

BARRON'S
FOREIGN LANGUAGE GUIDES

501 SPANISH VERBS



SIXTH EDITION

Fully conjugated in all the tenses
in an easy-to-learn format
alphabetically arranged

Christopher Kendris, Ph.D., and Theodore Kendris, Ph.D.



THE BEST SELLING VERB BOOK IN THE WORLD



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by

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Preface to the Sixth Edition

This new edition of *501 Spanish Verbs* has been updated so that it is easier to use than ever! All of the verb lists that you need are in the back pages of the book with handy tabs so that you can find the list you need quickly and easily. We hope that you will also take the time to practice your conjugations and grammar with the new verb drills and tests with answers explained on CD-ROM. The model verbs themselves have been revised and include extra material for certain Essential Verbs. These are verbs that we believe will be helpful to students because they represent an important conjugation group or because they are useful in many everyday situations and idiomatic expressions. We have also taken into account the many technological advances that have taken place over the past several years, as well as the increased globalization and social change in the 21st century. We hope that *501 Spanish Verbs* will continue to provide the guidance that students and travelers like you have come to expect over the years.

We have, therefore, added a number of related words and idiomatic expressions, along with English meanings, at the bottom of every verb page from 97 to 648. We also hope that you will take advantage of the section on verb drills and tests with answers explained, beginning on page 45. There, you will find a lot of practice in Spanish verb forms and tenses in a variety of tests and word games to determine your strengths and weaknesses yourself and to make some things clearer in your mind. Also, it would be a good idea to get acquainted with the section on definitions of basic grammatical terms. It's on page 33. Many students who study a foreign language have problems because they do not understand certain grammatical terms. If you know what they are, what they are called, and how they are used in the grammatical structure of a sentence, you will improve your skill in speaking and writing Spanish.

Don't miss the expanded Spanish-English index at the end of the book. There are now over 2,100 verbs—in addition to the 501 in the main listing. The English-Spanish list, which begins on page 682, is a handy tool if you can't remember the Spanish verb you need to use.

Have you ever wondered what preposition goes with what verb? Many people do. Check out page 669 for the section on verbs with prepositions. On page 666, there is a simple system of sound transcriptions to help you pronounce Spanish words effectively.

In this edition, we have put all the Defective and Impersonal Verbs in one convenient place, at the end of the main listing. This gave us room to give you more fully conjugated verbs in the main list.

We hope that you will make full use of all the features of this new edition of *501 Spanish Verbs* and that you will enjoy your exploration of Spanish language and culture.

Christopher Kendris and Theodore Kendris

*To St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
of Albany, New York, our parish*

and

*To the eternal memory of our beloved
YOLANDA FENYO KENDRIS
who is always by our side*

With love

This self-teaching book of 501 commonly used Spanish verbs for students and travelers provides fingertip access to correct verb forms.

Verb conjugations are usually found scattered in Spanish grammar books and they are difficult to find quickly when needed. Verbs have always been a major problem for students no matter what system or approach the teacher uses. You will master Spanish verb forms if you study this book for a few minutes every day, especially the pages before and after the alphabetical listing of the 501 verbs.

This book will help make your work easier and at the same time will teach you Spanish verb forms systematically. It is a useful book because it provides a quick and easy way to find the full conjugation of many Spanish verbs.

The 501 verbs included here are arranged alphabetically by infinitive at the top of each page. The book contains many common verbs of high frequency, both reflexive and nonreflexive, which you need to know. It also contains many other frequently used verbs which are irregular in some way. Beginning on page 707, there are over 2,100 Spanish verbs that can be conjugated in the same way as model verbs among the 501. If the verb you have in mind is not given among the 501, consult this list.

The subject pronouns have been omitted from the conjugations in order to emphasize the verb forms. The subject pronouns are given on page 92. Turn to that page now and become acquainted with them.

The first thing to do when you use this book is to become familiar with it from cover to cover—in particular, the front and back pages, where you will find valuable and useful information to make your work easier and more enjoyable. Take a minute right now and turn to the table of contents at the beginning of this book as we guide you in the following way:

(a) Beginning on page 3, you can learn how to form a present participle regularly in Spanish with examples. There, you will find the common irregular present participles and the many uses of the present participle.

(b) Beginning on page 5, you can learn how to form a past participle regularly in Spanish with examples. There, you will find the common irregular past participles and the many uses of the past participle.

(c) On page 7, the Passive and Active voices are explained with numerous examples.

