Perfect Subjunctives Used to Replace Conditional Tenses

It is not uncommon to see the *-ra* form of imperfect subjunctive take the place of the conditional tense in Spanish, nor especially to see the *-ra* form of the past perfect subjunctive replace the conditional perfect tense:

Me pareciera buena idea. (imperfect subjunctive)  
Me parecería buena idea. (conditional tense)

It **would seem** to me a good idea.

---

**When you see an imperfect subjunctive in a main clause, it is normally translated as the conditional tense.**

Although the two tenses look very similar, try to remember that the one that has endings added on to the infinitive is the conditional tense.

It is also common to see the *-ra* form of the past perfect subjunctive replace the conditional perfect in a main clause:

Lo hubiera hecho si hubiera tenido más tiempo.  
Lo habría hecho si hubiera tenido más tiempo.

I **would have done** it if I'd had more time.

---

Although in most cases it is necessary to distinguish between these two tenses, **remember to translate a past perfect subjunctive in the main clause as a conditional perfect tense.**

# 15.3 Relative Pronouns

You have already seen many relative pronouns, the most common of which are *que* (“that,” “which,” “who” [referring to objects or people]) and *quien/-es* (“who” [referring only to people]). There are, however, dual “long” forms of the relative pronouns that may replace both *que* and *quien/-es*, in the masculine singular and plural as well as in the feminine singular and plural, and which may refer either to objects or to people:

	Masculine	Feminine
singular	el que	la que
plural	los que	las que

	Masculine	Feminine
singular	el cual	la cual
plural	los cuales	las cuales

Rules exist that govern when “long” relative pronouns must be used (e.g., after “long” [two syllables or more] prepositions), but after “short” (usually monosyllabic) prepositions, there can be great flexibility. The “short” relative pronouns (*que* and *quien/-es*) are more succinct, while the longer ones may be used for stylistic effect, without altering the meaning:

La choza en <b>que</b> vivían fue destruida.	
La choza en <b>la que</b> vivían fue destruida.	The hut in which they lived was destroyed.
La choza en <b>la cual</b> vivían fue destruida.	

The long forms of the relative pronouns always agree in number and gender with the noun to which they refer. This is useful to know when there are two conceivable antecedents that are not the same in number and/or gender. In such cases the long form is necessary to specify to which antecedent it refers:

El esposo de la alcaldesa, <b>el que (el cual)</b> está viajando por el estado, regresará para asistir a la apertura.	The mayor’s husband, who is traveling through the state, will return to attend the opening.
---	---

**¡Ojo!** Although the forms are identical, do not confuse the meaning of the relative pronoun *el que* and the forms of *el que* that mean “he who,” “the ones who,” “she who,” etc. (See [section 10.4.](#)) This should pose no problem in context: Ayudaremos a

los que podamos ("We'll help the ones we may be able to"); Los apartamentos en los que viven son muy amplios ("The apartments in which they live are very spacious").

Be careful not to confuse the preposition hacia (no accent) ("toward") with hacía. Remember the neuter relative pronouns, lo que ("what," "that which," "which") and lo cual ("which").



## 15.4 Verbs Formed from Adjectives

There are many Spanish verbs, often reflexive, the meaning of which can be deduced from an adjective (or recognizable form thereof) or, occasionally, a noun, contained within it. The adjective is usually formed by the prefix *en-* or *em-* and the suffix almost always ends in *-ecer*. The meaning is “to become (to get, to turn)” + adjective. A few adjectives take different prefixes or suffixes, but this should not generally be an impediment to their recognition.

Look at these verbs and try to deduce their meaning from the adjective or noun (or part thereof) contained within, highlighted in bold. Consult the vocabulary list for new adjectives. All answers are listed at the bottom of this page.

1. *em***blanque**cerse
2. *em***pobre**cerse
3. *en***alte**cerse
4. *en***fri**arse
5. *en***negre**cerse
6. *en***loque**cerse
7. *en***orgulle**cerse
8. *en***rique**cerse
9. *en***triste**cerse
10. *a***delgazar**
11. *a***manecer**
12. *a***noche**cer
13. *a***tarde**cer
14. *en***gordar**
15. *es***clare**cer
16. **oscure**cer

The general rule with the above verbs is that they are used reflexively when the meaning is “to become + adjective” but when used transitively (taking a direct object), they are not. In other words, by removing the reflexive pronoun, when present, most of the above verbs change meaning, for example, *emblanquecer* = “to make (something) white,” (versus *emblanquecerse*, “to become white”), *enriquecer* = “to make rich,” “to enrich” (versus *enriquecerse*, “to become/get rich”). Note the differing translations of the verbs in the sentences that follow.

La noticia del desastre me entristeció.	The news of the disaster <b>saddened</b> me.
Me entristecí al oír las noticias.	I <b>became sad</b> upon hearing the news.
Lucio la enloquece.	Lucio <b>drives</b> her <b>crazy (nuts/mad)</b> .
Tania se enloquece haciendo ese trabajo.	Tania <b>is going crazy (nuts/mad)</b> doing that work.

