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national 5 spanish grammar booklet



Introduction

At National 5 level, you are expected to know at least the following five tenses before sitting your exam.

Tenses covered:

- Present
- Conditional
- Future
- Preterite
- Imperfect

Useful terms:

Term:	Definition:
Infinitive	A verb that has had nothing done to it, we also refer to this as the 'to' form
Conjugation	The process that changes a verb so that it matches pronouns
Stem	A verb which has had its ending removed
Irregular	A verb that does not follow the general rules when conjugated
Pronoun	Who is doing the action
Singular	One person
Plural	More than one person or a group of people

Pronouns:

Spanish:	English:
Yo	I
Tú	You (singular)
Él	He or it
Ella	She or it
Nosotros	We
Vosotros	You (plural)
Ellos	They (masculine)

Spanish:	English:
Ellas	They (feminine)

Present

The present tense is used as a way of describing actions that are happening just now. To conjugate the present tense, we use the infinitive of the verb that we are changing, we then remove the -AR, -ER or -IR ending to create a stem and finally we add on the appropriate ending found in the table below.

Pronoun	-AR	-ER	-IR
Yo	o	o	o
Tú	as	es	es
Él/ella	a	e	e
Nosotros	amos	emos	imos
Vosotros	áis	éis	ís
Ellos/as	an	en	en

Example:

The table below shows all the necessary steps to conjugate verbs in the present tense. The example given below is empezamos which means we start. Step 1 is to remove the ending. Step 2 is to leave the verb as a stem and Step 3 is to add on the appropriate ending for the pronoun which in this case is 'we'.

Infinitive:	Empezar
Step 1:	Empezar
Step 2:	Empez
Step 3:	Empezamos

Conditional

The conditional tense is used to express possibility, probability or wonder. It can be translated in a variety of ways including could, would, must have or probably. Unlike the present tense, we do not remove the -AR, -ER or -IR, it remains and we add the ending on to this.

Pronoun	-AR	-ER	-IR
Yo	ía	ía	ía
Tú	ías	ías	ías
Él/ella	ía	ía	ía
Nosotros	íamos	íamos	íamos
Vosotros	íais	íais	íais
Ellos/as	ían	ían	ían

Example:

The table below shows all the necessary steps to conjugate verbs in the conditional tense. The example given below is *empezaríais* which means you (pl) could start. Step 1 is to leave the ending. Step 2 is to add the appropriate ending for the pronoun which in this case is 'you (pl)'.

Infinitive:	Empezar
Step 1:	Empezar
Step 2:	Empezaríais

Future

The future tense is used to express what will or shall happen in the future. We do not remove the -AR, -ER or -IR, it remains and we add the ending on to this.

Pronoun	-AR	-ER	-IR
Yo	é	é	é
Tú	ás	ás	ás
Él/ella	á	á	á
Nosotros	emos	emos	emos
Vosotros	éis	éis	éis
Ellos/as	án	án	án

Example:

The table below shows all the necessary steps to conjugate verbs in the future tense. The example given below is *empezaré* which means I will start. Step 1 is to leave the ending. Step 2 is to add the appropriate ending for the pronoun which in this case is 'I'.

Infinitive:	Empezar
Step 1:	Empezar
Step 2:	Empezaré

Imperfect

The imperfect is the first of two Spanish past tenses that this booklet will cover. We use the imperfect to talk about five main things that happened in the past.

The uses of the imperfect tense:

1. Repeated actions
2. Actions that we in progress
3. Times and dates
4. Ages
5. Descriptions of characteristics, conditions and feelings

<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>-AR</u>	<u>-ER</u>	<u>-IR</u>
Yo	aba	ía	ía
Tú	abas	ías	ías
Él/ella	aba	ía	ía
Nosotros	ábamos	íamos	íamos
Vosotros	abais	íais	íais
Ellos/as	aban	ían	ían

Example:

The table below shows all the necessary steps to conjugate verbs in the imperfect tense. The example given below is empezaban which means they used to start. Step 1 is to leave the ending. Step 2 is to leave the verb as a stem and Step 3 is to add on the appropriate ending for the pronoun which in this case is 'they'.

<u>Infinitive:</u>	<u>Empezar</u>
Step 1:	Empezar
Step 2:	Empez
Step 3:	Empezaban

Preterite

Unlike the imperfect tense, the preterite is used to describe actions that have been completed in the past.

Pronoun	-AR	-ER	-IR
Yo	é	í	í
Tú	aste	iste	iste
Él/ella	ó	ió	ió
Nosotros	amos	imos	imos
Vosotros	asteis	isteis	isteis
Ellos/as	aron	ieron	ieron

Example:

The table below shows all the necessary steps to conjugate verbs in the preterite tense. The example given below is *empezó* which means he started. Step 1 is to leave the ending. Step 2 is to leave the verb as a stem and Step 3 is to add on the appropriate ending for the pronoun which in this case is 'he'.

<u>Infinitive:</u>	<u>Empezar</u>
Step 1:	Empezar
Step 2:	Empez
Step 3:	Empezó

Irregulars Section

Unfortunately in Spanish, some verbs don't follow the normal rules. This can be for a number of reasons but one of the most common is due to tricky pronunciation caused by conjugating the infinitive. Listed below are tables of common irregular verbs to help you identify and conjugate them successfully.

Present:

Listed below are six of the most commonly used irregular verbs in the present tense.

