

The Complete Guide to the Spanish Future Tense: When and How to Use It

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rosiehilder

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So you can talk about the present in Spanish, you've finally got your head around the past tenses too, so now there's only way forward... and it may cause flashbacks from high school Spanish.

So let's go back...back to the future!

And yes, I did just add that last bit in so I could use the phrase "Back to the Future," but it was totally worth it.

Contents

The Most Common Forms of Spanish Future Tense

Simple Future Form

When people talk about “the future form” in Spanish, they are often referring to this tense.

To form the future tense in Spanish, we need to take the infinitive form of the verb and add these endings to it: *-é, -ás, -á, -emos, -éis* and *-án*. Each ending corresponds to a different subject, and are the same whether you’re using an *-ar*, *-er*, or *-ir* verb.

Note that there is an accent on the first letter of every ending, except the “we” form *-emos*.

| Subject | Verb |
|---------------------|------------|
| Yo | Hablaré |
| Tú | Hablarás |
| Él/Ella/Usted | Hablará |
| Nosotros | Hablaremos |
| Vosotros | Hablaréis |
| Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes | Hablarán |

Uses: This tense is used in Spanish much like “will” is used in English. We use it to make **predictions** about the future, **assumptions** or guesses about the present and give **commands**.

Lloverá mañana. (It will rain tomorrow.)

Estará en la cama. (He’ll be in bed.)

¡Callará! (You will/shall be quiet!)

Most importantly, **we also use it to talk about the distant future**. So if you want to talk about next year’s vacation, you would say:

El año que viene iremos a Nueva York (Next year we’re going to New York)

Irregular Verbs in the Simple Future Form

Some verbs are irregular and don’t follow exactly the same pattern as above: though they **use the same endings** as the regular verbs, **the stems will change**.

Here are some common irregular verbs that are worth learning:

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| Infinitive Verb | Irregular Future Form |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tener | Tendré |
| Poner | Pondré |
| Decir | Diré |
| Querer | Querré |
| Hacer | Haré |
| Venir | Vendré |
| Saber | Sabré |

Ir + A + Infinitive Future Form

How do we make the Spanish equivalent of “going to?” It takes a simple formula:

Ir + a + infinitive

Here’s an example of the formula in action, using *hablar* (to talk) to say “going to talk”:

| Subject | Future Perfect |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Yo | Voy a hablar |
| Tú | Vas a hablar |
| Él/Ella/Usted | Va a hablar |
| Nosotros | Vamos a hablar |
| Vosotros | Vais a hablar |
| Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes | Van a hablar |

As long as you use the *ir + a*, you can use this with the infinitive of any verb.

Uses: Just like in English, we use the “going to” tense whenever we are talking about things that we have already planned that are typically in the near future.

Vamos a ir de compras. (We’re going shopping)

Voy a viajar a Guatemala. (I’m going to travel to Guatemala.)

Other Spanish Future Forms

Using Querer

To ask someone if they are willing to do something in the future, use **querer in the present tense plus the infinitive**:

¿**Quieres ayudarme a mudarme**? (Will you help me move?)

¿**Quiere lavar mi ropa**? (Will you wash my clothes?)

Using Present Tense

You may not realize it, but we use the present to talk about the future all the time in English. Think about what you would say if I asked what time you were leaving the house tomorrow.

You would likely say “I’m leaving at eight” over “I’m going to leave at eight” or “I will leave at eight.”

It’s similar in Spanish, though they tend to use the simple present tense instead of the present continuous tense that we usually use in English.

Salgo a las ocho. (I’m leaving at eight.)

Use the present tense to **talk about the future in Spanish anytime you would in English**, usually when someone asks you in the present about something you’re planning to do.

Future Perfect

This is used when you want to talk about **something that hasn’t happened yet but will**. For this, you need to use the **future indicative form of haber plus the past participle**.

You can create the past participle of a verb by dropping the *-ar*, *-er* or *-ir* ending and adding *-ado* for *ar* verbs or *-ido* for *er* and *ir* verbs.

Here is what that would look like using *hablar* as an example:

| Subject | Future Perfect |
|---------------|------------------|
| Yo | Habré hablado |
| Tú | Habrás hablado |
| Él/Ella/Usted | Habrá hablado |
| Nosotros | Habremos hablado |
| Vosotros | Habréis hablado |
| Ellos/Ellas | Habrán hablado |

Here are some examples of the future perfect in use:

Habremos terminado antes de que llegue. (We will have finished before he arrives.)

Habré ido a la universidad. (I would have gone to college.)

Useful Spanish Future Phrases

Here are some words you should know if you want to talk about future plans:

- ***Mañana*** – Tomorrow
- ***Pasado mañana*** – The day after tomorrow
- ***La semana que viene*** – Next week
- ***El fin de semana que viene*** – Next weekend
- ***El mes que viene*** – Next month
- ***El año que viene*** – Next year
- ***Nunca*** – Never
- ***Un día*** – One day

How to Practice the Spanish Future Tense

There are plenty of resources out there to help you practice Spanish grammar, including the future tenses. There are [exercises](#) on the web as well as [Spanish grammar apps](#) to help you learn and review.

The best way to drill these into your mind is to see how native speakers use them. Maybe you can find a Spanish-language [TV series](#) about time travel, or just find a copy of *The Time Machine* in Spanish. Whatever you do, watch out for how these verbs are conjugated.

You could also use an online immersion program. [FluentU](#), for example, takes short videos about many different topics (covering the past, present, and yes, *future*) and adds annotated subtitles for instant definitions and additional content for unfamiliar words.

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At that time men of all races will unite as warriors of the rainbow

(v.) (future)
(ustedes / ellos / ellas)
will unite; will join (together)

En ese tiempo , hombres de todas las razas y pueblos se unirán como guerreros del arco iris

At that time, men of all the races and nations will unite as warriors of the rainbow

01:40 / 02:54

You can find FluentU on [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

The more resources you use, the more grammar you'll be exposed to. The future tense comes up in all sorts of conversations, and hearing it used in context will help you remember it better.

We hope that *la próxima vez* (the next time) you want to talk about the *futuro* (future), you'll have no problems at all.

¡Hasta la próxima! (See you next time!)