Many other adjectives and nouns add an *-a* to make their corresponding verbal form. Again, recognizing the adjective root helps you identify the meaning of the verb:

cierto	certain, true
acertar (ie)	to be correct, to guess right, to hit upon
grave	grave, serious
agrarar	to aggravate, to make worse
manso	tame
amansar	to tame
mueble	piece of furniture
amueblar	to furnish
puñal	dagger
apuñalar	to stab, to knife

## ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY ABOVE:

1. to become white
2. to become poor
3. to praise/ to exalt [from alto]
4. to grow/become cold
5. to become/turn black
6. to go crazy
7. to feel proud, to be proud, to pride oneself
8. to become rich

9. to become sad
10. to grow thin, to lose weight
11. to dawn, to get up early, to wake up [in a certain place]
12. to get dark, to stay up late
13. to draw toward evening, to get late
14. to grow fat
15. to lighten, to make clear, to clarify
16. to grow dark

# 15.5 Word Families

In section 15.4, one sees how many adjectives and nouns can be made into verbs. It also stands true that many adjectives can be made into nouns. The common suffixes attached to adjectives are *-ura* and *-ez* (or *-eza*). These suffixes tend to refer to abstract ideas and correspond to English endings such as “-ness,” “-ship,” or “-ity”:

blanco	white
blancuzco	whitish
blancura	whiteness
emblanquecerse	to become white

Other adjective-to-noun examples include:

loco	crazy
locura	craziness
viejo	old
vejez	old age, oldness

Many of the nouns ending in *-ura* have masculine variants ending in *-or* (*amargor*, *blancor*, *verdor*), which are less common and essentially synonymous, though some parts of the Spanish-speaking world differentiate between the two, using the *-ura* form for the figurative and the *-or* form for the literal. Context should make it clear which one is indicated.

Study the following examples of adjectives and nouns. You do not need to memorize them. Focus on recognizing the pattern.

amargo	bitter
la amargura	bitterness
dulce	sweet
la dulzura	sweetness
flaco	thin, skinny
la flaqueza	thinness, weakness
gordo	fat
la gordura	fatness
puro	pure
la pureza	purity
sencillo	simple
la sencillez	simplicity
tierno	tender, soft
la ternura	tenderness
triste	sad
la tristeza	sadness
verde	green
la verdura	greenness; vegetable

## 15.6 The Passive Voice

You have already seen the passive voice in Spanish in this text. It does not present particular comprehension problems as it corresponds well to the English passive voice. As the impersonal *se* often replaces it, its use is much less frequent, especially when compared to English. Nonetheless, the passive voice in Spanish is becoming more popular, especially in Latin America. Its formation is as follows:

### SUBJECT + FORM OF SER + PAST PARTICIPLE + POR + AGENT (OF ACTION)

---

El hotel fue dañado por el tornado.  
The hotel was damaged by the tornado.

The past participle agrees in number and gender with the noun, as it now functions as an adjective:

Los problemas fueron estudiados por el comité.

The problems were studied by the committee.

---

The passive voice, although it frequently appears in the preterite, may occur in any tense:

La inocente había sido encarcelada por la policía.

The innocent woman **had been** imprisoned by the police.

---

Esta cuestión ha sido analizada por muchos economistas

This issue **has been** analyzed by many economists.

---

Serán casados por el rabino mañana.

They **will be** married by the rabbi tomorrow.

---

Although the use of the passive voice implies the existence of the agent, at times it is not expressed, but rather understood.

Fui despedido de mi trabajo.

I was fired from my job. (by someone known, or not important to mention)

---

There is a tendency with a small number of verbs to replace the preposition *por* with *de* in the passive voice. This does not alter the meaning:

La científica era admirada de todos.

The scientist was admired by all.

---

El gerente fue acompañado de dos asistentes.

The manager was accompanied by two assistants.

---

The preposition *de* is also seen in “resultant state” conditions expressed with *estar*.

Note the differing translations. This should cause little or no comprehension problem; whenever the *de* does not translate well literally, simply use “by” or the most logical preposition:

---

Las calles estaban cubiertas de nieve.

The streets were covered with snow.

---

La casa estaba rodeada de árboles altos.

The house was surrounded by tall trees.

---

Occasionally one sees what may be called the “*estar* passive” (passive voice using *estar*). An example is: Los dos países están gobernados por presidentes izquierdistas (“Both countries are governed by leftist presidents.”) Such infrequent examples should not present comprehension difficulties.

## Unit 15: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

---

#### ADJETIVO:

---

embarazada

pregnant (false friend)

---

#### EXPRESIONES:

---

dar a luz

to give birth

---

en balde

in vain

---

#### PREPOSICIONES:

---

ante

before, in the face of

---

bajo

below, under

---

#### SUSTANTIVOS:

---

la etapa

stage

---

el nivel

level

---

la raíz

root

---

el vaivén

fluctuation, ups and downs (fig.)

---



VERBOS:

acertar (ie)	to be correct, to guess right, to hit upon
agregar	to add (cognate: aggregate)
añadir	to add
prevalecer	to prevail
resonar(ue)	to resonate, to resound
someter	to subdue, to subject
tratar (de)	to deal with (a subject)
vincular	to relate, to connect, to link

# UNIT 16: TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS (PART 5)

## OBJECTIVES

---

After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Distinguish between similar prepositions and their compound forms in translations.
- Recognize and accurately translation compound adverbs, adjectives and nouns with specific endings.
- Learn more uses for impersonal se and practice translating them.

## 16.1 Distinctions among Similar Prepositions and Compound Prepositions

You have likely noticed that various Spanish prepositions may translate into the same English preposition, though you should be aware that there are subtle distinctions in meaning. Often one preposition has a literal meaning, while a shortened form of the same preposition takes on a figurative one.

This is the case of *antes de* versus *ante*. *Antes de* means “before” in the temporal sense, while *ante* does in the figurative sense and translates as “before,” as in “facing,” or “in the face of”:

Antes de salir, cierra todas las puertas con llave.	Before leaving, lock all the doors.
Tuvo que comparecer ante el tribunal.	He had to appear before the court.
Ante tal dilema, no sabía qué hacer.	In the face of such a dilemma, I/he/she didn't know what to do.

The same is true of *debajo de* versus *bajo*. The meaning of the former refers to physical position, while the latter has figurative meaning:

Encontrará el testamento debajo de estos papeles.	You will find the will under (underneath) these papers.
Vivió muchos años bajo la tiranía.	She lived under the tyranny for many years.

An occasional synonym of *después de* is *tras* (derived from *detrás de*, “behind”), though *tras* usually translates more smoothly as “after” than it does as “behind”:

Después del accidente, salió ileso.	Tras el accidente, salió ileso. After the accident, he left unhurt.
-------------------------------------	--

*Tras*, however, is usually slightly more figurative and is often used in expressions such as *días tras día*, *año tras año*, etc.

