



Spanish Subjunctive

The subjunctive (**el subjuntivo**.) is one of the three moods in Spanish, the other two being the [indicative](#) and the [imperative](#). The subjunctive is used to express desires, doubts, the unknown, the abstract, and emotions. The subjunctive mood includes many of the same verb tenses as the indicative mood, including the perfect, the past, and the future, which is rarely used in modern Spanish, but good to know for literature.

The subjunctive is often compared with the indicative. Check out our comparison [here!](#)

Articles on the Different Subjunctive Tenses

Present

- [Spanish Present Subjunctive](#)
- [Spanish Present Perfect Subjunctive](#)

Past

- [Spanish Imperfect Subjunctive](#)
- [Past Perfect Subjunctive Forms](#)

Future

- [Spanish Future Subjunctive](#)
- [Spanish Future Perfect Subjunctive](#)

Elements of the Subjunctive

There are often three main parts to a subjunctive sentence:

1. Two Different Subjects

Subjunctive sentences often have one subject in the main/independent clause and one in the noun/dependent clause.

Yo quiero que tú limpies el baño.
I want you to clean the bathroom.

-

2. A Relative Pronoun

Subjunctive sentences often have parts linked by a [relative pronoun](#) (**que**., **quien**., **como**.).

Yo quiero que tú limpies el baño.
I want you to clean the bathroom.

-

3. Two Verbs: One WEIRDO and One Subjunctive

Subjunctive sentences often contain a WEIRDO verb (see uses below) that signals that the verb in the next clause will be in the subjunctive.

Yo quiero que tú limpies el baño.
I want you to clean the bathroom.

-

WEIRDO

The acronym WEIRDO stands for Wishes, Emotions, Impersonal Expressions, Recommendations, Doubt/Denial, and Ojalá, which are all situations in which you're likely to use the subjunctive.

Wishes and Desires with the Subjunctive

Wishing, wanting, demanding, desiring, expecting, ordering, and preferring all fall into the category of wishes. Learn more about wishes and desires [here](#).

Esperamos que cocines bien.
We hope that you cook well.

-

Expressing Emotions with the Subjunctive

Being annoyed, angry, happy, regretful, sad, scared, or surprised all fall into this category. Learn more about expressing emotions [here](#).

Me alegro de que sonrías.
It makes me happy that you smile.

-

Impersonal Expressions with the Subjunctive

Impersonal expressions work a lot like emotions in that they express someone's opinion or value judgement. They focus on the subjectivity of the statement and not on the actual truth or reality of the situation. Learn more about impersonal expressions [here](#).

Es necesario que Jaime lea este libro.
It is necessary that Jaime read this book.

-

Recommendations and Requests with the Subjunctive

When a person recommends, suggests, wants, or asks another person to do (or not do) something, the subjunctive is used. Learn more about recommendations and requests [here](#).

Mi doctor recomienda que beba más agua.
My doctor recommends I drink more water.

-

Doubt and Denial with the Subjunctive

To doubt or deny something is to question its connection with reality or to express that it is hypothetical. Learn more about doubts and denial [here](#).

Dudo que él tenga mi número de teléfono.
I doubt that he has my phone number.

-

Ojalá with the Subjunctive

Ojalá means *I hope/pray to God, God willing, I hope, I wish, or if only*. Learn more about **ojalá** [here](#).

¡Ojalá que recuerde nuestro aniversario!
I hope to God he remembers our anniversary.

-

Check out [this article](#) on using the subjunctive to express uncertainty or conditional outcomes.

Spanish Imperfect Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The imperfect subjunctive (**el imperfecto de subjuntivo**) follows many of the same rules as the [present subjunctive](#). Introduced with a preterite, imperfect, conditional, or past perfect [WEIRDO](#) verb in the independent clause, the imperfect subjunctive often refers to a previous experience, but can also refer to unlikely events or possibilities.

Check out these examples of the imperfect subjunctive.

Si tuviera más dinero, viajaría por todo el mundo.
If I had more money, I would travel around the whole world.

-

Si yo fuera tú, no lo haría.
If I were you, I wouldn't do it.

-

Imperfect Subjunctive Forms

Finding the Imperfect Subjunctive Stem

To conjugate a verb in the imperfect subjunctive, you'll need to know the third person plural (**ellos, ellas**) [preterite form](#) of the verb you're using. Why? Instead of using the infinitive for a stem, the imperfect subjunctive uses the third person plural of the preterite (minus the **-ron**). Whatever the third person preterite form of a verb is, whether regular or irregular, becomes the base for the imperfect subjunctive stem.

Imperfect Subjunctive Stem Formula

imperfect subjunctive stem = third person plural preterite form minus **-ron** ending

Imperfect Subjunctive Stem Examples

Here are the imperfect subjunctive stems of some common Spanish verbs.

Infinitive	Third Person Preterite Form	Imperfect Subjunctive Stem
caber	cupieron	cupie-
-	-	
dar	dieron	die-
-	-	
decir	dijeron	dije-
-	-	
dormir	durmieron	durmie-
-	-	
estar	estuvieron	estuvie-
-	-	
haber	hubieron	hubie-
-	-	
hablar	hablaron	habla-
-	-	
hacer	hicieron	hicie-
-	-	
ir	fueron	fue-
-	-	
leer	leyeron	leye-
-	-	
tener	tuvieron	tuvie-
-	-	
pedir	pidieron	pidie-
-	-	
poder	pudieron	pudie-
-	-	
poner	pusieron	pusie-
-	-	
preferir	prefirieron	prefirie-
-	-	
querer	quisieron	quisie-
-	-	
saber	supieron	supie-
-	-	
sentir	sintieron	sintie-
-	-	
ser	fueron	fue-
-	-	
traducir	tradujeron	traduje-
-	-	
traer	trajeron	traje-
-	-	
ver	vieron	vie-
-	-	

Imperfect Subjunctive Endings

When conjugating the imperfect subjunctive, you can choose from two different sets of endings. Both are correct, though use of the first set, whose **yo** ending is **-ra**, is more widespread.

Subject	Subjunctive 1 Endings	Subjunctive 2 Endings
yo	-ra	-se
tú	-ras	-ses
él, ella, usted	-ra	-se
nosotros	-ramos	-semos
vosotros	-rais	-seis
ellos, ellas, ustedes	-ran	-sen

Watch out for the accents

Nosotros imperfect subjunctive conjugations have a **tilde** on the vowel that comes immediately before the subjunctive ending. For example:

- **habláramos /hablásemos**
- **escribiéramos/escribiésemos**

Here are three common verbs conjugated in the imperfect subjunctive with each set of endings.

