Participles

1. Present

Present participles, also known as gerunds, are “-ing” words in English.

1. Uses
2. Can be used as an adverb when two things are happening at the same time (Salazar 106)

*ex:* She left the house **crying**. *Ella salió de la casa* ***llorando****.*

1. Can be used as an explanatory expression, subordinate to another verb (Salazar 107)

*ex:* Being in Barcelona, we visited the Sagrada Famalia.

*Estando en Barcelona, visitemos la Sagrada Familia*.

1. Can be used as a descriptive expression, as seen on posters, paintings, or photos (Salazar 107)

*ex:* Young people buying clothes in style.

*Jóvenes comprando ropa de moda.*

1. Used to form progressive tenses (see auxiliary verbs)

Note: pronouns can be attached to gerunds, just be sure to add accents if the stressed syllable changes due to the addition of

another syllable, following the standard rules of accentuation

1. Form
2. -ar

For -ar verbs, drop the -ar and add -ando

*ex:* andar (to walk) 🢥*andando* (walking)

*ex:* cocinar (to cook) 🢥*cocinando* (cooking)

*ex:* estudiar (to study) 🢥*estudiando* (studying)

1. -er, -ir

For -er and -ir verbs, drop the -er or -ir and add -iendo

*ex:* perder (to lose) 🢥*perdiendo* (losing)

*ex:* coser (to sew) 🢥*cosiendo* (sewing)

*ex:* recibir (to receive) 🢥*recibiendo* (receiving)

*ex:* descubrir (to discover) 🢥*descubriendo* (discovering)

1. Spelling changes

For -er and -ir verbs with a vowel in front of the ending, the I in

-iendo becomes y. In other words, you replace -er or -ir with

-yendo

*ex:* creer (to believe) 🢥*creyendo* (believing)

*ex:* caer (to fall) 🢥*cayendo* (falling)

*ex:* oír (to hear) 🢥 *oyendo* (hearing)

*ex:* destruir (to destroy)🢥*destruyendo* (destroying)

1. Stem Changers

For -ir verbs with a stem change of e 🢥 i or o 🢥 u in the preterite, they will also change in the present participle.

*ex:* pedir (to ask for) 🢥 *pidiendo* (asking for)

*ex:* seguir (to continue) 🢥 *siguiendo* (continuing)

*ex:* morir (to die) 🢥 *muriendo* (dying)

*ex:* dormir (to sleep)🢥 *durmiendo* (sleeping)

1. Past

In English, past participles end in “-ed”. There are many irregular past participles in English as well, like *written, gotten, drank,* and more. It is the same way in Spanish.

1. Uses
2. Adjective

The past participle can be used as an adjective, and changes in gender and number to agree with the noun it is describing.

*ex:* He is injured. *Está* *herido*.

She is injured. *Está* *herida*.

They are injured. *Están* *heridos*.

The women are injured. *Están* *heridas*.

\* When used as an adjective with estar, it is implied that it is a

result of another action (Salazar 122)

*ex:* He is hurt (because he fell).

*Está herido (porque se cayó ).*

1. Passive Voice

When past participles follow ser, it forms the true passive voice.

See auxiliary verbs

1. Noun derived from a verb (Salazar 123)

*ex: la salida (salir, to leave)* = exit

*ex: el herido (herir, to wound/to injure)* = wounded/ injured person

1. Perfect tenses

The past participle is used after a conjugated form of haber with the 7 perfect tenses in Spanish. See The 14 Tenses

1. Form
2. -ar

For -ar verbs, you drop the -ar ending and add -ado

*ex: estudiado = studied (estudiar, to study)*

*ex: cantado = sung (salir, to continue)*

1. -er, -ir

*ex: predido* = lost *(perder, to lose)*

*ex: vendido = sold (vender, to sell)*

*ex: salido = left (salir, to continue)*

*ex: construido = constructed (construir, to construct)*

1. -aer, -eer, -oir,

Verbs with these endings will have an accent on the i in the past participle ending -ido.

*ex: caído* = fallen *(caer, to fall)*

*ex: oído = heard (oír, to hear)*

*ex: leído = read (leer, to read)*

*ex: traído = brought (traer, to bring)*

1. Irregulars

Just as in English, there are simply many irregular past participles in Spanish. A few examples are listed below.