Siguen siguiendo su rutina, año tras año.	They keep on following their routine, year after year.
---	--

When used with the verb *ir*, *tras* usually means “to go after” (“to follow”):

Van tras los que han ocasionado el daño.	They're going after those who have caused the damage.
--	---

Remember the various meanings of *hasta*: “until,” “up to,” “as far as,” and “even” (an adverb). Context should clarify the meaning.

No se fue hasta las tres.	She didn't leave until 3:00.
Fui hasta la calle.	I went up to (as far as) the street.
Hasta la psiquiatra no la sabía.	Even the psychiatrist didn't know it.

Also remember to distinguish *cerca de* from *acerca de*:

Se sentaron cerca de ti.	They sat down near you.
¿Qué sabes acerca de la pintura española?	What do you know about Spanish painting?

Some prepositions, such as *por* and *de*, combine with other prepositions. The meaning is not changed significantly, if at all. As you will see below, some combinations of prepositions often occur to describe a more precise physical placement (first example); at times not all the prepositions can be translated (second example); or are used with verbs of motion (last example). Notice in the first example the multiple prepositions used in English.

Lo saqué por debajo del asiento.	I took it <b>out from underneath</b> the seat.
Lo vimos por entre los pinos.	We saw him among the pine trees.
Pasan por encima del puente.	They're passing over the bridge.

The particular combination of *para* + *con* refers to an attitude toward or treatment of a person:

Su comportamiento para con sus padres nos asombró.	Their behavior toward their parents astonished us.
--	--

## 16.2 Compound Adverbs

Some adverbs in Spanish take compound forms, whether or not they are formed by one or two words in English. While you may be able to deduce the meaning of these in context, some are less obvious than others. Among the most common ones are:

al revés	upside-down
al revés (de dentro para fuera)	inside out
allá abajo	way down below
allá arriba	way up above
allí arriba	up there
aquí abajo	down here
aquí arriba	up here
calle abajo	down the street
calle arriba	up the street
cuesta abajo	down (the) hill
cuesta arriba	up (the) hill
hacia aquí	this way (toward here)
hacia atrás	backward
hacia delante	forward
para adelante	forward
poco a poco	little by little

Other adverbial phrases may be formed by a plus the feminine plural form of an adjective, present participle or past participle. Among the most common are:

a ciegas	blindly
a escondidas	secretly, on the sly
a gatas	on all fours
a hurtadillas	stealthily
a oscuras	in the dark
a sabiendas	knowingly, wittingly, consciously
a solas	alone



# 16.3 Adjectives and Nouns Ending in -ante, -ente, and -iente

Spanish uses the suffixes -ante (from -ar verbs) and -ente or -iente (from -er and -ir verbs) to form a number of adjectives and some nouns. This is unlike English, in which present participles may be used as adjectives (e.g., “running water,” “sparkling wine”).\*

Es un libro muy edificante sobre Antonio Machado.**	It's a very edifying book about Antonio Machado.
A la casa le falta agua corriente todavía.	The house still lacks running water.

Some forms in -ante, -ente and -iente may serve both as nouns and adjectives:

Chema es el amante de Victoria.	Chema is Victoria's lover.
Volvió a su amante esposa.	He returned to his loving wife.
Los habitantes de Belice no son hispanohablantes.	The inhabitants of Belize are not Spanish speakers. (noun) The inhabitants of Belize are not Spanish-speaking. (adjective)

As you have seen, many common and easily recognizable nouns have these same endings: el/la estudiante, el habitante, el residente, el presidente, etc.

\*These are two exceptions to this rule: hirviendo (“boiling”) and ardiendo (“burning”). When used as adjectives, they appear only after the noun and are invariable in form. If you recognize the infinitive from which they come, there should be no comprehension problem.

\*\*Spanish poet, 1875-1939.

## 16.4 More about the Impersonal se

When the object of an active sentence is a person and the impersonal se construction is used, the personal a precedes what is the subject in English:

Se despidió a Blanca.	Blanca was fired.
Se robó a los turistas.	The tourists were robbed.
Se mató al asesino.	The murderer was killed.

Note that in the above construction the verbs are always in the singular, as opposed to those with non-human subjects, in which the verb is singular or plural, according to the subject and in which the verb usually precedes the subject:

Se vendieron las llantas.	The tires were sold.
Se habla albanés allí.	Albanian is spoken there.
Varios dialectos se oyen.	Various dialects are heard.

In the first group of examples, the a -always grammatically necessary- helps avoid ambiguity. Without the a, the first example could mean “Blanca said good-bye” (despedir = to fire, to dismiss, despedirse de = to say good-bye to).

In a passive sentence in Spanish, the indirect object of the active sentences cannot be the subject. See the examples below:

Active sentence in English:	Active sentence in Spanish:	Passive sentence in English:	Equivalent of Passive Sentence in Spanish:
They gave me a gift.	Me dieron un regalo.	I was given a gift*	Se me dio un regalo.

As you never see the literal translation of the English in correct Spanish [the me of the active sentence cannot be the subject -yo- of the passive sentence], Spanish inserts an indirect object pronoun after the se to come up with the equivalent of the passive sentence in English.

\*The other passive sentence in English, “A gift was given to me,” could be expressed by the passive voice with an indirect object pronoun: Un regalo me fue dado.

Study these further examples and their translations:



Se le dijo la verdad por fin.	She was finally told the truth.
Se nos contará lo que pasó.	We will be told what happened.
Se les preguntó si querían ir.	They were asked if they wanted to go.

The same construction is also used when the **direct** object of the active sentence in English is the subject of the passive sentence.

Active sentence in English:	Active sentence in Spanish:	Passive sentence in English:	Equivalent of Passive Sentence in Spanish:
They will punish him.	Lo castigarán.	He will be punished.	Se le castigará.

