

SPANISH VERB CATEGORIES



the easiest way to learn verbs

- CATEGORIZE**
- MEMORIZE**

The Seven Categories of Present Tense Verbs

Subject Pronouns tell in what form the verb is conjugated:	1st person	yo-form	nosotros/as-form		
	2nd person	tú-form	vosotros/as-form		
		usted-form	ustedes-form		
3rd person	él-form	ellos-form			
	ella-form	ellas-form			
Singular		Plural			
Conjugate means to put a person and time to a verb in infinitive:	intentar = to try (attempt) intentan = They try.				
Present Tense Verb Categories:	All present tense verbs can fit into one of these categories. Memorize the patterns:				
#1 Regular verbs take on regular endings. To conjugate, take off the AR, ER, IR infinitive endings and add:	AR o amos as áis a an	ER o emos es éis e en	IR o imos es ís e en		
#2 Regular but with irregular yo-form. Verbs are conjugated the same except in yo-form. Memorize these yo-form irregularities:	caer / caigo conducir / conduzco conocer / conozco traducir / traduzco	dar / doy estar / estoy saber / sé traer / traigo	hacer / hago poner / pongo salir / salgo valer / valgo		
#3 Stem-changing verbs always keep regular endings, do not stem-change in nosotros & vosotros form, but change vowels in the stem in the other forms. Memorize the patterns:	<p>U → UE = jugar (this is the only verb with this stem change) juego, juegas, juega, <u>jugamos</u>, <u>jugáis</u>, juegan</p> <p>E → I = pedir (you will never see AR or ER verbs with this stem change). pido, pides, pide, <u>pedimos</u>, <u>pedís</u>, pidien</p> <p>E → IE = pensar pienso, piensas, piensa, <u>pensamos</u>, <u>pensáis</u>, piensan</p> <p>O → UE = dormir duermo, duermes, duerme, <u>dormimos</u>, <u>dormís</u>, duermen</p>				
#4 Stem-changing and irregular yo-form. The most complex category—just like stem changing verbs but also have an irregular yo-form:	venir <u>vengo</u> , vienes, viene, <u>venimos</u> , <u>venís</u> , vienen tener <u>tengo</u> , tienes, tiene, <u>tenemos</u> , <u>tenéis</u> , tienen decir <u>digo</u> , dices, dice, <u>decimos</u> , <u>decís</u> , dicen				
#5 Y-Stem-changing verbs. Similar to stem changing verbs: always keep regular endings, are always regular in nosotros & vosotros, but insert a Y in the other forms:	destruir (this pattern common among UIR-verbs) destruyo, destruyes, destruye, <u>destruimos</u> , <u>destruís</u> , destruyen (The Y-is for easier pronunciation between vowels)				
#6 Y-Stem-changing with irregular yo-form. Conjugate like you would Y-verbs, but memorize irregular yo-form.	oir (this pattern is very rare) <u>oigo</u> , oyes, oye, oimos, oís, oyen				
#7 Irregular verbs just have to be memorized. But there are so very few of these. (VER is irregular in that you only remove the R)	ser soy, eres, es, somos, sois, son ir voy, vas, va, vamos, vais, van ver veo, ves, ve, vemos, véis, ven				
© laurarutterstrickling 2017	As you run across new present tense verbs, place them in one of these categories for quick memorizing. Also, with this new skill, conjugating formal commands and subjunctive will be a snap.				

How to express "TO BE" in Spanish

In English "to be" is expressed with one verb.

In Spanish, you can use several verbs depending on the context.

"To be" conjugated is: I am, you are, he/she/it is, we are, they are, there is, there are

HAY TRANSLATES AS "TO BE"

You will use the verb HAY when you conceptualize "exists". How many students are there (exist) in the classroom? There are none.

¿Cuántos estudiantes hay en la clase?

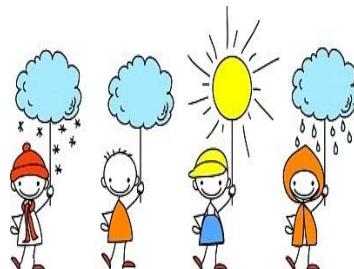
No hay nada.