Subjunctive 1

Subject	Hablar	Hacer	Traducir
yo	hablara	hiciera	tradujera
	-	-	-
tú	hablaras	hicieras	tradujeras
	-	-	-
él, ella, usted	hablara	hiciera	tradujera
	-	-	-
nosotros	habláramos	hiciéramos	tradujéramos
	-	-	-
vosotros	hablarais	hicierais	tradujerais
	-	-	-
ellos, ellas, ustedes	hablaran	hicieran	tradujeran
	-	-	-

Subjunctive 2

Subject	Hablar	Hacer	Traducir
yo	hablase	hiciese	tradujese
	-	-	-
tú	hablases	hicieses	tradujeses
	-	-	-
él, ella, usted	hablase	hicieses	tradujese
	-	-	-
nosotros	hablásemos	hiciésemos	tradujésemos
	-	-	-

vosotros	hablaseis	hicieseis	tradujeseis
	-	-	-
ellos, ellas, ustedes	hablasen	hiciesen	tradujesen
	-	-	-



Imperfect Subjunctive Uses

The imperfect subject can be used to talk about past occurrences, current opinions of past events, doubts and wishes, as well as in *if* clauses and polite requests.

1. Past Occurrences

If the [WEIRDO](#) verb in the independent clause is in the preterite or the imperfect, then the subjunctive verb that follows will be imperfect.

Quise que vinieras/vinieses a mi fiesta.
I wanted you to come to my party.

-

Tenía miedo de que no lloviera/lloviese.
I was scared it wouldn't rain.

-

Le iba a prestar dinero para que se comprara un abrigo.
I was going to lend him money so he could buy a coat.

-

2. Current Opinions of Past Events

The imperfect subjunctive can also be used to express current emotions, doubts, etc. about something that happened in the past.

Es bueno que él se casara/casase.
It's good that he got married.

-

No me parece que el viaje fuera/fuese largo.
It doesn't seem to me that the journey was long.

-

3. Doubts and Wishes

It's common to see **ojalá** or **ojalá que** used with the imperfect subjunctive to express the idea of hoping for something that is unlikely to happen or is impossible.

Ojalá que nevara/nevase en Panamá.
I wish it were snowing in Panama.

-

Ojalá mi hermano se casara/casase.
I wish my brother were getting married.

-

4. If Clauses

When preceded by **si** (*if*), the imperfect subjunctive is often used to talk about hypotheticals. Note that the other verb in these constructions is in the [conditional](#).

Si yo fuera/fuese reina, viajaría por todo el mundo.
If I were queen, I would travel all over the world.

-
Pintaría más seguido si tuviera/tuviese más tiempo.
I would paint more often if I had more time.

5. Polite Suggestions and Requests

The imperfect subjunctive can be used to make very polite suggestions or formal requests.

Quisiera/Quisiese dos semanas de vacaciones.
I would like two weeks of vacation.

-
Take a practice quiz!

Spanish Present Perfect Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The present perfect subjunctive (**el pretérito perfecto de subjuntivo**) is used to describe past actions that are connected to the present, as well as actions that *will have happened* by a certain point in the future.

Forming the Present Perfect Subjunctive

The present perfect subjunctive is a combination of the present subjunctive of the verb **haber** and a [past participle](#). It's very similar to the [present perfect indicative](#), but is triggered by the same sorts of words and phrases as the [present subjunctive](#).

The present perfect subjunctive is formed as follows:

Present Perfect Subjunctive Formula

present subjunctive of **haber** + past participle

Here's how to form **haber** in the present subjunctive.

Subject	Haber in the Present Subjunctive
yo	haya
-	-
tú	hayas
-	-
él, ella, usted	haya
-	-
nosotros	hayamos
-	-
vosotros	hayáis
-	-
ellos, ellas, ustedes	hayan



Present Perfect Subjunctive Uses

The present perfect subjunctive is used to talk about past actions connected to the present, as well as actions that will have been completed in the future. Certain words and phrases, such as those expressing emotions and desires, trigger the use of the present perfect subjunctive.

1. Past Actions Connected to the Present

The present perfect subjunctive can be used to talk about actions that happened in the past but are relevant in the present. It's very common to see it used to talk about things that just happened.

Mi profesor duda que yo haya leído el libro.
My professor doubts that I have read the book.

Me asusto de que usted me haya llamado.
I am shocked that you called me.

Es bueno que hayamos hablado.
It is good that we talked.

Me asusto de que ellas no hayan bailado bien.
I am shocked that they didn't dance well.

Lamentamos que ella no haya podido venir a la fiesta.
We regret that she was unable to come to the party.

2. Actions That Will Have Been Completed in the Future

The present perfect subjunctive is also used to talk about things that are expected to be done by a point in the future.

Quiero que hayáis escrito 5 páginas para el lunes.
I want you to have written 5 pages by Monday.

Es posible que ustedes hayan vuelto para marzo.
It is possible that you will have returned by March.

Whole Lot of Perfect Tenses Going On

Check out our articles on these other Spanish perfect tenses:

- [present perfect](#)
- [past perfect](#)
- [preterite perfect](#)
- [future perfect](#)
- [conditional perfect](#)

- [past perfect subjunctive](#)
- [future perfect subjunctive](#)

Take a practice quiz!



Spanish Present Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The Spanish present subjunctive (**el presente de subjuntivo**) is used to talk about situations of doubt, desire, emotion, necessity, or uncertainty.

Unlike the [present indicative](#), the present subjunctive is generally subjective. For specifics on when to use the subjunctive instead of the indicative, see our article on [subjunctive vs. indicative](#).

Conjugating Verbs in the Present Subjunctive

To conjugate a verb in the present subjunctive, you must first remember what the present indicative **yo** form of the verb in question is. This is because the stem of present subjunctive verbs comes from the **yo** form of the present indicative. For many verbs, this will be the same as the infinitive stem, but for many others, such as [verbs with spelling changes](#), [stem-changing verbs](#), and [irregular verbs](#), it will be different.

Present Subjunctive Stem Formula

The formula for finding the present subjunctive stem of a verb is the following:

present subjunctive stem = **yo** form of present indicative minus **o** ending

Here are a few examples of present subjunctive stems.

Infinitive	Yo Present Indicative Form	Present Subjunctive Stem
caber	quepo	quep-
-	-	-
caer	caigo	caig-
-	-	-
conocer	conozco	conozc-
-	-	-
hacer	hago	hag-
-	-	-
lucir	luzco	luzc-
-	-	-
parecer	parezco	parezc-
-	-	-
poner	pongo	pong-
-	-	-
querer	quiero	quier-

-	-	
tener	tengo	teng-
-	-	
traer	traigo	traig-
-	-	
valer	valgo	valg-
-	-	
ver	veo	ve-
-	-	

Regular Present Subjunctive Endings

Once you have the stem, you will add the present subjunctive ending that matches your subject. There are only two ending sets for the present subjunctive: one for **-ar** verbs and one for both **-er** and **-ir** verbs.