(d) Beginning on page 9, you will find the principal parts of some important Spanish verbs. This is useful because, if you know these, you are well on your way to mastering Spanish verb forms.

(e) Beginning on page 11, we give you a sample English verb conjugation so that you can get an idea of the way a verb is expressed in the English tenses. Many people do not know one tense from another because they have never learned the use of verb tenses in a systematic and organized way—not even in English! How can you, for example, know that you need the conditional form of a verb in Spanish when you want to say “*I would go* to the movies if . . .” or the pluperfect tense in Spanish if you want to say “*I had gone . . .*”? The sample English verb conjugation with the names of the tenses and their numerical rank-

ing will help you to distinguish one tense from another so that you will know what tense you need in order to express a verb in Spanish.

(f) On page 13, you will find a summary of meanings and uses of Spanish verb tenses and moods as related to English verb tenses and moods. That section is very important and useful because the seven simple tenses are separated from the seven compound tenses. You are given the name of each tense in Spanish and English starting with the present indicative, which we call tense number one because it is the tense most frequently used. We assign a number to each tense name so that you can fix each one in your mind and associate the tense names and numbers in their logical order. We explain briefly what each tense is, when you use it, and we give examples using verbs in sentences in Spanish and English. At the end of each tense, you are shown how to form that tense for regular verbs.

(g) Beginning on page 27, we explain the Imperative, which is a mood, not a tense, and give numerous examples using it.

(h) Beginning on page 4, the progressive forms of tenses are explained with examples. Also note the future subjunctive and the future perfect subjunctive on page 30. We explain how these two rarely used tenses are formed, and we give examples of what tenses are used in place of them in informal writing and in conversation.

(i) Beginning on page 14, we give you a summary of all of the fourteen tenses in Spanish with English equivalents, which we have divided into the seven simple tenses and the seven compound tenses. After referring to that summary frequently, you will soon know that tense number 1 is the present indicative, tense number 2 is the imperfect indicative, and so on. We also explain how each compound tense is based on each simple tense. Try to see these two divisions as two frames, two pictures, with the seven simple tenses in one frame and the seven compound tenses in another frame. Place them side by side in your mind, and you will see how tense number 8 is related to tense number 1, tense number 9 to tense number 2, and so on. If you study the numerical arrangement of each of the seven simple tenses and associate the tense number with the tense name, you will find it very easy to learn the names of the seven compound tenses, how they rank numerically according to use, how they are formed, and when they are used. Spend at least ten minutes every day studying these preliminary pages to help you better understand the fourteen tenses in Spanish.

Finally, in the back pages of this book, there are useful indexes: an index of English-Spanish verbs, an index of common irregular Spanish verb forms identified by infinitive, and a list of over 2,100 Spanish verbs that are conjugated like model verbs among the 501.

Note that each verb is listed in the Alphabetical Listing of *501 Spanish Verbs* is followed by a number in parentheses. This number is the verb number for the purpose of easy cross-referencing in this book. If you refer to the many features of this book each time you look up verb tense forms for a particular verb, you will increase your knowledge of Spanish vocabulary and Spanish idioms by leaps and bounds.

We sincerely hope that this new edition of *501 Spanish Verbs* will be of great help to you in learning and using Spanish verbs.

Christopher Kendris and Theodore Kendris

Formation of the Present and Past Participles in Spanish

Formation of the present participle in Spanish

A present participle is a verb form which, in English, ends in *-ing*; for example, *singing, eating, receiving*. In Spanish, a present participle is regularly formed as follows:

drop the **ar** of an **-ar** ending verb, like **cantar**, and add **ando: cantando**/singing

drop the **er** of an **-er** ending verb, like **comer**, and add **iendo: comiendo**/eating

drop the **ir** of an **-ir** ending verb, like **recibir**, and add **iendo: recibiendo**/receiving

In English, a gerund also ends in **-ing**, but there is a distinct difference in use between a gerund and a present participle in English. In brief, it is this: in English, when a present participle is used as a noun it is called a gerund; for example, *Reading is good*. As a present participle in English, it would be used as follows: *While reading*, the boy fell asleep.

In the first example (*Reading is good*), *reading* is a gerund because it is the subject of the verb *is*. In Spanish, however, we do not use the present participle form as a noun to serve as a subject; we use the infinitive form of the verb: *Leer es bueno*.