*ex: frito = fried (freír = to fry)*

*ex: abierto* = open *(abrir, to open)*

*ex: cubierto = covered (cubrir, to cover)*

*ex: dicho = said, told (decir, to say/to tell)*

*ex: roto = broken (romper, to break)*

*ex: puesto* = put, place, set *(poner, to put/to place/to set)*

*ex: muerto = dead (morir, to die)*

*ex: escrito = written (escribir, to write)*

*ex: visto = seen (ver, to see)*

*ex: vuelto* = came *(venir, to come)*

*ex: hecho = did, made (hacer, to do/to make)*

*ex: resuelto = resolved (resolver, to resolve)*

*ex: impreso = printed (imprimir, to print)*

1. Specific forms for verb and adjective use

Infinitive Meaning Verb Form Adjective Form Translation

bendecir to bless bedecido bendito blessed

confesar to confess confesado confeso confessed

confundir to confuse confundido confuso confused

despertar to awaken despertado despierto awakened

maldecir to curse maldecido maldito cursed

prender to pin prendido preso pinned

soltar to free soltado suelto freed

*ex:* I have freed the bird. *He soltado el pájaro.*  He is freed. *Está suelto.*

*ex:* I have cursed her. *La he maldecido.*  She is cursed. *Está maldita.*

Mood

While tense expresses when things happen, mood expresses how one should process that information. There are three moods for Spanish: indicative, subjunctive, and imperative. They all play a special role in conveying meaning to listeners, and it is important to know what mood is being used because it affects how verbs are conjugated.

1. Indicative

The indicative is about information. The goal of speaking in the indicative mood is to indicate what is happening. It is simply relaying information about an action at some point in time.

1. Uses

The indicative is used in most general cases. It is the simplest mood and most tenses follow that category.

1. Tense list
2. Present
3. Preterite
4. Imperfect
5. Future
6. Conditional
7. Present Perfect
8. Preterite Anterior
9. Pluperfect
10. Future Perfect
11. Conditional Perfect
12. Subjunctive

The subjunctive is used to convey a special meaning when there is doubt, uncertainty, opinion, or emotion linked to an action.

1. Uses

Many sentences in Spanish have what are known as “que phrases”, or subordinate/dependent clauses. They occur when the second verb will have a different subject than the first one. These phrases are a second half in the sentence and can be in either subjunctive or indicative. This is determined by the first half of the sentence, which can be either indicative or imperative. If the first half is imperative, the second half can be indicative or subjunctive. If the first half is indicative, then more observations must occur to determine wither the subjunctive will be used or not. Reasons to use the subjunctive if the first half of the sentence is indicative are listed below.

1. Doubt

When the indicative indicates doubt, the following que phrase will use the subjunctive.

*ex: Dudo que Pablo* ***esté*** *aquí.* I doubt that Pablo **is**here.

*ex: Es dudoso que* ***esté*** *enfermo.* It is doubtful that he **is** sick.

1. Disbelief

When the indicative indicates disbelief, the following que phrase will use the subjunctive.

*ex: No creo que Pablo* ***esté*** *aquí.* I don’t think that Pablo **is**here.

*ex: No cree que* ***esté*** *enfermo.* She doesn’t believe that he **is** sick.

1. Uncertainty

When the indicative indicates uncertainty, the following que phrase will use the subjunctive.

*ex: No estoy seguro que Pablo* ***esté*** *aquí.* I’m not sure that Pablo **is**here.

*ex: No es seguro que* ***esté*** *enfermo.* It’s not for certain that he **is** sick.

1. Desire

When the indicative indicates a desire, the following que phrase will use the subjunctive.

*ex: Quiero que Pablo* ***esté*** *aquí.* I want Pablo **to be**here.

*ex: Desea que* ***no******esté*** *enfermo.* She wants him **to** **not** **be** sick.

1. Emotion

When the indicative indicates emotion, the following que phrase will use the subjunctive.

*ex: Siento que Pablo* ***no******esté*** *aquí.* I regret that Pablo **isn’t** here.

*ex: Te entristece que* ***esté*** *enfermo.* You are sad that he **is** sick.

1. Command/request

When the indicative indicates a command or request, the following que phrase will use the subjunctive.