WEATHER PHRASES CAN TRANSLATE AS "TO BE"

Several verbs are used to express weather.
HACE (HACER) is the most common, but also
ESTÁ (ESTAR):

Hace frío, calor, fresco.	It's cold, hot, fresh.
Hace sol.	It's sunny.
Está nublado.	It's cloudy.
Está húmedo.	It's humid.



The verbs LLOVER (to rain) and NEVAR (to snow) conjugated in 3rd person singular translate as "it is":

Llueve	It's raining.
Nieva	It's snowing.

SOME TENER PHRASES CAN TRANSLATE AS "TO BE"

Some TENER idioms
translate as "to be":

Tener hambre	To be hungry
Tener sed	To be thirsty
Tener prisa	To be in a hurry
Tener razón	To be right
No Tener razón	To be wrong
Tener ____ años	To be--years old
Tener cuidado	To be careful
Tener sueño	To be sleepy
Tener suerte	To be lucky
Tener éxito	To be successful
Tener celos de	To be jealous of
Tener calor	To be warm
Tener frío	To be cold



ESTAR AND SER TRANSLATE AS "TO BE"

It takes time to learn the difference between SER and ESTAR.

It will help if you **do not** think of these verbs as temporary or permanent because you will find that you will become confused.

Instead, memorize the categories.

ESTAR

estoy	estamos
estás	estáis
está	están

MEMORIZE THE CATEGORY. YOU WILL USE ESTAR WHEN YOU WANT TO COMMUNICATE:	MEMORIZE A SPANISH SENTENCE FOR CONTEXT	TRANSLATION
1-Condition 	Estoy contenta hoy. Están casados. ¿Estás feliz? Lila está enamorada. Mi gato está muerto.	I'm content today. They are married. Are you happy? Lila is in love. My cat is dead.
2- Location	¿Dónde está el banco? Estoy en frente.	Where is the bank? I'm in front.

3- Also use ESTAR for progressive tense

Juana está comiendo.

Juana is eating.

SER

MEMORIZE THE CATEGORY YOU WILL USE SER WHEN YOU WANT TO COMMUNICATE:	MEMORIZE A SPANISH SENTENCE FOR CONTEXT	TRANSLATION
1- Identity	Son estudiantes.	They are students.
2- Physical Traits	Soy alto.	I am tall.
3- Personality Traits	Ella es organizada.	She is organized.
4- Profession	Juan es medico.	Juan is a doctor.
5- Possession	Es de mi padre.	It's my father's.
6- Nationality/Origin	Soy de Israel.	I'm from Israel.
7- Made of	Es de plástico.	It's made of plastic.
8- Time	Son las once.	It's eleven o'clock.
9- Date	Es el 24 de junio.	It's the 24 th of June.

10- SER is also used for an event or occurrence.

¿Dónde será la fiesta?

Where will the party take

11- SER is used for impersonal expressions.

Es una lástima.

It's a shame.