Subject	-ar Verb Endings	-er and -ir Verb Endings
yo	e	a
tú	es	as
usted, él, ella	e	a
nosotros	emos	amos
vosotros	éis	áis
ustedes, ellos, ellas	en	an

In the table below are full present subjunctive conjugations for **hablar**, **tener**, and **vivir**.

Subject	Hablar	Tener	Vivir
yo	hable	tenga	viva
-	-	-	-
tú	hables	tengas	vivas
-	-	-	-
usted, él, ella	hable	tenga	viva
-	-	-	-
nosotros	hablemos	tengamos	vivamos
-	-	-	-
vosotros	habléis	tengáis	viváis
-	-	-	-
ustedes, ellos, ellas	hablen	tengan	vivan
-	-	-	-

Irregular Present Subjunctive Verbs

There are only six truly irregular verbs in the subjunctive. You'll find the conjugations for each of these verbs in the tables below.

Present Subjunctive Conjugations of Dar, Estar, and Ser

Subject	Dar	Estar	Ser
yo	dé	esté	sea
-	-	-	-
tú	des	estés	seas

	-	-	-
usted, él, ella	dé	esté	sea
	-	-	-
nosotros	demos	estemos	seamos
	-	-	-
vosotros	deis	estéis	seáis
	-	-	-
ustedes, ellos, ellas	den	estén	sean
	-	-	-

Present Subjunctive Conjugations of Haber, Ir, and Saber

Subject	Haber	Ir	Saber
yo	haya	vaya	sepa
	-	-	-
tú	hayas	vayas	sepas
	-	-	-
usted, él, ella	haya	vaya	sepa
	-	-	-
nosotros	hayamos	vayamos	sepamos
	-	-	-
vosotros	hayáis	vayáis	sepáis
	-	-	-
ustedes, ellos, ellas	hayan	vayan	sepan
	-	-	-

Tildes Mean A Lot!

The tilde on **dé** is used to distinguish it from the preposition **de**.

Stem Changes in the Present Subjunctive

1. e> ie and o> ue Stem Changes with -ar and -er Verbs

For verbs in this group, the **e** in the last syllable of the stem (the **yo** form of the present indicative) changes to **ie**, or the **o** in the last syllable of the stem (the **yo** form of the present indicative) changes to **ue**. All subjunctive forms follow the stem change except for **nosotros** and **vosotros**, which use the infinitive stem.

Present Subjunctive Conjugation Table for Querer

quiera	queramos
-	-
quieras	queráis
-	-
quiera	quieran
-	-

2. e> ie and o> ue Stem Changes with -ir Verbs

All e> ie and o> ue stem-changing -ir verbs follow the same changes as in the present indicative, except the **nosotros** and **vosotros**, forms, in which the e changes to i and the o changes to u.

Present Subjunctive Conjugation Table for Sentir

sienta sintamos

- -
sientas sintáis

- -
sienta sientan

- -

Present Subjunctive Conjugation Table for Dormir

duerma durmamos

- -
duermas durmáis

- -
duerma duerman

- -

3. e> i Stem Changes with -ir Verbs

All e> i stem-changing -ir verbs in the present indicative maintain the stem change in all forms of the present subjunctive.

Present Subjunctive Conjugation Table for Pedir

pida pidamos

- -
pidas pidáis

- -
pida pidan

- -

Spelling Changes

Some verbs in the present subjunctive undergo spelling changes. This often occurs for reasons of pronunciation, and these changes often match those of verbs with [spelling changes in the preterite](#). Let's take a look at some of these verbs.

1. -ger and -gir Verbs

- Verbs ending in -ger and -gir have a j instead of a g in the subjunctive. The base form for these verbs is the first person form of the present tense, which undergoes a [spelling change](#).

Present Subjunctive Conjugation Table for Escoger

escoja escojamos

- -

escojas escojáis

-

-

escoja escojan

-

-

2. -car, -gar, and -zar Verbs

- Verbs ending in **-car**, **-gar**, and **-zar** undergo a change in the final consonant before **-ar**. These consonants change to **qu**, **gu**, and **c**, respectively. Some of these verbs, such as **empezar**, also undergo stem changes.

Present Subjunctive Conjugation Table for Sacar

saque saquemos

-

-

saques saquéis

-

-

saque saquen

-

-

Present Subjunctive Conjugation Table for Llegar

llegue lleguemos

-

-

llegues lleguéis

-

-

llegue lleguen

-

-

Present Subjunctive Conjugation Table for Empezar

empiece empecemos

-

-

empieces empecéis

-

-

empiece empiecen

-

-

The present subjunctive stem for the verb **averiguar** is **averigü-**.



Expressing Emotions with the Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The subjunctive (**el subjuntivo**) is one of three moods in Spanish, and it is often used to talk about emotions.

WEIRDO

Many of the verbs and phrases that require the subjunctive fit into the acronym WEIRDO: [Wishes](#), Emotions, [Impersonal expressions](#), [Recommendations](#), [Doubt/Denial](#), and [Ojalá](#). In this article, we're going to take a look at emotions.

Emotions

All sorts of emotion, including annoyance, anger, happiness, regret, sadness, fear, surprise, and ecstasy fall into this category. In essence, any personal reaction to a situation is emotional. The focus is not on a factual observation of a situation, but how it makes the subject feel. Since how a person feels is always **subjective**, you use the **subjunctive**.

Useful Verbs of Emotion

The following verbs are commonly used to express emotion.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
alegrarse de	<i>to be glad</i>	gustar	<i>to like</i>
-		-	
quejarse	<i>to complain</i>	encantar	<i>to be delighted</i>
-		-	
lamentar	<i>to regret</i>	sentir	<i>to feel</i>
-		-	
enojar	<i>to be angry</i>	maravillar	<i>to astonish</i>
-		-	
sorprender	<i>to surprise</i>	estar contento, enojado, triste, etc.	<i>to be glad, angry, sad, etc.</i>
-		-	
molestar	<i>to annoy</i>	temer	<i>to fear</i>
-		-	
tener miedo de que	<i>to be afraid that</i>	extrañarse que	<i>to be amazed that</i>
-		-	

Check out these examples of emotion verbs being used with the subjunctive.

Me alegro de que sonrías.
It makes me happy that you smile.

-
¿Les molesta que él escuche la música fuerte?
Does it bother you that he listens to loud music?

-
Siento mucho que no puedan venir a la fiesta.
I'm sorry that they can't come to the party.



Impersonal Expressions with the Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The subjunctive (**el subjuntivo**) is one of three moods in Spanish, and it is often used to talk about impersonal expressions.

WEIRDO

Many of the verbs and phrases that require the subjunctive fit into the acronym WEIRDO: [Wishes](#), [Emotions](#), Impersonal expressions, [Recommendations](#), [Doubt/Denial](#), and [Ojalá](#). In this article, we're going to take a look at impersonal expressions.