See these similar examples and their translations:

Se le verá brevemente en la película.	He will be seen briefly in the film.
Se la oirá cantar.	She will be heard singing.
Se les recompensará.	They will be remunerated.
Se las llevará al baile en limusina.	They (female group) will be taken to the dance in a limousine.

With this particular construction, the combination *se lo* or *se los* does not occur.

## 16.5 Compound Participles, Compound Infinitives and Absolute Constructions

Compound (or perfect) participles are composed of the present participle of the auxiliary verb *haber* + past participle. Note that the object pronoun is attached to the form of *haber*.

habiendo cantado	having sung
habiéndolo dicho	having said it

Compound (or perfect) infinitives are composed of the infinitive of the auxiliary verb *haber* + the past participle:

haber puesto	having put
haber marchado	having left

The use of the compound past participle corresponds well to English:

Habiendo terminado el examen, sintió gran alivio.	Having finished the exam, he/she felt great relief.
Habiéndolo rechazado, me puse a pensarlo otra vez.	Having rejected it, I began to think it over again.

In context, the compound infinitive is most often seen after a preposition or, occasionally, after a conjugated verb. Again, both uses function as in English.

Se fue sin habernos explicado nada.	He left without having explained anything to us.
Nos mudamos después de habernos graduado.	We moved away after having graduated.
Creo haberlo comprendido.	I believe I have understood it.

The past participle also functions as an adjective in what are called “absolute” constructions. Note the various translation possibilities in English.

Concluida la reunión, todos se levantaron.	When the meeting was over (concluded), everyone got up.
Terminada la guerra, gozaron de paz de nuevo.	Once the war ended, they enjoyed peace again.
Hechas las conclusiones, las escribieron en su reportaje.	The conclusions having been made, they wrote them into their report.

# 16.6 The Preterite Perfect Tense

The preterite perfect tense is formed by the preterite of the auxiliary verb *haber* + past participle:

	salir	traducción
yo	hube salido	I had left
tú	hubiste salido	you (fam. s.) had left
él, ella, Ud.	hubo salido	he/she/you (form. s.) had left
nosotros	hubimos salido	we had left
vosotros	hubisteis salido	you (fam.pl.) had left
ellos, ellas, Uds.	hubieron salido	they/ you (form. pl. [fam. pl. in L.A.]) had left

The preterite perfect tense is an “alternate” form of the past perfect tense (e.g., *había salido*) and translates the same (“had left”). It was routinely used in Old Spanish and is still seen today, almost exclusively in literature (and almost never heard in speech). It is only used after conjunctions of time: *después (de) que*, *luego que*, *apenas* (“hardly,” “barely”), *así que*, *en cuanto*, *no bien* (all three translating as “as soon as”), *cuando*, *tan pronto como*, when one action takes place immediately after another, the latter almost always in the preterite tense:

Así que le hubimos hablado, nos fuimos.	As soon as we <b>had spoken</b> to him, we left.
Apenas me hube graduado, se murió mi padre.	I <b>had</b> barely <b>graduated</b> and (when) my father died. No sooner <b>had I graduated</b> , my father died.

## Unit 16: Basic Vocabulary

### VOCABULARIO BÁSICO

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#### ADJETIVOS:

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ardiente	burning
corriente	running; standard, regular, commonplace; current, present
decimonónico	nineteenth-century
harto	tired, fed up
ileso	unhurt
vetusto	very old

#### CONJUNCIONES:

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apenas	as soon as, barely, no sooner than
así que	as soon as
no bien	as soon as

#### EXPRESIONES:

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cerrar con llave	to lock
conectarse a internet	to go online
ponerse a	to begin to
por aquí	through, around here
sano y salvo	safe and sound

## SUSTANTIVOS:

el esbozo	sketch, outline, rough draft
el personaje	character (lit.)
los pésames	condolences
el resultado	result

## VERBOS:

arriesgar(se)	to risk
demostrar (ue)	to demonstrate, to show, to prove
elogiar	to praise
extrañarse (de)	to be surprised (by), to be in wonder (of), to be puzzled (by)
fugarse	to flee, to escape
ocasionar	to cause
sembrar (ie)	to sow, to seed, to plant
susitar	to provoke

# UNIT 17: ADDITIONAL GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES

## OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Deduce the meaning of compound nouns made up of recognizable verb/noun combinations.
- Distinguish between identical words and words whose meaning changes with the use of an accent mark.
- Recognize less commonly used command forms and the future subjunctive.

## 17.1 Formation of Compound Nouns

Many compound nouns are formed by the third person singular of the present tense of an infinitive, followed by the plural (or, occasionally, singular) form of the noun that would be the object of the verb.

For example, take the verb *parar*, “to stop.” What stops a fall is a parachute, thus *para* + *caídas* (“falls”) = *paracaídas* (“parachute”). What stops water is an umbrella, thus *para* + *aguas* = *paraguas* (“umbrella”). (These nouns, in spite of ending in *-s*, remain grammatically singular and masculine.) A sampling of such nouns, the meaning of which can often be deduced and some of which you have already seen, follows:

Compound Noun	Traducción
el cumpleaños	birthday
el lavaplatos	dishwasher
el limpiaparabrisas	windshield wiper
el parabrisas	windshield
el pararrayo(s)	lightning rod
el parasol	parasol
el pasamano(s)	handrail
el pisapapeles	paperweight
el quitamanchas	stain-remover
el quitanieves	snowplow
el rascacielos	skyscraper
el salvavidas	life jacket, life guard, life boat
el tocadisco	record player
el trabalenguas	tongue twister

Although the above combination is common, other compound nouns are also possible, such as the following:

el hazmerreír	laughingstock
el sabelotodo	know-it-all



## 17.2 Identical Words and Words Differentiated Only by Accent Mark

1. Although context should always make the meaning clear, various irregular affirmative tú commands duplicate other verb forms and, in one case, a noun: di, sé, ve, ven and sal. See section 14.3 for examples in context.