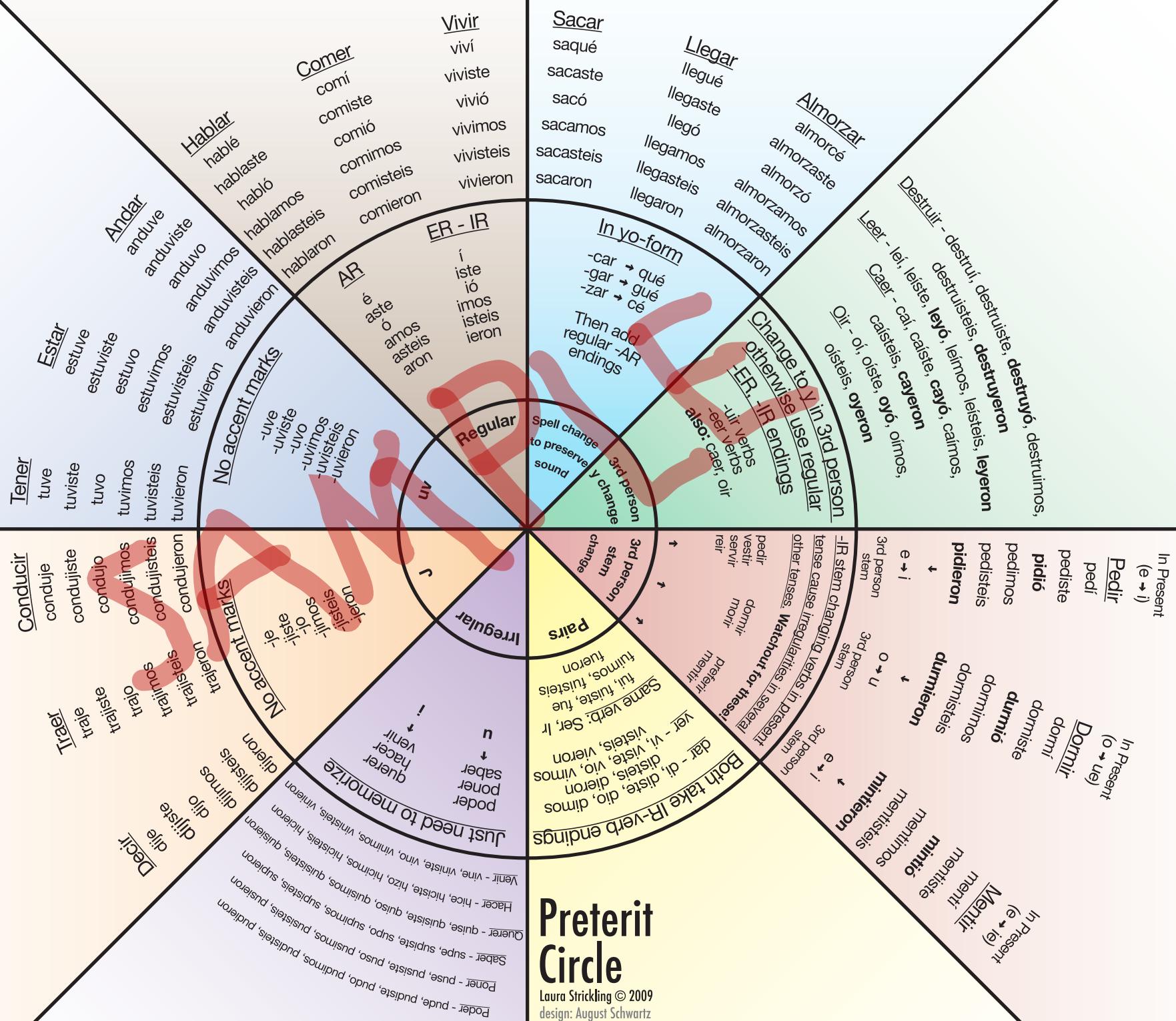
12- SER is used for passive voice.

El libro fue escrito por Lorca.

The book was written by Lorca.

The Differences Between Imperfect and Preterit Past Tense

	Imperfect Past				Preterit Past					
How to conjugate:	AR		ER-IR		AR		ER-IR			
	aba abas aba	ábamos abais aban	ía ías ía	íamos íais ían	é aste ó	amos asteis aron	í iste ió	imos isteis ieron		
Exceptions to regular conjugations:	SER-to be era eras era éramos erais eran	IR-to go iba ibas iba íbamos ibais iban	VER-to see veía veías veía veíamos veíais veían				There are many other categories. See the <i>Preterit Circle</i>			
When to use:	1. an on-going past action 2. "used to be" or "used to do something" 3. expressing time in the past 4. expressing age in the past 5. setting the stage for something to happen, describing, mental states				1. countable actions 2. sudden actions 3. the focal point, making lists of past actions 4. actions that move the story along					
Words that could signal the use of imperfect or preterit tense:	mientras (while) ... siempre (always) a menudo (often) cada día (every day) muchas veces (many times) de niño (as a child)				de pronto (all of a sudden) de repente (all of a sudden) una vez (once) un día (one day) anoche (last night) ayer (yesterday) por tres minutos (for three minutes)					
Examples:	De niño yo era gordo. Eran a las dos de la mañana. Vivía en México cuando tenía dos años. Susana preparaba la cena cuando el criminal robó las joyas. El padre fumaba mientras los hijos jugaban.				Ayer comí tres hamburguesas. !De repente, el perro habló en inglés! Una vez vi al presidente. Anoche cantamos por tres horas.					



Preterit Circle

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Subjunctive Mood in a Nutshell

indicative mood refers to actions, events, facts

Verb tense refers to *when* an action takes place. There are many parallel tenses in indicative and subjunctive and they translate into English as the same word.

subjunctive mood refers to influencing others, doubts, emotions

imperative mood: bossy and all to itself (not part of our discussion today)

Two-Clause Sentences: Indicative + Subjunctive

Clauses are phrases with verbs in them. Most sentences that call upon the use of subjunctive verbs are two-clause sentences separated by the conjunction “que”.