Common irregular present participles

INFINITIVE

caer	to fall
conseguir	to attain, to achieve
construir	to construct
corregir	to correct
creer	to believe
decir	to say, to tell
despedirse	to say good-bye
destruir	to destroy
divertirse	to enjoy oneself
dormir	to sleep
huir	to flee
ir	to go
leer	to read
mentir	to lie (tell a falsehood)
morir	to die
oír	to hear
pedir	to ask (for), to request
poder	to be able
reír	to laugh
repetir	to repeat
seguir	to follow
sentir	to feel

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

cayendo	falling
consiguiendo	attaining, achieving
construyendo	constructing
corrigiendo	correcting
creyendo	believing
diciendo	saying, telling
despidiéndose	saying good-bye
destruyendo	destroying
divirtiéndose	enjoying oneself
durmiendo	sleeping
huyendo	fleeing
yendo	going
leyendo	reading
mintiendo	lying
muriendo	dying
oyendo	hearing
pidiendo	asking (for), requesting
pudiendo	being able
riendo	laughing
repitiendo	repeating
siguiendo	following
sintiendo	feeling

Common irregular present participles (continued)

INFINITIVE	PRESENT PARTICIPLE
servir to serve	sirviendo serving
traer to bring	trayendo bringing
venir to come	 viniendo coming
vestir to dress	vistiendo dressing
vestirse to dress oneself	vistiéndose dressing oneself

Uses of the present participle

1. To form the progressive tenses: **The Progressive Present** is formed by using **estar** in the present tense plus the present participle of the main verb you are using. **The Progressive Past** is formed by using **estar** in the imperfect indicative plus the present participle of the main verb you are using. (See below and on page 5 for a complete description of the uses and formation of the progressive tenses with examples.)
2. To express vividly an action that occurred (preterit + present participle):
El niño entró llorando en la casa/The little boy came into the house crying.
3. To express the English use of *by* + present participle in Spanish, we use the gerund form, which has the same ending as a present participle explained above: *Trabajando, se gana dinero*/By working, one earns (a person earns) money; *Estudiando mucho, Pepe recibió buenas notas*/By studying hard, Joe received good grades.

Note that no preposition is used in front of the present participle (the Spanish gerund) even though it is expressed in English as *by* + present participle.

Note, too, that in Spanish we use **al + inf.** (not + present part.) to express *on* or *upon* + present part. in English: *Al entrar en la casa, el niño comenzó a llorar*/Upon entering the house, the little boy began to cry.

4. To form the Perfect Participle: **habiendo hablado**/having talked.

The Progressive forms of tenses

- (1) In Spanish, there are progressive forms of tenses. They are the Progressive Present and the Progressive Past.
- (2) The **Progressive Present** is formed by using **estar** in the present tense plus the present participle of your main verb; e.g., *Estoy hablando*/I am talking, i.e., I am (in the act of) talking (right now). Here is how you would form the progressive present of **hablar** (to talk) using **estar** in the present tense plus the present participle of **hablar**:

estoy hablando	estamos hablando
estás hablando	estáis hablando
está hablando	están hablando

4 The Progressive forms of tenses

(3) The **Progressive Past** is formed by using *estar* in the imperfect indicative plus the present participle of your main verb; e.g., *Estaba hablando*/I was talking, i.e., I was (in the act of) talking (right then). Here is how you would form the progressive past of *hablar* (to talk) using *estar* in the imperfect indicative plus the present participle of **hablar**:

estaba hablando	estábamos hablando
estabas hablando	estabais hablando
estaba hablando	estaban hablando

- (4) The progressive forms are generally used when you want to emphasize or intensify an action; if you don't want to do that, then simply use the present or imperfect; e.g., say *Hablo*, not *Estoy hablando*; or *Hablaba*, not *Estaba hablando*.
- (5) Sometimes *ir* is used instead of *estar* to form the progressive tenses; e.g., *Va hablando*/He (she) keeps right on talking, *Iba hablando*/He (she) kept right on talking. Note that they do not have the exact same meaning as *Está hablando* and *Estaba hablando*. See (2) and (3) above.
- (6) Also, at times *andar*, *continuar*, *seguir*, and *venir* are used as helping verbs in the present or imperfect indicative tenses plus the present participle to express the progressive forms: *Los muchachos andaban cantando*/The boys were walking along singing; *La maestra seguía leyendo a la clase*/The teacher kept right on reading to the class.