2. The first person singular of the preterite of traer, traje, is identical to the noun for “suit”:

Llevó traje a la boda.

He wore a suit to the wedding.

Similarly, the first and third person singular of the imperfect tense of ser, era, is identical to the noun la era (“era”), though this should never cause comprehension difficulties.

3. Other verb forms: The first person singular of the preterite of regular -ar verbs and the first and third persons of the present subjunctive are differentiated in writing only by the written accent on the former:

Llegué tarde.

I arrived late.

Lo haré cuando llegue.

I'll do it when I/you arrive (he, she arrives).

Likewise, the written accent is all that distinguishes the third person singular of the future tense and the first and third persons singular of the imperfect subjunctive of -ar verbs:

Lo mandará.

She'll send it.

Urgía que lo mandara.

It was urgent that I (he, she, you) send it.

4. Some other words distinguished only by the written accent mark (in addition to those in section 1.3) include:

de	of, from
dé	first and third persons of present subjunctive of dar
hacia	toward
hacía	first and third persons of imperfect indicative of hacer
el papa	pope*
el papá	dad
sabia	wise (fem.)
sabía	first and third persons of the imperfect indicative of saber
se	third person singular and plural reflexive pronoun
sé	first person singular present tense of saber
sé	affirmative tú command of ser and saber
si	if
sí	yes
sí	third person prepositional reflexive object pronoun ("himself," "herself," "yourself," "itself," "themselves," "yourselves")

\*El papa must also be distinguished from la papa ("potato").

## 17.3 Placement of Object Pronouns in Old Spanish

One occasionally sees in literature and in old or formal writing an object pronoun attached to, rather than preceding, a main conjugated verb in a sentence:

Al verme, volvióse pálido	Upon seeing me, he turned pale.
Pidióme el jarro de agua y díselo...	He asked me for the jug of water and I gave it to him... (Lazarillo de Tormes, Anonymous, 1554)
Y el mozo dijole que según él cuitaba, decían verdad.	And the boy said that according to what he thought, they were speaking the truth. (Don Juan Manuel, El Conde Lucanor, 1282-1348)

The above would normally be expressed as:

Al verme, se volvió pálido.
Me pidió el jarro de agua y se lo di...
Y el mozo le dijo...

## 17.4 Second Person Plural (Vosotros) Commands

Vosotros commands are largely heard or appear written in dialogue in Spain. Affirmative vosotros commands are simple to recognize as they are the only verb form in Spanish that ends in a -d. For all verbs, the -r of the infinitive is dropped and a -d is put in its place. As is the case of all negative commands, negative vosotros commands takes the present subjunctive.

Llegad a tiempo.	Arrive on time.
No lleguéis todavía.	Don't arrive yet.
Comed todo.	Eat everything.
No comáis ahora.	Don't eat now.
Id ahora.	Go now
No vayáis hasta la una.	Don't go until 1:00.

In affirmative vosotros commands used reflexively, the -d is dropped. Therefore, for example, *levantad + os = Levantaos*. ("Get up.") *Acostad + os = Acostaos* ("Go to bed"), etc. The only exception occurs with the infinitive *irse* ("to leave," "to go away"), in which the -d is retained: *Idos* = "Go away."

# 17.5 The Future Subjunctive

The future subjunctive in Spanish remains only vestigially, usually in proverbs and legal or religious documents. (You have already seen it in the fixed phrase, Sea como **fuere** ["Be that as it may"]). Its formation is nearly identical to the -ra forms of the imperfect subjunctive. The only difference is that instead of an -a at the end, an -e is found. In modern Spanish, the future subjunctive has largely been replaced by the present subjunctive.

Cuando a Roma <b>fueres</b> , haz como <b>vieres</b> .	When in Rome, do as the Romans do. (Literally, "as you see")
Quien <b>diere</b> una limosna, será bendecido.	Whoever gives alms will be blessed.
De lo de ser otra vez manteado no digo nada; que semejantes desgracias mal se pueden prevenir, y si vienen, no hay que hacer otra cosa sino encoger los hombros, detener el aliento, cerrar los ojos y dejarse ir por donde la suerte y la manta nos <b>lleware</b> . (Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, author of El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha, Spain, 1547-1616.	I'm not saying anything about the episode of being tossed in a blanket, as similar misfortunes can hardly be prevented, and if they happen, there's nothing to be done but to shrug one's shoulders, hold one's breath, close one's eyes and let yourself go wherever luck and the blanket take us.

## 17.6 The Simple Past Perfect Tense

As a vestige of Latin, there exists in Spanish a simple (one-word) past perfect tense, which is identical to the *-ra* forms of the imperfect subjunctive. This tense is used almost exclusively in subordinate clauses and is found occasionally in journalistic, literary and other formal writing. Its meaning is always past perfect (pluperfect), never subjunctive. Some consider its usage a stylistic affectation, to achieve a more “elevated” tone. Nevertheless, this once-archaic tense is found more and more frequently in writing (though never used in speech.)

If the tense of the verb of the independent clause is in the past, and should you see this form in the subordinate clause when there seems to be no reason for use of the subjunctive, chances are that you have stumbled across this relic from the Latin.

Renunció cuando hiciera lo debido.

He resigned when he **had done** what he should.

Cuando saciaran su hambre, salieron de su escondite.

When they **had sated** their hunger, they left their hiding place.