Impersonal Expressions

Impersonal expressions work a lot like emotions in that they express someone's opinion or value judgement. They focus on the subjectivity of the statement and not on the actual truth or reality of the situation.

- Almost any phrase using the formula **es + adjective + que** can be an impersonal expression as long as it doesn't state a truth (like **es verdad que**), certainty (like **es cierto que**), or fact (like **es un hecho que**). Phrases beginning with these statements use the indicative.
- Phrases beginning with the negated forms of the above phrases (**no es verdad que**, etc.) use the subjunctive.

Check out these examples.

Es necesario que Jaime lea este libro.
It is necessary that Jaime read this book.

-

Es extraño que reciba un regalo porque no es mi cumpleaños.
It's odd for me to receive a gift because it isn't my birthday.

-

No es cierto que mi hermano venga.
It is not certain that my brother is coming.

-

Es probable que vayamos a la playa.
It is probable that we are going to the beach.

-

Useful Impersonal Expressions

The table below shows some useful impersonal expressions you can use with the subjunctive.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
es agradable	<i>it is nice</i>	es estupendo	<i>it is great</i>
-		-	
es necesario	<i>it is necessary</i>	es urgente	<i>it is urgent</i>
-		-	
es bueno	<i>it is good</i>	es extraño	<i>it is strange</i>
-		-	
es probable	<i>it is probable</i>	es vergonzoso	<i>it is a disgrace</i>
-		-	

es curioso	<i>it is curious/weird</i>	es importante	<i>it is important</i>
-		-	
es raro	<i>it is rare, it is strange/odd</i>	no es cierto	<i>it is not certain</i>
-		-	
es dudoso	<i>it is doubtful</i>	es increíble	<i>it is incredible</i>
-		-	
es recomendable	<i>it is recommended</i>	no es hecho	<i>it is not a fact</i>
-		-	
es esencial	<i>it is essential</i>	es malo	<i>it is bad</i>
-		-	
es una lástima	<i>it is a pity</i>	no es verdad	<i>it is not true</i>
-		-	

You can find more on the differences between the subjunctive and the indicative [here](#)!



Using "Ojalá" with the Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The subjunctive (**el subjuntivo**.) is one of three moods in Spanish. It is always used after the word **ojalá**., which means *I hope* or *I wish*.

WEIRDO

Many of the verbs and phrases that require the subjunctive fit into the acronym WEIRDO: [Wishes](#), [Emotions](#), [Impersonal expressions](#), [Recommendations](#), [Doubt/Denial](#), and Ojalá. In this article, we're going to take a look at the word **ojalá**..

Ojalá

Ojalá is a Spanish word of Arabic origin. Originally, it meant something like *Oh, Allah* and may have been used in prayers. In modern times, it has taken on several more general meanings, such as *I hope/pray to God*, *God willing*, *I hope*, *I wish* or *if only*.

Ojalá is followed by a verb in the subjunctive whether or not it is used with the relative pronoun **que**.

Check out these examples with **ojalá**.

¡Ojalá que recuerde nuestro aniversario!
I hope to God he remembers our anniversary.

-
¡Ojalá no llueva!
I hope it doesn't rain!

-
¡Ojalá que venga mi primo a visitarnos.
I hope my cousin comes to visit us.

-

Ojalá mis papás me compren un cachorro.
I hope my parents buy me a puppy.

-
¡Ojalá este artículo te haya aclarado las dudas! *(Hope this article cleared things up!)*

You can find more on the differences between the subjunctive and the indicative [here](#)!



Expressing Wishes and Desires with the Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The *subjunctive* (**el subjuntivo**) is one of three moods in Spanish, and it is often used to talk about wishes and desires.

WEIRDO

Many of the verbs and phrases that require the subjunctive fit into the acronym WEIRDO: Wishes, [Emotions](#), [Impersonal expressions](#), [Recommendations](#), [Doubt/Denial](#), and [Ojalá](#). In this article, we're going to take a look at wishes.

Wishes

Wishing, wanting, demanding, desiring, expecting, ordering, and preferring all fall into the category of wishes. Additionally, mentioning the nonexistence or indefiniteness of something that is desired falls into this category.

Wishing Verbs

The following verbs are commonly used to express a wish or desire and, when used as the verb in the main clause of a sentence, will indicate that the following verb in the dependent clause will be in the subjunctive.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
agradecer	<i>to be grateful</i>	insistir	<i>to insist</i>
-		-	
no tener	<i>to not have</i>	buscar	<i>to look for</i>
-		-	
mandar	<i>to order</i>	pedir	<i>to request</i>
-		-	
desear	<i>to wish</i>	necesitar	<i>to need</i>
-		-	
preferir	<i>to prefer</i>	esperar	<i>to hope, to expect</i>
-		-	
no encontrar	<i>to not find</i>	querer	<i>to want</i>
-		-	

exigir *to demand* **no haber** *there is/are not*

-
Check out these examples. Note that they all use one of the above wishing verbs in conjunction with the word **que**.

Solo te pido que mantengas la calma.
I just ask that you retain your composure.

-
Esperamos que cocines bien.
We hope that you cook well.

-
El rey desea que cenes con él.
The king wishes you to dine with him.

-
Quiero salir con un hombre que me compre flores.
I want to date a guy who buys me flowers.

-
You can find more on the differences between the subjunctive and the indicative [here](#)!



Expressing Recommendations and Requests with the Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The subjunctive (**el subjuntivo**.) is one of three moods in Spanish, and it is often used to express recommendations and requests.

WEIRDO

Many of the verbs and phrases that require the subjunctive fit into the acronym WEIRDO: [Wishes](#), [Emotions](#), [Impersonal expressions](#), Recommendations, [Doubt/Denial](#), and [Ojalá](#). In this article, we're going to take a look at recommendations and requests.

Recommendations

When a person recommends, suggests, wants, or asks another person to do (or not do) something, the subjunctive is used.

Useful Verbs of Recommendation

The following verbs are commonly used to give recommendations.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
aconsejar	<i>to advise</i>	proponer	<i>to suggest</i>
-		-	
sugerir	<i>to suggest</i>	decir	<i>to say</i>

-	ordenar	<i>to order</i>	-	rogar	<i>to beg</i>
-	dejar	<i>to let, allow</i>	-	exigir	<i>to demand</i>
-	hacer	<i>to make/to force</i>	-	insistir	<i>to insist</i>
-	mandar	<i>to order</i>	-	prohibir	<i>to forbid</i>
-	recomendar	<i>to recommend</i>	-	suplicar	<i>to beg</i>

Check out these examples.

Mi doctor recomienda que beba más agua.
My doctor recommends I drink more water.