Formation of the past participle in Spanish

A past participle is a verb form which, in English, usually ends in *-ed*: for example, *worked*, *talked*, *arrived*, as in *I have worked*, *I have talked*, *I have arrived*. There are many irregular past participles in English; for example, *gone*, *sung*, as in *She has gone*, *We have sung*. In Spanish, a past participle is regularly formed as follows:

drop the **ar** of an **-ar** ending verb, like **cantar**, and add **ado**: **cantado**/sung
drop the **er** of an **-er** ending verb, like **comer**, and add **ido**: **comido**/eaten
drop the **ir** of an **-ir** ending verb, like **recibir**, and add **ido**: **recibido**/received

Common irregular past participles

INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE
abrir to open	abierto opened
caer to fall	caído fallen
creer to believe	creído believed
cubrir to cover	cubierto covered
decir to say, to tell	dicho said, told
descubrir to discover	descubierto discovered
deshacer to undo	deshecho undone
devolver to return (something)	devuelto returned (something)
escribir to write	escrito written
hacer to do, to make	hecho done, made
imponer to impose	impuesto imposed
imprimir to print	impreso printed
ir to go	ido gone
leer to read	leído read
morir to die	muerto died
oír to hear	oído heard
poner to put	puesto put
poseer to possess	poseído possessed
rehacer to redo, to remake	rehecho redone, remade
reír to laugh	reído laughed
resolver to resolve, to solve	resuelto resolved, solved
romper to break	roto broken
sonreír to smile	sonreído smiled
traer to bring	traído brought
ver to see	visto seen
volver to return	vuelto returned

Uses of the past participle

1. To form the seven compound tenses
2. To form the Perfect Infinitive: *haber hablado*/to have spoken.
3. To form the Perfect Participle: *habiendo hablado*/having spoken.
4. To serve as an adjective, which must agree in gender and number with the noun it modifies: *El señor Molina es muy respetado por todos los alumnos*/Mr. Molina is very respected by all the students; *La señora González es muy conocida*/Mrs. González is very well known.
5. To express the result of an action with **estar** and sometimes with **quedar** or **quedarse**: *La puerta está abierta*/The door is open; *Las cartas están escritas*/The letters are written; *Los niños se quedaron asustados*/The children remained frightened.
6. To express the passive voice with **ser**: *La ventana fue abierta por el ladrón*/The window was opened by the robber.

6 Uses of the past participle

Passive voice means that the action of the verb falls on the subject; in other words, the subject receives the action: *La ventana fue abierta por el ladrón*/The window was opened by the robber. Note that *abierta* (really a form of the past part. *abrir/abierto*) is used as an adjective and it must agree in gender and number with the subject that it describes.

Active voice means that the subject performs the action and the subject is always stated: *El ladrón abrió la ventana*/The robber opened the window.

To form the true passive, use **ser** + the past part. of the verb you have in mind; the past part. then serves as an adjective and it must agree in gender and number with the subject that it describes. In the true passive, the agent (the doer) is always expressed with the prep. **por** in front of it. The formula for the true passive construction is: subject + tense of **ser** + past part. + **por** + the agent (the doer): *Estas composiciones fueron escritas por Juan*/These compositions were written by John.

The reflexive pronoun **se** may be used to substitute for the true passive voice construction. When you use the **se** construction, the subject is a thing (not a person) and the doer (agent) is not stated: *Aquí se habla español*/Spanish is spoken here; *Aquí se hablan español e inglés*/Spanish and English are spoken here; *Se venden libros en esta tienda*/Books are sold in this store.

There are a few standard idiomatic expressions that are commonly used with the pronoun **se**. These expressions are not truly passive, the pronoun **se** is not truly a reflexive pronoun, and the verb form is in the 3rd pers. sing. only. In this construction, there is no subject expressed; the subject is contained in the use of **se + the 3rd pers. sing. of the verb** at all times and the common translations into English are: it is . . . , people . . . , they . . . , one . . .

Se cree que . . . It is believed that . . . , people believe that . . . , they believe that . . . , one believes that . . .

Se cree que este criminal es culpable. It is believed that this criminal is guilty.

Se dice que . . . It is said that . . . , people say that . . . , they say that . . . , one says that . . . , you say . . .

Se dice que va a nevar esta noche. They say that it's going to snow tonight.
¿Cómo se dice en español "ice cream"? How do you say *ice cream* in Spanish?

Se sabe que . . . It is known that . . . , people know that . . . , they know that . . . , one knows that . . .

Se sabe que María va a casarse con Juan./People know that Mary is going to marry John.