## Unit 17: Basic Vocabulary

### HOMONYMS DISTINGUISHED BY ACCENT MARK

de	of, from
dé	first and third persons of present subjunctive of dar
hacia	toward
hacía	first and third persons of imperfect indicative of hacer
el papa	pope*
el papá	dad
sabia	wise (fem.)
sabía	first and third persons of the imperfect indicative of saber
se	third person singular and plural reflexive pronoun
sé	first person singular present tense of saber
sé	affirmative tú command of ser and saber
si	if
sí	yes
sí	third person prepositional reflexive object pronoun ("himself," "herself," "yourself," "itself," "themself")

## COMPOUND NOUNS

el cumpleaños	birthday
el hazmerreír	laughingstock
el lavaplatos	dishwasher
el limpiaparabrisas	windshield wiper
el parabrisas	windshield
el pararrayo(s)	lightning rod
el parasol	parasol
el pasamano(s)	handrail
el pisapapeles	paperweight
el quitamanchas	stain-remover
el quitanieves	snowplow
el rascacielos	skyscraper
el sabelotodo	know-it-all
el salvavidas	life jacket, life guard, life boat
el tocadiscos	record player
el trabalenguas	tongue twister



# Pronunciation Guide

The following is intended to give you a general idea of Spanish pronunciation. Although not necessary for reading purposes, knowledge of the sounds is helpful if you also plan to speak the language.

The English words given below are not always exact equivalents of the Spanish sounds. When not, they are the closest approximation in English.

## I. VOWELS

Spanish vowels are pronounced quickly, clearly and sharply. They are never drawn out.

<b>a</b> , as in "father"	amigo – friend casa – house
<b>e</b> , as in "café"	mesa – table leche – milk
<b>i</b> , as in "machine"	día – day yanqui – Yankee, American
<b>o</b> , as in "open"	lobo – wolf todo – all, everything
<b>u</b> , as in "rule" or "moon"	uno – a, an, one mucho – many, much

## II. CONSONANTS

### b and v (pronounced identically)

As in "boy," when occurring initially or after an n or m:

banco	bank, bench
vaso	glass
ambos	both
enviar	to send

In all other positions, this sound is very weak and the lips do not touch, or do so only barely:

Cuba	Cuba
saber	to know
uva	grape
abrir	to open

## c

As in “cat,” before a, o, and u:

cama	bed
actor	actor
indicar	to indicate
Cuba	Cuba

As in “sun,” before e and i:

cinco	five
cero	zero
cansancio	tiredness

In most of Spain, the ce- and ci- combinations are pronounced like the “th” in “thin.”

## ch as in “chew”

chico	boy, small
ocho	eight

## d

As in “dawn,” when occurring initially or after n and l:

diez	ten
dónde	where
andar	to walk
aldea	village

As in the “th” in “they” in all other positions:

lado	side
<i>pared</i>	wall
ciudad	city
tarde	late

**f, l, m, n, p and t are pronounced approximately as in English.**

## **g**

As in “go,” when occurring before a, o, and u, or after a consonant:

goma	rubber, tire
ganar	to gain (to win, to earn)
grande	great, large

As in “house,” but stronger, when occurring before e and i:

gente	people
viaje	trip, voyage
gimnasio	gym

## **h, always silent**

hacha	ax
hora	hour, time
coherente	coherent

**j, as in the “h” in “house,” but stronger (same sound as occurs in ge- and gi-combinations):**

jota	J (letter of alphabet)
hija	daughter
lujo	luxury

**k, as in English. Used only in foreign words.**

**ll, as in “million” or as in the “y” in “yes”:**

calle	street
millón	million
llover	to rain

**ñ, as in “canyon”:**

año	year
español	Spanish
panameño	Panamanian

**qu, always followed by e or i as in English “k” (the u is silent):**

cheque	check
quizás	perhaps
equis	X (letter of alphabet)

**r, pronounced by tapping the tip of the tongue against the gums of the upper front teeth:**

pero	but
caro	expensive
querer	to want, to love

**rr, or the single initial r, or after n and l, pronounced by trilling the tip of the tongue against the gums of the upper front teeth:**

perro	dog
ron	rum
honra	honor

**s****Usually as in “see”:**

seis	six
casa	house
bastante	enough

**As in “rose,” when occurring before m, d, and g:**

mismo	same
desde	since
desgracia	misfortune

## w, as in English. Found only in foreign words.

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### x

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As in “see,” when not between vowels:

extraño	strange
explicar	to explain
exclusivo	exclusive

As in “x” in “exact,” when occurring between vowels:

existir	to exist
examinar	to examine
éxito	success

### z, as in “see”:

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paz	peace
cazar	to hunt
zona	zone

In most of Spain, the z is pronounced like the “th” in “thin.”

## *Idiom List*

This is a list of common idioms you are likely to encounter in any text. Memorizing these will help speed up translation, but since the list is long it could help to work on memorizing them in groups. For instance, idioms that contain a could be one group.

acabar de + inf.	to have just done something
a decir verdad	truthfully, really
a despecho de	in spite of
a eso de	about
a fin de cuentas	in the end
a lo largo de	along, throughout
a lo mejor	at best, most likely
al principio	at the beginning
a más no poder	as hard as possible
a mediados de	in the middle
a menos que	unless
a menudo	often
a pesar de	in spite of
a principios de	at the beginning of
a propósito	by the way
caer en la cuenta	to catch on, to become aware
con respecto a	with regard to
dar ganas de	to feel like, to want to (do something), to get the urge to (do something)
dar lo mismo	to make no difference, to be all the same
darse cuenta de	to realize, to become aware of
dar un paseo	to take a walk/ride
dar un paso	to take a step
dar una vuelta	to take a stroll/ride
de al lado	next to, adjoining
debido a	due to
de esta manera	(in) this way/manner
de este modo	(in) this way/ manner
de hecho	in fact, indeed
dejar de + inf.	to stop doing something, to fail to do something
de nuevo	again
de pronto	suddenly
de súbito	suddenly
de todos modos	anyway, in any case
de vez en cuando	from time to time
echar a perder	to ruin, to spoil, to waste
echar de menos	to miss (emotionally)
echarse a + inf.	to begin to do something