Suplico que mi hija tenga más cuidado.
I beg my daughter to be more careful.

Sugieren que leas este libro.
They suggest you read this book.

Dicen que veamos esa película.
They say we should watch that movie.

Note that the word **que** is used to separate the recommender from the recommendation in the sentences above.



Expressing Doubt and Denial with the Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The subjunctive (**el subjuntivo**) is one of three moods in Spanish, and it is often used to express doubt and denial.

WEIRDO

Many of the verbs and phrases that require the subjunctive fit into the acronym WEIRDO: [Wishes](#), [Emotions](#), [Impersonal expressions](#), [Recommendations](#), Doubt/Denial and [Ojalá](#). In this article, we're going to take a look at doubt and denial.

Doubt

To doubt or deny something is to question its connection with reality or to express that it is hypothetical, which is why expressions of doubt and denial tend to trigger use of the subjunctive.

Useful Verbs of Doubt

These verbs and verb phrases are commonly used to express doubt.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
dudar	<i>to doubt</i>	no creer	<i>to not believe</i>
-		-	
no pensar	<i>to not think</i>	negar	<i>to deny</i>
-		-	
no estar seguro	<i>to be unsure</i>	no suponer	<i>to not assume</i>
-		-	
no comprender	<i>to not understand</i>	no parecer	<i>to not seem</i>
-		-	

Doubting: Indicative or Subjunctive?

- Verbs that follow the verbs **comprender** (to understand), **creer** (to believe), **estar seguro** (to be sure), **parecer** (to seem), **pensar** (to think), and **suponer** (to assume) are normally used in the indicative.
- Verbs that follow the negated forms of the above verbs (**no comprender**, **no parecer**, etc.) are normally used in the subjunctive.

Check out these examples. The first example in each pair uses the indicative, while the second pair uses the subjunctive.

Creo que te va a gustar esta canción.
I think you're going to like this song.

-
No creo que te vaya a gustar esta canción.
I don't think you're going to like this song.

-
Estoy seguro que él tiene mi número de teléfono.
I'm sure he has my phone number.

-
Dudo que él tenga mi número de teléfono.
I doubt that he has my phone number.

-
Finally, here are some more examples of the subjunctive used with phrases that introduce a sense of doubt or denial.

No parece que vaya a mejorar la situación.
It doesn't appear that the situation will improve.

-
No supones que quiera escapar, ¿o sí?
You don't suppose he wants to escape, do you?

-
No estoy seguro que mi madre venga.
I am not sure that my mother is coming.

-
You can find more on the differences between the subjunctive and the indicative [here](#)!

Expressing Uncertainty or Conditional Outcomes with the Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The subjunctive is one of the three moods in Spanish, the other two being the [indicative](#) (actions, events, facts) and the [imperative](#) (commands). You can find more on the differences between the subjunctive and the indicative [here](#)!

WEIRDO

Many of the verbs and phrases that require the subjunctive fit into the acronym WEIRDO: [Wishes](#), [Emotions](#), [Impersonal expressions](#), [Recommendations](#), [Doubt/Denial](#) and [Ojalá](#). Although this topic doesn't fit into our fancy acronym, it's still important to learn. Let's get started!

Conditional Outcomes

This type of sentence describes what will happen if another action is completed. These actions are conditional upon another action being completed, so the subjunctive is used to convey a sense of uncertainty. Many phrases with conditional circumstances have a connecting phrase or conjunctive expressions which introduce time limitations, conditions, concessions, or results.

As you can see below, the the key action (the one that must be completed for the second action to occur) is in the subjunctive.

Limpiaré el cuarto después de que salgan.
I will clean the room after they leave.

-
Me hablará tan pronto como llegue.
He will speak with me as soon as I arrive.

-
No iremos a la playa a menos que vayan también.
We won't go to the beach unless they go as well.

Time Expressions

These [conjunctions](#) or conjunctive expressions are often used in the type of sentence discussed in this article.

Time Limitations

These expressions introduce the idea of a time limitation.

Spanish	English
antes (de) que	<i>before</i>
-	
hasta que	<i>until</i>
-	
cuando	<i>when</i>
-	
luego que	<i>as soon as</i>
-	
después (de) que	<i>after</i>
-	
siempre que	<i>whenever</i>
-	
en cuanto	<i>as soon as</i>
-	
tan pronto como	<i>as soon as</i>
-	
mientras	<i>while</i>
-	

Lláname antes de que vengan.

Call me before they come.

-
Estemos aquí hasta que llegue nuestro amigo.

Let's stay here until our friend arrives.

-
Cuando vea a sus padres los saludaré.

When I see your parents, I will tell them hello.

Conditions

These expressions introduce the idea of a condition, an action dependent on something else occurring.

Spanish	English
dado que	<i>given that, since</i>
-	
a no ser que	<i>unless, lest</i>
-	
en caso (de) que	<i>in case (that), if</i>
-	
a menos que	<i>unless, lest</i>
-	
sea que	<i>whether, if</i>
-	
con/a condición de que	<i>on condition that</i>

-
siempre y cuando que *provided that, as long as*

-
con tal (de) que *provided that*

-
sin que *without*

-
con tanto que *provided that*

-
Debemos esperarnos aquí dado que regrese.
We should wait here since she might return.

-
No voy, a no ser que vayas conmigo.
I am not going unless you go with me.

-
Me iré, sea que se decidan a salir o no.
I will leave whether they decide to go or not.

-

Concessions

These expressions introduce the idea of a concession, an action occurring despite something else.

Spanish	English
aunque	<i>although, even if, though</i>

-
aun cuando *even if, even when*

-
a pesar de que *in spite of*

-
por...que *however*

-
Aunque sea un hombre difícil, sabe los negocios.
Although he might be a difficult man, he knows business.

-
Aun cuando no tenga nada, no debe perder la esperanza.
Even if you have nothing, you shouldn't lose hope.

-
Por delicioso que sea, no quiero comerlo.
However delicious it may be, I don't want to eat it.

-
Aunque and **a pesar de que** do not always take the subjunctive. If the conditional statement is considered hypothetical, you will use the subjunctive and if it is factual, you will use the indicative.

Aunque es un hombre difícil, sabe de negocios.
Although he is a difficult man, he knows about business.

-

Results

These expressions introduce the idea of a result.

Spanish	English
a fin de que	in order (that), so that, so as
-	
de manera que	in order (that), so that, so as
-	
de modo que	in order (that), so that, so as
-	
para que	in order (that), so that, so as
-	
que	in order (that), so that, so as
-	

Vine para que tenga suficiente gente para el juego.

I came so that you would have enough people for the game.

-
Voy a cerrar las ventanas a fin de que no entren moscas.

I am going to close the windows so that flies won't come in.

-
Estudiaré mucho de manera que entienda mejor el español.