The **se** reflexive pronoun construction is avoided if the subject is a person because there can be ambiguity in meaning. For example, how would you translate the following into English? **Se da un regalo**. Which of the following two meanings is intended? She (he) is being given a present, *or* She (he) is giving a present to himself (to herself). In correct Spanish, you would have to say: **Le da**

(a **María, a Juan, etc.) un regalo/He (she) is giving a present to Mary (to John, etc.).** Avoid using the **se** construction in the passive when the subject is a person; change your sentence around and state it in the active voice to make the meaning clear. Otherwise, the pronoun **se** seems to go with the verb, as if the verb is reflexive, which gives an entirely different meaning. Another example: **Se miró** would mean *He (she) looked at himself (herself)*, not *He (she) was looked at!* If you mean to say *He (she) looked at her*, say: **La miró** or, if in the plural, say: **La miraron/They looked at her.**

The Spanish Infinitive and Its Principal Uses

An infinitive is a verb that is not inflected; in other words, it does not change in form by inflection. In grammar, inflection takes place when a verb changes in form according to whether the subject of the sentence is singular in the 1st (**yo**), 2nd (**tú**), or 3rd (**Ud., él, ella**) person, or plural (**nosotros, etc.**), and according to the conjugated form of the verb in a particular tense, such as the present, preterit, imperfect, future, etc. An infinitive is generally considered to be a mood and it does not refer to a particular person, number, or tense. It is indeterminate and general. It is not conjugated in the tenses. The verb, however, is inflected because it is conjugated in the various tenses and changes in form. An infinitive remains in the same form: **hablar, comer, vivir**. In English, an infinitive is recognized by the preposition *to* in front of it, as in *to speak, to eat, to live*. When conjugated, *to speak* changes to *he, she speaks, I spoke, we have spoken*, etc. The change in the verb form is called inflection. The form of an infinitive is always the same because it is not conjugated and it is not inflected.

Here are three principal uses of the Spanish infinitive. For more examples in Spanish and English, please turn to page 669 where you will find an outline of what preposition (if any) goes with what verb plus an infinitive.

1. An infinitive can be used as a noun and it is masculine in gender. In English we use the present participle of a verb to function as a noun, in which case, we call it a *gerund*. In Spanish, however, the infinitive form of a verb is used. Examples:

Leer es bueno/El leer es bueno/Reading is good.

Fumar no es bueno para la salud/Smoking is not good for one's health.

2. An infinitive is used with some finite verbs (those that are conjugated in the various tenses) when affirmation or belief is conveyed. Examples:

María siempre cree tener razón/Mary always believes she is right.

Nosotros podemos venir a tu casa esta noche/We can come to your house tonight (this evening).

3. An infinitive can be used with idiomatic expressions that contain **que** or **de**. Examples:

Tengo mucho que hacer esta mañana/I have a lot to do this morning.

Mis amigos acaban de llegar/My friends have just arrived.

Principal Parts of Some Important Spanish Verbs

INFINITIVE	(GERUNDIO)	PAST PARTICIPLE	PRESENT INDICATIVE	PRETERIT
	PRESENT PARTICIPLE			
abrir	abriendo	abierto	abro	abrí
andar	andando	andado	ando	anduve
caber	cabiendo	cabido	quepo	cupe
caer	cayendo	caído	caigo	caí
conseguir	consiguiendo	conseguido	consigo	conseguí
construir	construyendo	construido	construyo	construí
corregir	corrigiendo	corregido	corrijo	corregí
creer	creyendo	creído	creo	creí
cubrir	cubriendo	cubierto	cubro	cubrí
dar	dando	dado	doy	di
decir	diciendo	dicho	digo	dije
descubrir	descubriendo	descubierto	descubro	descubrí
deshacer	deshaciendo	deshecho	deshago	deshice
despedirse	despidiéndose	despedido	me despido	me despedí
destruir	destruyendo	destruido	destruyo	destruí
devolver	devolviendo	devuelto	devuelvo	devolví
divertirse	divirtiéndose	divertido	me divierto	me divertí
dormir	durmiendo	dormido	duermo	dormí
escribir	escribiendo	escrito	escribo	escribí
estar	estando	estado	estoy	estuve
haber	habiendo	habido	he	hube
hacer	haciendo	hecho	hago	hice
huir	huyendo	huido	huyo	huí
ir	yendo	ido	voy	fui
irse	yéndose	ido	me voy	me fui
leer	leyendo	leído	leo	leí
mentir	mintiendo	mentido	miento	mentí
morir	muriendo	muerto	muero	morí
oír	oyendo	oído	oigo	oí
oler	oliendo	olido	huelo	olí
pedir	pidiendo	pedido	pido	pedí
poder	pudiendo	podido	puedo	pude
poner	poniendo	puesto	pongo	puse
querer	queriendo	querido	quiero	quise
reír	riendo	reído	río	reí
repetir	repitiendo	repetido	repito	repetí
resolver	resolviendo	resuelto	resuelvo	resolví
romper	rompiendo	roto	rompo	rompí
saber	sabiendo	sabido	sé	supe
salir	saliendo	salido	salgo	salí