en alguna parte	somewhere
en cambio	on the other hand
en cualquier parte	anywhere
en cuanto a	as to, regarding, in regard to
en ninguna parte	nowhere
en otra parte	elsewhere
en (por) todos lados	everywhere
en aquel/ese entonces	at that time, in that period of time
en el acto	immediately, on the spot
en seguida	immediately, right away
en todo caso	in any case, in any event
estar de acuerdo	to be in agreement, to agree on something
hacer caso a/de	to pay attention, to notice
hacerle gracia a uno	to strike someone as (being) funny
hay que + inf.	to be necessary to do something
he aquí	here is, this is, these are
más bien	rather, instead
ni siquiera	not even
no bien	once, as soon as
no es para tanto	it's not that serious
no obstante	however, nevertheless
no más que	only, nothing but
oír decir que	to hear (it said) that
oír hablar de	to hear about (a person, an event)
pasar por alto	to overlook
pasarlo bien/mal	to have a good/bad time
pedir prestado (i)	to borrow
pese a	in spite of
ponerse a + inf.	to begin to do something
por consiguiente	therefore
por eso	therefore, that's why
por lo tanto	therefore
por lo visto	apparently
por más + adj./adv. + que + subjunctive	no matter how + adj./adv. + subject + v.
por medio de	by means of
por mi parte	as for me, as far as I'm concerned



por otro lado	on the other hand
por supuesto	of course
por todos lados	everywhere
por último	finally
por un lado	on one hand
puede ser (que)	maybe, it may be (that) **If que is used, this structure is always followed by the subjunctive
puesto que	since, because
querer decir (ie)	to mean, to signify
rara vez	seldom, rarely
si bien	although
sin embargo	however
tener buena/mala cara	to look well/bad/sick
tener en cuenta	to take into account, to bear in mind
tener gracia	to be funny
tener por	to consider
tener que ver con	to have to do with (something)
tratar de	to be a question of
verse bien/mal	to look well/bad
volver + a + inf. (ue)	to do something again

## *False Friends List*

As with the idiom list, this list of false friends is one you can break up into smaller chunks to memorize. It may also be helpful to print this and have it available while reading or translating. Add other false friends to the list as you read.

actual + inf.	present, current
actualidad (f.)	present time, current affairs
actualmente	at present, nowadays, right now
aguardar	to wait
alumno/a	student
aproximarse	to approach
asesorar	to advise (in economic, legal, political matters)
asistir	to attend (an event), to be present
atender	to look after, to care for
avisar	to warn
casualidad (f.)	chance, coincidence
competencia	competition
collar (m.)	necklace
compromiso	appointment, commitment
conferencia	conference, talk, lecture
congreso	conference
crudo	raw
cuerpo	body, body of work
demandar	to sue (also, "to demand")
desgracia	misfortune
despacho	office
disgustar	to displease
distinto	different
divisar	to perceive, to make out, to discern
dormitorio	bedroom
editor/a	publisher (also, "editor" (context will help distinguish))
editorial (f.)	publishing house
efectivo; en efectivo	cash; in cash
efectivamente	in fact, indeed, actually
equivocación (f.)	mistake
equivocarse	to make a mistake
éxito	success
experimentar (ie)	to experience (also, "to experiment")
fin	purpose, goal, aim; end (to terminate something)
final	ending, end (as in a story); final, las
firma	signature)
gana	desire, hunger

gracioso	funny, amusing, charming
grosero	vulgar, rude
habitación (f.)	room
idioma (m.)	language
ignorar	not to know, to be ignorant of
intentar	to attempt, to try
largo	long
lectura	reading
limitar (con)	to border
marchar	to walk, to go
molestar	to bother
natural (n., m., f.)	native
noticia	piece of news, information
pariente (n., m., f.)	relative
particular	private
pasar	to suffer (also, to pass, to spend [time])
patrón/-ona	chief, boss
planta; planta baja	ground floor (of a building); first floor
presenciar	to witness
pretender	to claim, to try, to intend
principio	beginning
procurar	to try, to endeavor, to seek
proporcionar	to give, to furnish, to provide
propósito	purpose, intention, plan
quitarle a (alguien)	to take away from (someone), to remove
realizar	to achieve (also, to realize [e.g., a dream])
reclamar	to demand, to claim
el recurso	resource, means, pretext
registrar	to search, to examine, to inspect
renta	income, revenue (also, rent)
renunciar	to resign
rudo	rough, coarse, ordinary
salto	jump, leap
sano	healthy
sensible	sensitive
simpatizar (con)	to get along well (with), to hit it off (with)
solicitar	to apply for (also, to ask for, to solicit)

soportar	to endure, to bear, to stand, to put up with
sostener (ie)	to support, to hold up, to prop up (also, to sustain
suburbio	slum (also, suburb)
suceder	to happen
suceso	event
violar	to rape (also, to violate)
vista	sight, vision (also, view)
vulgar	common, ordinary

## Cultural Notes on Translation

### CULTURAL NOTE I: NOTE ON SPANISH DICTIONARIES AND THE ALPHABET

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The 10th Congress of the Association of Academies of the Spanish Language in 1994 determined that the combinations *ch* and *ll* would no longer be alphabetized separately. Prior to then, words beginning with *ch* were found in the dictionary between those words beginning in *c* and *d*. (Had this not happened, in the vocabulary lists under *Sustantivos*, you would have found *chico* and *chica* **after** *ciudad*.) Likewise, words starting with *ll* were found between *l* and *m*. The position of the letter *ñ* between *n* and *o* remains unchanged. Though extremely few words begin with *ñ*, its placement also applies to alphabetization when the sound occurs in the middle of a word. The word *español*, therefore, is found after the word *espantar* (“to frighten,” “to scare”). (The *rr* [or, in initial position, *r/R*] is considered a separate sound but not a separate letter of the alphabet.) Check the publication date of the dictionary you are using if you do not find words beginning with these letters where you expect them.