<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Tener</u>	<u>Ser</u>	<u>Estar</u>	<u>Hacer</u>	<u>Ir</u>	<u>Llamarse</u>
Yo	Tengo	Soy	Estoy	Hago	Voy	Me llamo
Tú	Tienes	Eres	Estás	Haces	Vas	Te llamas
Él/ella	Tiene	Es	Está	Hace	Va	Se llama
Nosotros	Tenemos	Somos	Estamos	Hacemos	Vamos	Nos llamamos
Vosotros	Tenéis	Sois	Estáis	Hacéis	Vais	Os llamáis
Ellos/as	Tienen	Son	Están	Hacen	Van	Se llaman

Conditional and Future:

There are 12 verbs which are irregular in both the conditional and future tenses. Whilst the endings are the same as the regular verbs, the stem changes to allow for smoother pronunciation. These verbs are commonly referred to as 'stem changers'. The first two tables contain irregulars in the conditional tense and the second two, the future.

<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Caber</u>	<u>Poner</u>	<u>Decir</u>	<u>Haber</u>	<u>Salir</u>	<u>Hacer</u>
Yo	Cabría	Pondría	Diría	Habría	Saldría	Haría
Tú	Cabrías	Pondrías	Dirías	Habrías	Saldrías	Harías
Él/ella	Cabría	Pondría	Diría	Habría	Saldría	Haría
Nosotros	Cabríamos	Pondríamos	Diríamos	Habríamos	Saldríamos	Haríamos
Vosotros	Cabrías	Pondrías	Diríais	Habríais	Saldrías	Haríais
Ellos/as	Cabrían	Pondrían	Dirían	Habrían	Saldrían	Harían

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<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Poder</u>	<u>Tener</u>	<u>Querer</u>	<u>Valer</u>	<u>Saber</u>	<u>Venir</u>
Yo	Podría	Tendría	Querría	Valdría	Sabría	Vendría
Tú	Podrías	Tendrías	Querrías	Valdrías	Sabrías	Vendrías
Él/ella	Podría	Tendría	Querría	Valdría	Sabría	Vendría
Nosotros	Podríamos	Tendríamos	Querríamos	Valdríamos	Sabríamos	Vendríamos
Vosotros	Podrías	Tendría	Querrías	Valdrías	Sabrías	Vendrías
Ellos/as	Podrían	Tendrían	Querrían	Valdrían	Sabrían	Vendrían

<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Caber</u>	<u>Poner</u>	<u>Decir</u>	<u>Haber</u>	<u>Salir</u>	<u>Hacer</u>
Yo	Cabré	Pondré	Diré	Habré	Saldré	Haré
Tú	Cabrás	Pondrás	Dirás	Habrás	Saldrás	Harás
Él/ella	Cabrá	Pondrá	Dirá	Habrá	Saldrá	Hará
Nosotros	Cabremos	Pondremos	Diremos	Habremos	Saldremos	Haremos
Vosotros	Cabréis	Pondréis	Diréis	Habréis	Saldréis	Haréis
Ellos/as	Cabrán	Pondrán	Dirán	Habrán	Saldrán	Harán

<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Poder</u>	<u>Tener</u>	<u>Querer</u>	<u>Valer</u>	<u>Saber</u>	<u>Venir</u>
Yo	Podré	Tendré	Querré	Valdré	Sabré	Vendré
Tú	Podrás	Tendrás	Querrás	Valdrás	Sabrás	Vendrás
Él/ella	Podrá	Tendrá	Querrá	Valdrá	Sabrá	Vendrá
Nosotros	Podremos	Tendremos	Querremos	Valdremos	Sabremos	Vendremos
Vosotros	Podréis	Tendréis	Querréis	Valdréis	Sabréis	Vendréis
Ellos/as	Podrán	Tendrán	Querrán	Valdrán	Sabrán	Vendrán

Imperfect:

There are only three irregular verbs which you need to know in the imperfect tense. These are; ir, ser and ver.

<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Ir</u>	<u>Ser</u>	<u>Ver</u>
Yo	Iba	Era	Veía
Tú	Ibas	Eres	Veías
Él/ella	Iba	Era	Veía
Nosotros	Íbamos	Éramos	Veíamos
Vosotros	Ibais	Erais	Veíais
Ellos/as	Iban	Eran	Veían

Preterite:

Listed below are five of the most common irregular verbs in the preterite tense, note that ir and ser are the same. When confronted with these, you will need to use the context of the sentence to help you.

<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Ir</u>	<u>Ser</u>	<u>Estar</u>	<u>Dar</u>	<u>Ver</u>
Yo	Fui	Fui	Estuve	Di	Vi
Tú	Fuiste	Fuiste	Estuviste	Diste	Viste
Él/ella	Fue	Fue	Estuvo	Dio	Vio
Nosotros	Fuimos	Fuimos	Estuvimos	Dimos	Vimos
Vosotros	Fuisteis	Fuisteis	Estuvisteis	Disteis	Visteis
Ellos/as	Fueron	Fueron	Estuvieron	Dieron	Vieron

What can I do to help?

Grammar is an essential part of your National 5 Spanish course. To help you to learn the rules of Spanish grammar, Language Learning Scotland has a grammar page which contains numerous exercises to help you remember and revise before tests or to aid with up levelling your fluency. Both this booklet and supplementary exercises are available in French also.

It is also imperative that you understand how to use the blue or rear section of a dictionary. This contains verb tables like the ones used throughout this booklet and will become very helpful during any writing portion of the course. Language Learning Scotland recommends the medium sized Collins Dictionary & Grammar book but you should ask your teacher if they have a preferred dictionary.

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