INFINITIVE	(GERUNDIO)	PAST PARTICIPLE	PRESENT INDICATIVE	PRETERIT
	PRESENT PARTICIPLE			
seguir	siguiendo	seguido	sigo	seguí
sentir	sintiendo	sentido	siento	sentí
ser	siendo	sido	soy	fui
servir	sirviendo	servido	sirvo	serví
tener	teniendo	tenido	tengo	tuve
traer	trayendo	traído	traigo	traje
venir	viniendo	venido	vengo	vine
ver	viendo	visto	veo	vi
vestir	vistiendo	vestido	visto	vestí
volver	volviendo	vuelto	vuelvo	volví

TIP

In the present indicative and the preterit columns above, only the 1st person singular (yo) forms are given to get you started. If you cannot recall the remaining verb forms in the present indicative and the preterit tenses of the verbs listed above in the first column under **infinitive**, please practice them by looking them up in this book, where the infinitive form of the verb is listed alphabetically at the top of each model verb from 1 to 501. When you find them, say them aloud at the same time you practice writing them in Spanish. This is a very useful exercise.

INFINITIVE **to eat**

PRESENT PARTICIPLE **eating**

PAST PARTICIPLE **eaten**

Tense no.	The seven simple tenses
1 <i>Present Indicative</i>	I eat, you eat, he (she, it) eats; we eat, you eat, they eat or: I do eat, you do eat, he (she, it) does eat; we do eat, you do eat, they do eat or: I am eating, you are eating, he (she, it) is eating; we are eating, you are eating, they are eating
2 <i>Imperfect Indicative</i>	I was eating, you were eating, he (she, it) was eating; we were eating, you were eating, they were eating or: I ate, you ate, he (she, it) ate; we ate, you ate, they ate or: I used to eat, you used to eat, he (she, it) used to eat; we used to eat, you used to eat, they used to eat
3 <i>Preterit</i>	I ate, you ate, he (she, it) ate; we ate, you ate, they ate or: I did eat, you did eat, he (she, it) did eat; we did eat, you did eat, they did eat
4 <i>Future</i>	I shall eat, you will eat, he (she, it) will eat; we shall eat, you will eat, they will eat
5 <i>Conditional</i>	I would eat, you would eat, he (she, it) would eat; we would eat, you would eat, they would eat
6 <i>Present Subjunctive</i>	that I may eat, that you may eat, that he (she, it) may eat; that we may eat, that you may eat, that they may eat
7 <i>Imperfect or Past Subjunctive</i>	that I might eat, that you might eat, that he (she, it) might eat; that we might eat, that you might eat, that they might eat

Tense no.**The seven compound tenses**

8 <i>Past Perfect or Past Indefinite</i>	I have eaten, you have eaten, he (she, it) has eaten; we have eaten, you have eaten, they have eaten
9 <i>Pluperfect Indic. or Past Perfect</i>	I had eaten, you had eaten, he (she, it) had eaten; we had eaten, you had eaten, they had eaten
10 <i>Past Anterior or Preterit Perfect</i>	I had eaten, you had eaten, he (she, it) had eaten; we had eaten, you had eaten, they had eaten
11 <i>Future Perfect or Future Anterior</i>	I shall have eaten, you will have eaten, he (she, it) will have eaten; we shall have eaten, you will have eaten, they will have eaten
12 <i>Conditional Perfect</i>	I would have eaten, you would have eaten, he (she, it) would have eaten; we would have eaten, you would have eaten, they would have eaten
13 <i>Present Perfect or Past Subjunctive</i>	that I may have eaten, that you may have eaten, that he (she, it) may have eaten; that we may have eaten, that you may have eaten that they may have eaten
14 <i>Pluperfect or Past Perfect Subjunctive</i>	that I might have eaten, that you might have eaten, that he (she, it) might have eaten; that we might have eaten, that you might have eaten, that they might have eaten
<i>Imperative or Command</i>	— eat, let him (her) eat; let us eat, eat, let them eat

A verb is where the action is! A verb is a word that expresses an action (like *go*, *eat*, *write*) or a state of being (like *think*, *believe*, *be*). Tense means time. Spanish and English verb tenses are divided into three main groups of time: past, present, and future. A verb tense shows if an action or state of being took place, is taking place, or will take place.