### CULTURAL NOTE II: BOOK AND FILM TITLES IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH

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Whether being translated from Spanish to English or vice versa, there is no simple guideline for translation except that the title must “sound good” in the target language. Literal translations, as is the case of García Márquez’s masterpiece, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (*Cien años de soledad*) often work fine. Such is also the case of Laura Esquivel’s novel and the film based on it, *Como agua para chocolate*, in English, *Like Water for Chocolate*. John Steinbeck’s novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, is translated literally as *Las uvas de la ira*, as is Pearl Buck’s *The Good Earth*, rendered as *La buena tierra*. Other titles, however, are changed substantially or completely, as literal translations do not work or make sense in the target language. While Manuel Puig’s novel *Beso de la mujer araña* has an exact translation in its English version (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*), an earlier novel of his, *Boquitas pintadas*

(literally, “Little Lipsticked Mouths”) was given the completely different English title *Heartbreak Tango*. Other titles undergo a slight modification, such as Puig’s *La traición de Rita Hayworth* (literally, “Rita Hayworth’s Betrayal”), which in English became *Betrayed by Rita Hayworth*. Similarly, Margaret Mitchell’s novel *Gone with the Wind* underwent a slight modification for the Spanish translation and the film to *Lo que el viento se llevó* (literally, “What the Wind Carried Away.”) Later films, such as the 1999 Best Foreign-Language Film Oscar winner *Todo sobre mi madre* has a literal translation in its English title, *All About My Mother*, while *Y tu mamá también* retained its Spanish title for its English-language release, as the literal translation (“And Your Mother Too”) lacks the connotation of the literal Spanish equivalent. The title of the 2006 film *Volver* (literally, “to return”) was not translated to English. Other films undergo a slight modification in translation, as did the Spanish award-winning 2010 film set in Bolivia *También la lluvia*, which became *Even the Rain*.

### CULTURAL NOTE III: FIRST NAMES (NOMBRES DE PILA)

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Although translation of proper names is not usually necessary, there are some first names in Spanish that cause particular confusion. While many first names are identical (Hugo, Rita), others have obvious equivalents (María, Roberto), and others are easily or conceivably guessable (Miguel [Michael], Jorge ([George], José [Joseph]), confusing names exist, at times to the point of their gender not being obvious. Some of these names include:

Belén	literally “Bethlehem,” a woman’s name
Carmen	no English equivalent, almost always a woman’s name
Cielo	no common English equivalent, often religious in origin, a woman’s name
Concepción	no English equivalent, almost always a woman’s name, religious in origin, nickname <i>Concha</i>
Consuelo	no English equivalent, always a woman’s name, religious in origin, nickname <i>Chelo</i>
Cruz	literally “cross,” a woman’s name
Dolores	used in English (as “Dolores” or “Delores”), religious in origin, nickname <i>Lola</i> or <i>Lolita</i>
Guadalupe	no English equivalent, always a woman’s name, religious in origin, nickname <i>Lupe</i>
Guilhermina	Wilhelmina (much more common in Spanish than English)
Guillermo	William (nickname, <i>Memo</i> )
Inmaculada	no English equivalent, a woman’s name, religious in origin
Jaime	James (not “Jamie”), always a man’s name
Lourdes	named after the shrine in France where Bernadette Soubirous had visions of the Virgin Mary, a woman’s name
Mercedes	at times used in English, always a woman’s name, religious in origin
Pilar	no English equivalent, a woman’s name, religious in origin
Rocío	no English equivalent, a woman’s name, religious in origin
Rosario	no English equivalent, always a woman’s name, religious in origin, nickname <i>Charo</i> or <i>Chari</i>
Socorro	no English equivalent, a woman’s name, religious in origin
Soledad	literally “Solitude,” a woman’s name, religious in origin

- There are many other lower-frequency names in Spanish that are untranslatable in English. Those ending in –a are almost always for females; those ending in –o, for males. Here are examples of a few: Rigoberta, Rigoberto, Aldonza, Edelberto, Filiberto, Fernanda.
- María combines with a great number of names, almost always religious in nature, for example, María de la Luz (literally, “Mary of the Light”) and María Teresa (nickname, Maite, Mayte or Marité).
- Some men’s names are religious in origin, but are not used in English: Jesús, Angel.
- Spanish also employs mixed-gender names, almost always of a religious origin. In these cases, the first of the two names indicates the gender: José María (man’s name, nickname Chema), María Jesús (woman’s name, nickname Chus).
- Other nicknames not of a religious nature include Nando and Fercho for Fernando; Juanjo for Juan José and Isa for Isabel.

This is only a small sampling including some of the more common of a great number of possibilities.



## CULTURAL NOTE IV: TELLING TIME IN SPANISH

¿Qué hora es?	What time is it?
Es la una.	It's 1:00.
Son las dos.	It's 2:00.
Son las tres de la mañana.	It's 3:00 a.m.
Son las cuatro de la tarde.	It's 4:00 p.m.
Son las diez de la noche.	It's 10:00 p.m.
Son las cinco y media.	It's 5:30.
Son las seis y treinta.	It's 6:30.
Son las siete y cuarto.	It's 7:15.
Son las ocho menos cuarto.	It's 7:45.
Son quince para las nueve.	It's 8:45.
Son las once en punto.	It's 11:00 on the dot.

### OBSERVATIONS:

1. A singular verb is normally used to ask what time it is, and is used to give the answer if it is 1:00, noon (mediodía) or midnight (medianoche). Otherwise the plural form son is used.
2. The phrase de la mañana is the equivalent of "a.m.," while the phrases de la tarde and de la noche are the equivalents of "p.m."
3. "Half past" the hour may be expressed by y media or y treinta.
4. "Fifteen after the hour" may be expressed by y cuarto or y quince.
5. "A quarter till the hour" may be expressed by menos cuarto or quince (un cuarto) para + the coming hour.
6. All other minutes after the hour take the same numbers as in English.

Nuestra clase comienza a la una y veinte.

Our class begins at 1:20.