I will study a lot so I can understand Spanish better.

-

Take a practice quiz!



Past Perfect Subjunctive Forms

Quick Answer

The past perfect subjunctive, or pluperfect subjunctive (**el pluscuamperfecto de subjuntivo**), is used to talk about hypothetical situations in the past, past conditionals, and past actions that preceded other past actions.

Past Perfect Subjunctive Forms

The past perfect subjunctive is formed with the imperfect subjunctive of the verb **haber** and a [past participle](#).

Past Perfect Subjunctive Formula:

imperfect subjunctive of **haber** + past participle

Imperfect Subjunctive of Haber

Hubiera vs. Hubiese

The imperfect subjunctive of **haber** can be conjugated in two different ways. Both are correct, though use of the first, whose **yo** form is **hubiera**, is more widespread.

Subject	Imperfect Subjunctive 1	Imperfect Subjunctive 2
yo	hubiera	hubiese
	-	-
tú	hubieras	hubieses
	-	-
él/ella	hubiera	hubiese
	-	-
usted	hubiera	hubiese
	-	-
nosotros	hubiéramos	hubiésemos
	-	-
vosotros	hubierais	hubieseis
	-	-
ellos/ellas	hubieran	hubiesen
	-	-
ustedes	hubieran	hubiesen
	-	-



Past Perfect Subjunctive Uses

The past perfect subjunctive is commonly used to talk about past hypotheticals, conditionals, and past actions preceding other past actions.

1. Hypotheticals

The past perfect subjunctive is commonly used to talk about hypothetical situations, especially those relating to regrets or hindsight.

Ojalá que hubiera/hubiese sabido.
I wish I had known.

-

¿Y si Don Quijote hubiera/hubiese tenido razón sobre los molinos?
What if Don Quijote had been right about the windmills?

-

2. Conditionals

The past perfect subjunctive is used along with the [conditional perfect](#) to talk about conditionals in the past.

Si hubiera/hubiese sabido, habría venido.
If I had known, I would have come.

-

Si hubiera/hubiese tenido más dinero, habría comprado el cuadro que vimos en el mercado.

If I'd had more money, I would've bought the painting we saw in the market.

-

3. Actions Preceding Other Past Actions

The past perfect is used along with the simple past or imperfect to talk about a past action that preceded a second past action. Whichever of these events is the furthest back in the past is talked about with the past perfect subjunctive.

Pablo dudó que yo hubiera/hubiese ido a Perú.

Pablo doubted that I had been to Peru.

-

Mamá no creyó que hubieras/hubieses limpiado el cuarto.

Mom did not believe that you had cleaned the room.

-

El policía buscaba a algún testigo que hubiera/hubiese visto el robo.

The police officer was looking for a witness who had witnessed the robbery

-

Perfect the Perfect Tenses

Need a review of the other perfect tenses? Check out our other perfect articles:

- [the present perfect indicative](#)
- [the present perfect subjunctive](#)
- [the past perfect](#)
- [the preterite perfect](#)
- [the conditional perfect](#)
- [the future perfect indicative](#)
- [the future perfect subjunctive](#)

Take a practice quiz!



Spanish Future Perfect Subjunctive

Quick Answer

Like the future subjunctive, the *future perfect subjunctive* (**el futuro compuesto del subjuntivo**) is rarely used in modern Spanish. However, as you may see in **literature and legal documents**, it is definitely a useful tense to be able to recognize. It is used to indicate actions that will have happened in the future at a certain point. Nowadays, the future perfect subjunctive is often replaced by [the past perfect subjunctive](#) or [the present perfect subjunctive](#).

Future Perfect Subjunctive Forms

The future perfect subjunctive is formed by combining the [future subjunctive](#) of the verb **haber** with a [past participle](#).

Future Perfect Subjunctive Formula:

future subjunctive of **haber** + past participle

In case you've forgotten, here's how to form **haber** in the future perfect:

Haber in the Future Subjunctive

Subject	Verb Conjugations
yo	hubiere
	-
tú	hubieres
	-
él, ella, usted	hubiere
	-
nosotros	hubiéremos
	-
vosotros	hubiereis
	-
ellos, ellas, ustedes	hubieren
	-

The **nosotros** form of the future subjunctive often has a **tilde**.

Examples: **hubiéremos**, **supiéremos**

Future Perfect Subjunctive Examples

As we've mentioned, the future perfect subjunctive is **rarely used in modern Spanish**. You're really only likely to come across it in legal documents or older works of literature. Here are a few examples of the future perfect subjunctive that you might come across in the world of legal jargon.

Si la defensa por cualquier razón no hubiere presentado sus argumentos iniciales, puede hacerlo después de que la acusación hubiere terminado la presentación de su caso.

If the defense for whatever reason has not presented its opening arguments, it may do so after the prosecution has finished presenting its case.

-
Sólo se considerarán las boletas en las que aparezcan los nombres de los senadores cuya candidatura se hubiere presentado.

Only ballots on which the names of senators who have already announced their candidacy will be considered.

-
Los asuntos que se hubiere acordado tramitar por el procedimiento de urgencia tendrán prioridad. Priority will be given to those matters that fall under the emergency procedures provision.

-
No será admisible un reclamo cuando en los dos meses anteriores se hubiere presentado y respondido un reclamo igual o similar.

A complaint is considered inadmissible if an identical or similar complaint has been submitted and responded to within a period of two months prior to its submission.

-

Perfect the Perfect Tenses

Need a review of the other perfect tenses? Check out our other perfect articles:

- [the present perfect indicative](#)
- [the present perfect subjunctive](#)
- [the past perfect](#)
- [the preterite perfect](#)
- [the conditional perfect](#)
- [the past perfect subjunctive](#)
- [the future perfect indicative](#)

Take a practice quiz!



Spanish Future Subjunctive

Quick Answer

The subjunctive is one of the three moods in Spanish, the other two being the [indicative](#) (actions, events, facts) and the [imperative](#) (commands). You can find more on the differences between the subjunctive and the indicative [here](#)!

The *future subjunctive* (**el futuro del subjuntivo**) is **rarely used** in modern Spanish. Instead, the [present subjunctive](#) is used in virtually all cases in which the future subjunctive would have been used historically. Nonetheless, the future subjunctive does still appear in modern times, **primarily in legal documents and literary contexts**, as well as a few classic **refranes** (*proverbs*), so it's good to be able to recognize it.

Finding the Future Subjunctive Stem

The stem for the future subjunctive is the same as that of the [imperfect subjunctive](#), or the third person plural of the [preterite](#) (without the **-ron** at the end).