Spanish and English verbs are also used in moods, or modes. Mood has to do with the way a person regards an action or a state of being that he expresses. For example, a person may merely make a statement or ask a question—this is the Indicative Mood, which we use most of the time in Spanish and English. A person may say that he *would do* something if something else were possible or that he *would have done* something if something else had been possible—this is the Conditional. A person may use a verb *in such a way* that he indicates a wish, a fear, a regret, a joy, a request, a supposition, or something of this sort—this is the Subjunctive Mood. The Subjunctive Mood is used in Spanish much more than in English. Finally, a person may command someone to do something or demand that something be done—this is the Imperative Mood. English Conditional is not a mood. (There is also the Infinitive Mood, but we are not concerned with that here.)

There are six tenses in English: Present, Past, Future, Present Perfect, Past Perfect, and Future Perfect. The first three are simple tenses. The other three are compound tenses and are based on the simple tenses. In Spanish, however, there are fourteen tenses, seven of which are simple and seven of which are compound. The seven compound tenses are based on the seven simple tenses. In Spanish and English, a verb tense is simple if it consists of one verb form, e.g., *estudio*. A verb tense is compound if it consists of two parts—the auxiliary (or helping) verb plus the past participle, e.g., *he estudiado*. See the Summary of verb tenses and moods in Spanish with English equivalents on page 31. We have numbered each tense name for easy reference and recognition.

In Spanish, there is also another tense which is used to express an action in the present. It is called the Progressive Present. It is used only if an action is actually in progress at the time; for example, *Estoy leyendo*/I am reading (right now). It is formed by using the Present Indicative of *estar* plus the present participle of the verb. There is still another tense in Spanish which is used to express an action that was taking place in the past. It is called the Progressive Past. It is used if an action was actually in progress at a certain moment in the past; for example, *Estaba leyendo cuando mi hermano entró*/I was reading when my brother came in. The Progressive Past is formed by using the Imperfect Indicative of *estar* plus the present participle of the verb. See pages 4 and 5 for more on the Progressive forms.

In the pages that follow, the tenses and moods are given in Spanish and the equivalent name or names in English are given in parentheses. Although some of the names given in English are not considered to be tenses (there are only six), they are given for the purpose of identification as they are related to the Spanish names. The comparison includes only the essential points you need to know about the meanings and uses of Spanish verb tenses and moods as related to English usage. We shall use examples to illustrate their meanings and uses. This is not intended to be a detailed treatise. It is merely a summary. We hope you find it helpful.

Tense No. 1 Presente de Indicativo (Present Indicative)

This tense is used most of the time in Spanish and English. It indicates:

- (a) An action or a state of being at the present time.

EXAMPLES:

1. **Hablo español.** *I speak Spanish.*
I am speaking Spanish.
I do speak Spanish.
2. **Creo en Dios.** *I believe in God.*

- (b) Habitual action.

EXAMPLE:

- Voy a la biblioteca todos los días.**
I go to the library every day.
I do go to the library every day.

- (c) A general truth, something which is permanently true.

EXAMPLES:

1. **Seis menos dos son cuatro.**
Six minus two are four.
2. **El ejercicio hace maestro al novicio.**
Practice makes perfect.

- (d) Vividness when talking or writing about past events.

EXAMPLE:

- El asesino se pone pálido. Tiene miedo. Sale de la casa y corre a lo largo del río.**
The murderer turns pale. He is afraid. He goes out of the house and runs along the river.

- (e) A near future.

EXAMPLES:

1. **Mi hermano llega mañana.**
My brother arrives tomorrow.
2. **¿Escuchamos un disco ahora?**
Shall we listen to a record now?

- (f) An action or state of being that occurred in the past and *continues up to the present*.
In Spanish, this is an idiomatic use of the present tense of a verb with **hace**, which is also in the present.

EXAMPLE:

- Hace tres horas que miro la televisión.**
I have been watching television for three hours.

- (g) The meaning of *almost* or *nearly* when used with **por poco**.

EXAMPLE:

- Por poco me matan.**
They almost killed me.

