

# HIGHER SPANISH GRAMMAR BOOKLET

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## The tenses at Higher

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Present

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## Immediate future

The present continuous is used to as a method of describing actions that are right about to happen

The present continuous is normally translated as 'going to'

To form the present continuous we need to use the verb 'ir' in the present tense plus a, then the verb action in its infinitive form

\*\* Remember 'ir' is an irregular verb in the present tense, we conjugate it as follows,

Yo - voy

Tú - vas

Él, Ella, Usted - va

Nosotros - vamos

Vosotros - vais

Ellos, Ellas, Ustedes - van

### Examples:

Voy a comprar - I'm going to buy

Vamos a elegir - We're going to choose

## Present Tense

The present tense is used to as a method of describing actions that are currently happening (in the present)

The infinitive endings in the present tense are as follows:

|              | -AR  | -ER  | -IR  |
|--------------|------|------|------|
| I            | o    | o    | o    |
| You          | as   | es   | es   |
| He/she/it    | a    | e    | e    |
| We           | amos | emos | imos |
| You (plural) | áis  | éis  | ís   |
| They         | an   | en   | en   |

Common irregulars:

| <b><u>Tener</u></b> | <b><u>Ser</u></b> | <b><u>Estar</u></b> | <b><u>Hacer</u></b> | <b><u>Ir</u></b> | <b><u>Llamarse</u></b> |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Tengo               | Soy               | Estoy               | Hago                | Voy              | Me llamo               |
| Tiene               | Eres              | Estás               | Haces               | Vas              | Te llamas              |
| Tienes              | Es                | Esta                | Hace                | Va               | Se llama               |
| Tenemos             | Somos             | Estamos             | Hacemos             | Vamos            | Nos llamamos           |
| Tenéis              | Sois              | Estáis              | Hacéis              | Váis             | Os llamáis             |
| Teinen              | Son               | Están               | Hacen               | Van              | Se llaman              |

## Present Perfect

The present perfect is used when we have just done something

It is translated as 'have' or 'has'

To form it, we first need to use the verb 'haber', in the present tense

\*\* Remember 'haber' is an irregular verb in the present tense, we conjugate it as follows,

Yo - he

Tú - has

Él, Ella, Usted - ha

Nosotros - hemos

Vosotros - habéis

Ellos, Ellas, Ustedes - han

We then remove the -AR, -ER or -IR endings of the infinitive verb and add either 'ado' for -AR verbs or 'ido' for -ER and -IR verbs

### Examples:

He hablado - I have spoken

Habéis comido - You (pl) have eaten

## Gerund/Present Continuous

In Spanish, we use the gerund to express the idea 'ing', for example doing, playing, going etc. We normally pair it with the verb 'Estar' and this makes the present continuous

To form the gerund, we remove the -AR, -ER, -IR endings and add either -ando for -AR verbs or -iendo for -ER and -IR verbs

### Examples:

Jugando - playing

Conduciendo - driving

Probando - trying

### Irregulars:

There are a few irregulars when we use the gerund. Instead of using the above endings, they use -yendo as their ending.

Leer - leyendo

Traer - trayendo

Caer - cayendo

Destruir - destruyendo

Construir - construyendo

Oír - oyendo

### Examples:

Estamos jugando - we're playing

Estoy oyendo - I'm listening

## Conditional Tense

In Spanish, we use the conditional tense to express probability, possibility or wonder.

The conditional tense is usually translated as would, could, must have or probably.

We conjugate verbs in the conditional by adding the following endings to the verb; (the verb stays the same, nothing is removed)

- ía
- ías
- ía
- ímos
- íais
- ían

| <u>Hablar</u> | <u>Comer</u> | <u>Vivir</u> |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Hablaría      | Comería      | Viviría      |
| Hablarías     | Comerías     | Vivirías     |
| Hablaría      | Comería      | Viviría      |
| Hablaríamos   | Comeríamos   | Viviríamos   |
| Hablaríais    | Comeríais    | Viviríais    |
| Hablarían     | Comerían     | Vivirían     |

The following are sentences in the conditional tense;

***El alumno dijo que estudiaría una hora más.***

*The student said that he would study one more hour.*

***¿Qué hora sería?***

*What time could it have been?*



The twelve common verbs that are irregular in the conditional tense are also irregular in the future tense. Their endings are regular, but their stems change in the same way they change in the future tense. Because the endings are the same as all other conditional tense verbs, we show only the “yo” form, and have underlined the irregular stem.

The irregulars are as follows;

***caber***

yo cabría

***poner***

yo pondría

***decir***

yo diría

***haber***

yo habría

***salir***

yo saldría

***hacer***

yo haría

***poder***

yo podría

***tener***

yo tendría

***querer***

yo querría

***valer***

yo valdría

***saber***

yo sabría

***venir***

yo vendría

## Simple Future Tense

The future tense is used to tell what “will” happen in the future, or what “shall” happen.