*ex: Demando que Pablo* ***esté*** *aquí.* I demand that Pablo **be**here.

*ex: Le pide que* ***esté*** *bien otra vez.* She asks that he **be** well again.

1. Adverb Clauses

Certain adverb clauses in Spanish require the subjunctive to follow after it. A few are listed below.

a fin de que (so that)

para que (in order that)

a menos que (unless)

antes de que (before)

con tal que (provided that)

en caso de que (in case that)

sin que (without)

aunque (even if)

*ex: Voy con tal que Pablo* ***esté*** *allí.* I will go provided that Pablo **is**there.

*ex: Vino sin que yo lo* ***supiera****.* He came without my **knowing** it.

*ex: Saldré aunque Pablo* ***esté*** *allí.* I’ll leave even if Pablo **is**there.

*ex: Cocino para que* ***no******tenga*** *hambre.* I cook so that she **isn’t** hungry.

1. Order of tenses

Once you know if you need to use the subjunctive in the que phrase, you must determine which tense of subjunctive to use. There are four: present subjunctive, past subjunctive, present perfect subjunctive, and pluperfect subjunctive. The guide below will indicate when each tense is to be used according to the tense of the first conjugated verb.

1. If the first conjugated verb’s tense is present, present perfect, future, or a command, use the present subjunctive or the present perfect subjunctive.
2. Present subjunctive will be used if the subjunctive action happens in the present or the future.

*ex: Le digo que* ***venga****.* I tell him **to** **come**.

*ex: Le he dicho que* ***venga****.* I have told him **to** **come**.

*ex: Le diré que* ***venga****.* I will tell him **to** **come**.

*ex: Dile que* ***venga****.* Tell him **to** **come**. (Tell him he **will** **come**).

1. Present perfect subjunctive will be used if the subjunctive action happens in the past.

ex: *Dudo que la* ***haya******visto***. I doubt that he has **seen** **her**.

ex: *He dudado que la* ***haya******visto***. I have doubted that he **has** **seen** her.

ex: *Dudaré que la* ***haya******visto***. I will doubt that he **has** **seen** her.

1. If the first conjugated verb’s tense is preterite, imperfect, conditional, or pluperfect, use the past subjunctive or the

pluperfect subjunctive.

1. Past subjunctive

*ex: Le dije que* ***viniera****.* I told him **to** **come**.

*ex: Le decía que* ***viniera****.* I was telling him **to** **come**.

*ex: Le diría que* ***viniera****.* I would tell him **to** **come**.

*ex: Le había dicho que* ***viniera****.* I had told him **to** **come**.

1. Pluperfect subjunctive

ex: *Dudé que la* ***hubiera******visto***. I doubted that he **had** **seen** her.

ex: *Dudaba que la* ***hubiera******visto***. I was doubting that he **had** **seen** her.

ex: *Dudaría que la* ***hubiera******visto***. I would doubt that he **had** **seen** her.

ex: *Había dudado que la* ***hubeira******visto***. I had doubted that he **had** **seen** her.

1. Imperative

The imperative mood is used to give commands or instructions. Since Spanish has four different ways to say “you”, there are four different ways to form the imperative, based on which “you” is being commanded. Furthermore, there are affirmative and negative commands. Affirmative commands indicate you should do the action (do) while negative commands indicate you should not do the action (don’t). Always attach pronouns to affirmative commands, and never attach them to negative ones.

1. Tú
2. Affirmative

For affirmative tú commands, use the third person singular (él) form of the simple present tense. Remember, always attach pronouns and add accents if necessary.

*ex:* Run! *¡Corre!* Leave it. *Déjalo.* Give it to me. *Dámelo.*

There are some irregular affirmative tú commands.

hacer (to do) = haz decir (to tell, to say) = di

venir (to come) = ven tener (to have) = ten

salir (to continue) = sal ser (to be) = sé

poner (to put, place, set) = pon ir (to go) = ve

1. Negative

For negative tú commands, you simply use the second person singular (tú) form of the present subjunctive after the word “no”. Remember, never attach pronouns; they go in between the no and the command.

*ex: No vengas.* Don’t come. *No la lleves.* Don’t bring her.

*No me lo des.* Don’t give it to me. *No estudies.* Don’t study.