Preterite Form Future Subjunctive Stem

hablaron **habla-**

-

tuvieron **tuvie-**

-

vieron **vie-**

-

Future Subjunctive Stem Examples

Infinitive	Third Person Preterite	Future Subjunctive Stem
caber	cupieron	cupie-
-	-	-
dar	dieron	die-
-	-	-
decir	dijeron	dije-
-	-	-
dormir	durmieron	durmie-
-	-	-
estar	estuvieron	estuvie-
-	-	-
haber	hubieron	hubie-
-	-	-
hacer	hicieron	hicie-
-	-	-
ir	fueron	fue-
-	-	-
leer	leyeron	leye-
-	-	-
tener	tuvieron	tuvie-
-	-	-
pedir	pidieron	pidie-
-	-	-
poder	pudieron	pudie-
-	-	-
poner	pusieron	pusie-
-	-	-
preferir	prefirieron	prefirie-
-	-	-
querer	quisieron	quisie-
-	-	-
saber	supieron	supie-
-	-	-
sentir	sintieron	sintie-
-	-	-
ser	fueron	fue-
-	-	-
traducir	tradujeron	traduje-
-	-	-
traer	trajeron	traje-
-	-	-

Irregular Future Subjunctive

Any verb that is irregular in the third person plural of the [preterite](#) will maintain that irregularity in the future subjunctive. (Ex. **tener**_)

Future Subjunctive Endings

All conjugations for **-ar**, **-er**, and **-ir** verbs have the same future subjunctive endings:

Subject	Ending
yo	-re
tú	-res
él, ella, usted	-re
nosotros	-remos
vosotros	-reis
ellos, ellas, ustedes	-ren

The **nosotros** form of the future subjunctive often has a **tilde**.

Examples: **hubiéremos**, **supiéremos**

Future Subjunctive Examples

Adonde fueres, haz lo que vieres.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

-

El que insultare a la reina será castigado.

He who insults the queen will be punished.

-

Sea lo que fuere el origen de los productos, serán gravados.

Whatever the origin of the products may be, they will be subject to taxation.

-

"Digan lo que dijeren, el escritor nace, no se hace. - Augusto Monterroso

No matter what they say, writers are born, not made. - Augusto Monterroso

-

Take a practice quiz!



Common Verbs Like Gustar

Below you will find a list of common verbs that function like **gustar**.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
aburrir	<i>to bore</i>	faltar	<i>to be lacking</i>
-		-	
agradar	<i>to please</i>	fascinar	<i>to fascinate</i>
-		-	
alegrar	<i>to gladden</i>	fastidiar	<i>to annoy</i>
-		-	
apasionar	<i>to love</i>	gustar	<i>to please</i>
-		-	
apetecer	<i>to feel like</i>	hacer falta	<i>to be missed</i>
-		-	

atraer	<i>to attract</i>	importar	<i>to matter</i>
-		-	
bastar	<i>to be enough</i>	interesar	<i>to interest</i>
-		-	
caber	<i>to fit, to fill</i>	molestar	<i>to bother</i>
-		-	
convenir	<i>to be better for</i>	parecer	<i>to appear to be</i>
-		-	
corresponder	<i>to be responsible for</i>	picar	<i>to itch</i>
-		-	
costar	<i>to cost</i>	preocupar	<i>to worry</i>
-		-	
disgustar	<i>to disgust</i>	quedar	<i>to remain</i>
-		-	
doler	<i>to hurt</i>	repugnar	<i>to disgust</i>
-		-	
encantar	<i>to delight</i>	sobrar	<i>to be left over</i>
-		-	
extrañar	<i>to surprise</i>	tocar	<i>to be responsible for</i>
-		-	

Check out these examples with verbs like **gustar**.

Spanish	English
Les interesaría ir al cine?	<i>Are you interested in going to the movies?</i>
-	
A nosotros nos molesta el ruido.	<i>We are bothered by the noise.</i>
-	
A muchas mujeres les encantan los cuentos de amor.	<i>Many women really like love stories.</i>
-	
Los días fríos me gustan.	<i>I like cold days.</i>
-	
Los coches deportivos le atraen.	<i>Sports cars are attractive to her.</i>
-	
Lavar la ropa nos corresponde.	<i>Washing the clothes is our responsibility.</i>
-	
La política te interesa.	<i>Politics interest you.</i>
-	

Take a practice quiz!

Past Perfect Forms and Uses

Quick Answer

The past perfect (**el pluscuamperfecto**), also known as the pluperfect, is used to talk about a past action that happened prior to another action in the past.

Past Perfect

The past perfect is often used to talk about what a person *had* done before something else happened in the past. It is formed by combining **haber** in the [imperfect](#) with a [past participle](#).

Past Perfect Spanish Formula

- **haber** in the imperfect + past participle

Check out these examples of the Spanish past perfect.

Había visto ya a mi primo.
I had already seen my cousin.

-
Habías cantado en la fiesta cuando llegué.
You had already sung at the party when I arrived.

-
Usted había leído el libro antes que él.
You had read the book before him.

-
Él había sacado su gorro cuando entró en mi casa.
He had taken off his hat before entering my house.

-
Ella había comido antes de ir al cine.
She had eaten before going to the movies.

-
Nos habíamos sentado cuando el tren salió.
We had sat down when the train left.

-
No habíais oído la canción antes de ahora.
You had not heard the song before now.

-
Ustedes habían vuelto cuando ellos salieron.
You had returned when they left.

-
Ellos habían puesto los pasteles en la mesa.
They had put the cakes on the table.

-
Ellas habían hablado mucho cuando la fiesta terminó.
They had talked a lot when the party ended.

-
Notice that the auxiliary verb (**haber**) and the past participle are never separated. If object pronouns are present, they go immediately before **haber**.

Ya lo había visto.
I had already seen him.

-
Usted lo había leído antes que él.
You had read it before him.

-
Él lo había sacado cuando entró en mi casa.

He had taken it off before entering my house.

-

No la habíais oído antes de ahora.

You had not heard it before now.

-

Ellos los habían puesto en la mesa.

They had put them on the table.

-

Take a practice quiz!



Conditional Perfect Forms and Uses

Quick Answer

The conditional perfect (**el condicional anterior**_) describes an action in the past that *would have* happened but did not due to some other event. It can also be used to express the probability of an action that has already been completed.

Conditional Perfect Forms

The conditional perfect is a combination of the [past participle](#) and the conditional of the verb **haber**.

Conditional Perfect Formula

- **haber** in the conditional + past participle

Haber in the Conditional

Subject	Haber in the Conditional
yo	habría
	-
tú	habrías
	-
él, ella, usted	habría
	-
nosotros	habríamos
	-
vosotros	habríais
	-
ellos, ellas, ustedes	habrían
	-



Conditional Perfect Uses

In the examples below, the conditional perfect is used to talk about actions that *would have happened* had something else not gotten in the way.

Yo habría comprado los regalos pero no tenía tiempo.
I would have bought the gifts, but I didn't have time.