Regular verbs in the future tense are conjugated by adding the following endings to the infinitive form of the verb;

- é
- ás
- á
- emos
- éis
- an

There are twelve common verbs that are irregular in the future tense. Their endings are regular, but their stems change. Since the endings are the same as all other future tense verbs, we show only the “yo” form, and have underlined the irregular stem. We have also grouped them according to their patterns of change.

The irregulars are as follows;

### ***caber***

yo cabré

### ***poner***

yo pondré

### ***decir***

yo diré

### ***haber***

yo habré

### ***salir***

yo saldré

### ***hacer***

yo haré

### ***poder***

*yo podré*

**tener**

*yo tendré*

**querer**

*yo querré*

**valer**

*yo valdré*

**saber**

*yo sabré*

**venir**

*yo vendré*

# Imperfect Tense

The imperfect tense is one of the two past tenses in the Spanish language.

We use the imperfect tense to talk about the past, especially for describing what happened or what used to happen. We also use it for descriptions.

## Regular Imperfect Verb Endings

We conjugate verbs in the imperfect by removing the infinitive ending of the verb (-AR, -ER, -IR) and then add the imperfect ending.

|           | <u>-AR</u> | <u>-ER &amp; -IR</u> |
|-----------|------------|----------------------|
| I         | aba        | ía                   |
| You       | abas       | ías                  |
| He/she/it | aba        | ía                   |
| We        | ábamos     | íamos                |
| You (pl)  | abais      | íais                 |
| They      | aban       | ían                  |

## The uses of the Imperfect Tense

1. Repeated actions
2. Actions that were in progress in the past
3. Times and dates
4. Age
5. Descriptions of characteristics, conditions and feelings

## Irregulars

There are only 3 verbs which are conjugated irregularly in the imperfect tense. These are; ir, ser & ver.

|           | <u>Ir</u> | <u>Ser</u> | <u>Ver</u> |
|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| I         | iba       | era        | veía       |
| You       | ibas      | eras       | veías      |
| He/she/it | ibas      | era        | veía       |
| We        | íbamos    | éramos     | veíamos    |
| You (pl)  | ibais     | erais      | veíais     |
| They      | iban      | eran       | veían      |

## Examples

**Eran** las tres de la tarde - *It was three o'clock in the afternoon*

Los perros **tenían** dos años cuando los adopté - *The dogs were two years old when I adopted them*

El campo **era** bello - *The countryside was beautiful*

**Iba** a clase cuando sonó el teléfono - *I was going to class when the telephone rang*

**Almorzábamos** cada día - *We used to eat lunch together everyday*

# Preterite Tense

The preterite is used to describe actions completed at a point in the past.

This is the other form of past tense in the Spanish language.

## Regular Preterite Verb Endings

As with the imperfect tense, there are only two sets of endings for the preterite tense.

|           | <u>-AR</u> | <u>-ER &amp; -IR</u> |
|-----------|------------|----------------------|
| I         | é          | í                    |
| You       | aste       | iste                 |
| He/she/it | ó          | ió                   |
| We        | amos       | imos                 |
| You (pl)  | asteis     | isteis               |
| They      | aron       | ieron                |

## The uses of the Preterite Tense

1. Completed events
2. Beginnings and ends
3. Specific times and dates
4. Events in a sequence

## Irregulars

Four of the most common verbs that are irregular in the preterite are; Ser, Ir, Dar & Ver.

|           | <u>Ser</u> | <u>Ir</u> | <u>Dar</u> | <u>Ver</u> |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| I         | Fui        | Fui       | Di         | Vi         |
| You       | Fuiste     | Fuiste    | Diste      | Viste      |
| He/she/it | Fue        | Fue       | Dio        | Vio        |
| We        | Fuimos     | Fuimos    | Dimos      | Vimos      |
| You (pl)  | Fuisteis   | Fuisteis  | Disteis    | Visteis    |
| They      | Fueron     | Fueron    | Dieron     | Vieron     |

## Examples

Roberto **nació** en Costa Rica - *Roberto was born in Costa Rica*

La película **terminó** con una sorpresa - *The movie ended with a surprise*

**Vivió** en Perú por tres meses - *He lived in Peru for three months*

Tú **entraste, bebiste** un vaso de agua y **comiste** una hamburguesa - *You came in, drank a glass of water and ate a hamburger*

## How to improve your grammar

Grammar is an essential part of the Spanish language. It is used in all parts of the Higher exam.

You will need to know grammar for your writing element of the exam at Higher, but also having a strong understanding and knowledge of grammar can aid you in the reading and listening elements of the exam as well.

There are many websites you can use to improve your grammar such as:

- [spanishdict.com](http://spanishdict.com)
- [grammar.collinsdictionary.com](http://grammar.collinsdictionary.com)
- [fluentu.com](http://fluentu.com)

There are also lots of grammar worksheets available on the Google Drive shared area which you all have access to.

Grammar booklets such as Schaums Outline of Spanish Grammar are really helpful, as they contain notes for all tenses and activities all the way up to advanced level.