1. Usted
2. Affirmative

For affirmative Ud. commands, you simply use the third person singular (él/Ud.) form of the present subjunctive. Remember, always attach pronouns and add accents if necessary.

ex: Venga. Come. Llévela. Bring her.

Démelo. Give it to me. Estudie. Study.

1. Negative

For negative Ud. commands, you simply use the third person singular (él/Ud.) form of the present subjunctive after the word “no”. Remember, never attach pronouns; they go in between the no and the command.

ex: No venga. Don’t come. No la lleve. Don’t bring her.

No me lo dé. Don’t give it to me. No estudie. Don’t study.

1. Ustedes
2. Affirmative

For affirmative Uds. commands, you simply use the third person plural (ellos/Uds.) form of the present subjunctive. Remember, always attach pronouns and add accents if necessary.

ex: Vengan. Come. Llévenla. Bring her.

Dénmelo. Give it to me. Estudien. Study.

1. Negative

For negative Uds. commands, you simply use the third person plural (ellos/Uds.) form of the present subjunctive after the word “no”. Remember, never attach pronouns; they go in between the no and the command.

ex: No vengan. Don’t come. No la lleven. Don’t bring her.

No me lo den. Don’t give it to me. No estudien. Don’t study.

1. Vosotros
2. Affirmative

For affirmative vosotros commands, you simply remove the -r of the infinitive and add a d (Levy 167). Remember, always attach pronouns and add accents if necessary.

ex: Venid. Come. Llevadla. Bring her.

Dádmelo. Give it to me. Estudiad. Study.

1. Negative

For negative vosotros commands, you simply use the second person plural (vosotros) form of the present subjunctive after the word “no” (Levy 167). Remember, never attach pronouns; they go in between the no and the command.

ex: No vengáis. Don’t come. No la llevéis. Don’t bring her.

No me lo deis. Don’t give it to me. No estudiés. Don’t study.

Gustar Verbs

In Spanish, there is a group of verbs that behave differently than other verbs. Verbs like gustar do not translate to English exactly, and have a different formula. The subject of the sentence in English is the indirect object in Spanish, and the direct object in English becomes the subject in Spanish. If one were to translate the Spanish literally, it would sound passive in English.

*ex: gustar:* to like **I** like cats.

***Me*** *gustan* *los* *gatos*. “Cats are pleasing to me.”

Because the subject becomes an indirect object, you must use “a” before stating a name or noun in order to specify, but you must use it in conjunction with the indirect object pronoun. Often this “a” phrase is repeated for emphasis, regardless of the indirect object pronoun.

*ex: doler:* to hurt Pedro’s arms hurt.

***A******Pedro*** *le duelen los brazos.* “The arms hurt to Pedro”.

*ex: doler:* to hurt Your arms hurt.

***A******ti*** *te duelen los brazos.* “The arms hurt to you”.

Furthermore, the verb will conjugate singularly or plurally, depending on its subject. As always, after a conjugated verb, an infinitive is placed. The infinitive will cause the main verb to be singular.

*ex: importar:* to be important Going to church is important to you.

*Te* ***importa*** *ir* *a* *la* *iglesia.* “To go to church is important to you.”

Reflexive Verbs

1. Uses
2. Verbs can change meaning when used reflexively and when not.

aburrir (to bore) aburrirse (to get bored)

acostar (to put to bed) acostarse (to go to bed)

bañar (to bathe) bañarse (to bathe onself)

1. Sometimes the reflexive pronouns are used to express a reciprocal action (to each other, to one another)

*ex: Nos besamos.* We kiss each other.

*ex: Se abrazaron.* They hugged one another.

1. Se can be used impersonally to make a passive sentence.

*ex: Se come paella en España.*  Paella is eaten in Spain.

*ex: Se hablan español e inglés en esa teinda.*

They speak Spanish and English in this store.

1. Form

You simply conjugate the original verb in any tense, and add the appropriate reflexive pronoun in front of the conjugated verb.

*ex: Me ducho.* I shower. *Me duché.* I showered. *Me ducharé.* I will shower.

*ex: Te duches.* You shower. *Te duchiste.* You showered. *Te ducharás.* You will shower.

*ex: Se duche. He* showers. *Se duchó.* He showered. *Te duchará.* He will shower.

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