-
Él habría leído el libro, pero el teléfono sonó.
He would have finished the book, but the telephone rang.

-
Nosotros habríamos cenado en ese restaurante si hubiera sabido lo bueno que era.
We would have eaten at that restaurant if I had known how good it was.

-
In the examples below, the conditional perfect is used to talk about an action that probably happened or was true.

Habría comido antes de salir.
He had probably already eaten before leaving.

-
Habrían sido las ocho cuando llegamos.
It must have been eight o'clock when we arrived.

-
There are four other perfect tenses in the indicative: [the present perfect](#), [the past perfect](#), [the preterite perfect](#), and [the future perfect](#).

Take a practice quiz!

Present Perfect

Quick Answer

The Spanish present perfect (**el pretérito perfecto compuesto**.) is used to talk about things that started in the past and which continue or repeat in the present. It's also used to talk about things that have happened in the recent past.

¡Entendido! (Got it!) So how do you form the present perfect?

Present Perfect Indicative Formula

present indicative of [haber](#) + past participle of another verb

Check out these examples of the present perfect.

Present Perfect Examples

He visto las montañas de Perú.
I have seen the mountains of Perú.

-
Has ido a Colombia.
You have gone to Colombia.

-
Usted ha escrito un poema bonito.

You have written a pretty poem.

-
Él ha dormido 10 horas.
He has slept 10 hours.

-
Ella ha dicho que es una princesa.
She has said that she is a princess.

-
Hemos vuelto para comprar la leche.
We have returned to buy milk.

-
Habéis cantado muy bien.
You have sung very well.

-
Ustedes han hecho un pastel delicioso.
You have made a delicious cake.

-
Ellos han bailado en 12 países.
They have danced in 12 countries.

-
Ellas han oído la verdad.
They have heard the truth.

-
For talking about actions that happened in the recent past, the present perfect is more widely used in Spain than in Latin America. It's more common to hear [the preterite](#), or *simple past*, used in Latin America to talk about something that just happened.

Haber and Pronoun Placement

Haber, the auxiliary verb used with the present perfect, and the past participle are never separated in a present perfect construction. If an object pronoun (such as **los**) is used with the present perfect, it goes immediately before **haber**.

¿Los has visto?
Have you seen them?

-
Se las he dado.
I have given them to her.



Present Perfect or Present Simple?

The present perfect may be used to talk about an action still in progress, but it's also common to use the [present tense](#) to do this.

He vivido aquí por muchos años.
I have lived here many years.

-
Hace tres años que vivo aquí.

I have lived here for three years.

-
The present perfect may be used to talk about something that was just done, but it's also very common to use **acabar de** or the simple past, especially in Latin America.

He comprado la leche y los panes.
I've bought the milk and the rolls.

-
Acabo de comprar la leche y los panes.
I just bought the milk and the rolls.

-
Compré la leche y los panes.
I bought the milk and the rolls.

-
Take a practice quiz!

Spanish Preterite Perfect Tense

Quick Answer

The *preterite perfect tense* (**el pretérito anterior**) is primarily used formally or literarily (in written texts). It describes an action in the past that happened immediately before another action in the past.

Formation

The preterite perfect tense uses the verb **haber** in the preterite plus a past participle.

Preterite Perfect Formula:

preterite of **haber** + past participle

Preterite of Haber

In case you don't know it, here is how to form **haber** in the preterite.

Subject	Haber Conjugation
yo	hube
	-
tú	hubiste
	-
él, ella, usted	hubo
	-
nosotros	hubimos
	-
vosotros	hubisteis
	-
ellos, ellas, ustedes	hubieron
	-

Examples of the Preterite Perfect

En cuanto hube visto a mi primo, salió.
As soon as I had seen my cousin, he left.

-
Cuando hubiste llegado a la fiesta, cantamos la canción.
As soon as you had arrived at the party, we sang the song.

-
Tan pronto Ud. hubo leído el libro, entendió mi misión.
As soon as you had read the book, you understood my mission.

-
Él hubo sacado su gorro cuando entró en mi casa.
He had taken off his hat when he entered my house.

-
Cuando hubo salido, empecé a llorar.
When she had left, I began to cry.

-
Después de que hubimos comido, sirvió el postre.
After we had eaten, he served dessert.

-
Apenas hubisteis terminado cuando sonó el timbre.
You had just finished when the bell rang.

-
Tan pronto nos hubieron llamado, salimos de la oficina.
As soon as you had called us, we left the office.

-
¿La tienda? La hubieron cerrado cuando llegamos.
The store? They had closed it when we arrived.

-
Cuando hubieron terminado de bailar, todos aplaudieron.
When they had finished dancing, everyone applauded.

-
Notice that the **haber** and the past participle are never separated in this tense. If object pronouns are present, they go immediately before **haber**.

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Spanish Future Perfect Indicative

Quick Answer

The Spanish *future perfect indicative* (**el futuro compuesto**) is used to talk about something that will have been completed at a certain point in the future. It can also indicate probability, or what might have or could have happened.

Spanish Future Perfect Forms

The Spanish future perfect is formed by combining the [simple future](#) of the verb **haber** with a [past participle](#).

Future Perfect Formula:

simple future of **haber** + past participle

In case you've forgotten, here's how to form **haber** in the simple future:

Haber in the Simple Future

Subject	Simple Future of Haber
yo	habré
	-
tú	habrás
	-
él, ella, usted	habrá
	-
nosotros	habremos
	-
vosotros	habréis
	-
ellos, ellas, ustedes	habrán
	-

Future Perfect Examples

Future Events

Here are examples of the future perfect indicative used to talk about actions that will have been completed before another action in the future. In this sense, the future perfect is used to talk about something that hasn't happened yet.

Habré terminado mi trabajo para diciembre.
I will have finished my work by December.

-
Ya habrás pedido cuando yo llegue.
You will have already ordered when I arrive.

-
Usted habrá estudiado español por tres años para este mayo.
You will have studied three years of Spanish by this May.

Likelihood and Conjecture

Here are examples of the future perfect indicative used to talk about likelihood or conjecture. In this sense, the future perfect is used to talk about what someone guesses or thinks might be true.

¿Dónde está Paco? - Él habrá ido a otro café.
Where is Paco? - He might have gone to another cafe.

-
Ellos habrán tenido hambre para la noche.
They may have been hungry by nighttime.

-
Habrá salido de Atlanta.
She must have left Atlanta.

Perfect the Perfect Tenses

Need a review of the other perfect tenses? Check out our other perfect articles:

- [the present perfect indicative](#)
- [the present perfect subjunctive](#)
- [the past perfect](#)
- [the preterite perfect](#)
- [the conditional perfect](#)
- [the past perfect subjunctive](#)
- [the future perfect subjunctive](#)

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