Your notes

GCSE Spanish: revision notes

# Grammar: tenses

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## The present tense

- Regular verbs: hablar → hablo, hablas, habla, hablamos, habláis, hablan. comer → como, comes, come, comemos, coméis, comen. vivir → vivo, vives, vive, vivimos, vivís, viven.
- Stem-changing verbs change in every form except nosotros and vosotros: querer → quiero (e to ie), poder → puedo (o to ue), jugar → juego (u to ue), pedir → pido (e to i).
- Key irregulars: ser (soy, eres, es, somos, sois, son), estar (estoy, estás, está, estamos, estáis, están), tener (tengo, tienes, tiene...), ir (voy, vas, va, vamos, vais, van), hacer (hago), salir (salgo).
- Present continuous: estar + gerund: estoy comiendo (I'm eating), está jugando (he's playing).
- Desde hace + present means "have been doing": aprendo español desde hace cinco años.

## The preterite and the perfect

- Preterite, for completed actions: -ar verbs: hablé, hablaste, habló, hablamos, hablasteis, hablaron. -er and -ir verbs: comí, comiste, comió, comimos, comisteis, comieron.
- Irregular preterites: fui (I went or I was: ir and ser share it), hice (I did), tuve (I had), estuve (I was), pude (I could), vi (I saw), di (I gave).
- Spelling changes in the yo form: jugué, llegué, saqué, empecé.
- Perfect tense: haber + past participle: he visitado (I have visited), has comido, ha vivido. Irregular participles: hecho (done), visto (seen), escrito (written), puesto (put), vuelto (returned), dicho (said), roto (broken), abierto (opened).

## The imperfect tense

- -ar verbs: hablaba, hablabas, hablaba, hablábamos, hablabais, hablaban. -er and -ir verbs: comía, comías, comía, comíamos, comíais, comían.
- Only three irregulars: ser (era), ir (iba), ver (veía). Había means there was or there were.
- Use it for descriptions in the past (era bonito, hacía calor), for what used to happen (jugaba al fútbol los sábados) and for what was going on when something else happened (veía la tele cuando llegó mi hermano).

## Future, conditional and pluperfect

- Near future: ir a + infinitive: voy a jugar (I'm going to play).
- Future: infinitive + -é, -ás, -á, -emos, -éis, -án: jugaré (I will play). Irregular stems: tendré, haré, podré, saldré, pondré, vendré, diré, querré, sabré.
- Conditional: infinitive + -ía, -ías, -ía, -íamos, -íais, -ían: jugaría (I would play), me gustaría, sería (it would be). It uses the same irregular stems as the future: tendría, haría.
- Pluperfect (Higher): había + past participle: había comido (I had eaten).
- Recognise the present subjunctive after cuando for the future (cuando sea mayor = when I'm older), after ojalá (I hope) and after quiero que (I want someone to...).

## Key terms

| | |
|---|---|
| **el presente** | present tense |
| **el pretérito indefinido** | preterite: completed actions in the past |
| **el pretérito perfecto** | perfect tense: I have done |
| **el imperfecto** | imperfect: descriptions and what used to happen |
| **el futuro inmediato** | near future: ir a + infinitive |
| **el futuro** | future tense: I will... |
| **el condicional** | conditional: I would... |
| **el pluscuamperfecto** | pluperfect: I had... |
| **el gerundio** | gerund: the -ando or -iendo form |
| **el participio** | past participle, such as hablado or comido |

## Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What is the "yo" form of "querer" in the present tense?
2. Which tense is "comí"?
3. What does "fui" mean?
4. What is the past participle of "hacer"?

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5. What does "he visitado" mean?
6. Which tense is "jugaba"?
7. What does "voy a jugar" mean?
8. What is the future of "tener" with "yo"?

### Answers

1. quiero
2. the preterite
3. I went or I was
4. hecho
5. I have visited
6. the imperfect
7. I'm going to play
8. tendré

## What to do next

**Practise 15 questions on this topic**

**Try 4 exam questions, with mark schemes**

**Read the lesson, one step at a time**

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