This tense is regularly formed as follows:

Drop the **-ar** ending of an infinitive, like **hablar**, and add the following endings: **o, as, a; amos, áis, an.**

You then get: **hablo, hablas, habla;**
hablamos, habláis, hablan

Drop the **-er** ending of an infinitive, like **beber**, and add the following endings: **o, es, e; emos, éis, en.**

You then get: **bebo, bebes, bebe;**
bebemos, bebéis, beben

Drop the **-ir** ending of an infinitive, like **recibir**, and add the following endings: **o, es, e; imos, ís, en.**

You then get: **recibo, recibes, recibe;**
recibimos, recibís, reciben

Tense No. 2 Imperfecto de Indicativo (Imperfect Indicative)

This is a past tense. Imperfect suggests incomplete. The imperfect tense expresses an action or a state of being that was continuous in the past and its completion is not indicated. This tense is used, therefore, to express:

- (a) An action that was going on in the past at the same time as another action.

EXAMPLE:

Mi hermano leía y mi padre hablaba.

My brother *was reading* and my father *was talking*.

- (b) An action that was going on in the past when another action occurred.

EXAMPLE:

Mi hermana cantaba cuando yo entré.

My sister *was singing* when I came in.

- (c) A habitual action in the past.

EXAMPLE:

1. **Cuando estábamos en Nueva York, íbamos al cine todos los sábados.**

When *we were* in New York, *we went* to the movies every Saturday.

When *we were* in New York, *we used to go* to the movies every Saturday.

2. **Cuando vivíamos en California, íbamos a la playa todos los días.**

When *we used to live* in California, *we would go* to the beach every day.

NOTE: In this last example, *we would go* looks like the conditional, but it is not. It is the imperfect tense in this sentence because habitual action in the past is expressed.

- (d) A description of a mental, emotional, or physical condition in the past.

EXAMPLES:

1. (mental condition) **Quería ir al cine.**

I *wanted* to go to the movies.

Common verbs in this use are **creer, desear, pensar, poder, preferir, querer, saber, sentir.**

2. (emotional condition) **Estaba contento de verlo.**

I *was happy* to see him.

3. (physical condition) **Mi madre era hermosa cuando era pequeña.**

My mother *was beautiful* when she *was young*.

(e) The time of day in the past.

EXAMPLES:

1. ¿Qué hora era?
What time was it?
2. Eran las tres.
It was three o'clock.

- (f) An action or state of being that occurred in the past and *lasted for a certain length of time* prior to another past action. In English it is usually translated as a pluperfect tense and is formed with *had been* plus the present participle of the verb you are using. It is like the special use of the **presente de indicativo** explained in the above section in paragraph (f), except that the action or state of being no longer exists at present. This is an idiomatic use of the imperfect tense of a verb with **hacía**, which is also in the imperfect.

EXAMPLE:

Hacía tres horas que miraba la televisión cuando mi hermano entró.
I had been watching television for three hours when my brother came in.

- (g) An indirect quotation in the past.

EXAMPLE:

Present: Dice que quiere venir a mi casa.
He says *he wants* to come to my house.
Past: Dijo que quería venir a mi casa.
He said *he wanted* to come to my house.

This tense is regularly formed as follows:

Drop the **-ar** ending of an infinitive, like **hablar**, and add the following endings: **aba, abas, aba; ábamos, abais, aban.**

You then get: **hablaba, hablabas, hablaba;**
hablábamos, hablabais, hablaban

The usual equivalent in English is: I was talking OR I used to talk OR I talked; you were talking OR you used to talk OR you talked, etc.

Drop the **-er** ending of an infinitive, like **beber**, or the **-ir** ending of an infinitive, like **recibir**, and add the following endings: **ía, ías, ía; íamos, íais, ían.**

You then get: **bebía, bebías, bebía;**
bebíamos, bebíais, bebían
recibía, recibías, recibía;
recibíamos, recibíais, recibían

The usual equivalent in English is: I was drinking OR I used to drink OR I drank; you were drinking OR you used to drink OR you drank, etc.; I was receiving OR I used to receive OR I received; you were receiving OR you used to receive OR you received, etc.

Verbs irregular in the imperfect indicative:

ir/to go **iba, ibas, iba;** (I was going, I used to go, etc.)
íbamos, ibais, iban
ser/to be **era, eras, era;** (I was, I used to be, etc.)
éramos, erais, eran
ver/to see **veía, veías, veía;** (I was seeing, I used to see, etc.)
veíamos, veíais, veían

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