The first clause is indicative and the second clause is subjunctive:

Es importante que ustedes lleguen a tiempo.

(It's important that you all arrive on time.)

But not all two-clause sentences need subjunctive: Indicative + Indicative

The first clause is indicative and the second clause is indicative:

No dudo que eres mi amigo.

(I do not doubt the you are my friend.)

Other indicative 1st clauses that signal indicative in 2nd clause:

Creo que ...

Mi opinión es que...

Estoy de acuerdo que...

Es un hecho que...

Es evidente que...

Es seguro que...

Es cierto que...

Ocurre que...

Es verdad que...

Es obvio que...

Se sabe que...

So what's up with this?
How do we know when to use subjunctive in the second clause?

Sample

How do we know if we should use subjunctive in the second clause?

The answer: If the first clause (in indicative) exerts influence, expresses doubt or emotion, then you will use subjunctive in the second clause.

REMEMBER:

INFLUENCE, DOUBT, EMOTION
signal the use of subjunctive in the 2nd clause

When you conjugate Indicative verbs in the 1st clause that express:

INFLUENCE:

DESIRER
desear que
insistir en que
preferir que
sugerirle que
pedirle que
recomendarle que
aconsejarle que
permitir que
querer que
decirle que
mandar que

OPINION
es mejor que
es bueno-malo que
es importante que

DOUBT:

NEGATION
tal vez
acaso
quizás
dudar que
es posible que
es imposible que
es probable que
es improbable que
no es cierto que
no es evidente que
no es verdad que
no es seguro que
no estoy seguro de que
no creo que
no ocurre que
no es obvio que

EMOTION:

WISH
esperar que
ojalá que
temer que
sentir que
tener miedo que
alegrarse de que
estoy....(emotion) de que
sentirse que
gustarle que
molestarle que
irritarle que
sorprenderle que
lamentar que

EXPRESSIONS
Que no venga (agent is implied)

they signal the use of use of subjunctive in 2nd clause:

conjugated subjunctive verb

es necesario que
es interesante que
es increíble que
es preciso que
no es lógico que
es una lástima que

PREVENT

prohibir que
no querer que
no permitir que

no se sabe que
es una mentira que

RELATIVE CLAUSES

Busco alguien que...

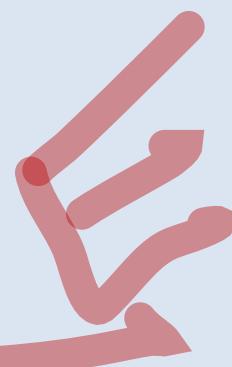
CONJUNCTIONS (in place of "que") THAT CAST DEPENDENCE UPON AND THEREFORE UNCERTAINTY

en cuanto
if (and future)
de manera que
de modo que
tan pronto como
después de que
hasta que
cuando
una vez (in context)

always use subjunctive in 2nd clause after these conjunctions:

así que
aunque
para que
antes de que
a condición de que
a fin de que
a menos que
con tal de que
sin que

SA



Some examples

Exerting influence (desires): Insisto en que **estudies todos los días.**

Exerting influence (opinión): Es mejor que **los niños duerman aquí.**

Exerting influence (prevent): Mi madre no me permite que **vaya con ellos.**

Expressing doubt (negation): No es cierto que **ellos tomen la computadora.**

Expressing doubt (relative clause): Busco alguien que **sepa cocinar.**

Expressing doubt (dependence upon): Voy a comer tan pronto como **mis amigos lleguen.**

Expressing emotion (wish): Espero que mi jefe nuevo sea simpático.

Emotive expressions: Que **no venga el ladrón aquí.**

Translating to English

In English there is no special word for subjunctive verbs. In other words, indicative and subjunctive verbs both translate the same. For example:

ellos **llegan** = they arrive

ellos **lleguen** = they arrive

Es cierto que **los estudiantes quieren comer.** (It's certain that the students want to eat.)

No es cierto que **los estudiantes quieran comer.** (It's not certain that the students want to eat.)

Common Errors in Spanish Essays

Double-Proofread for these

Be sure to watch that:	Spanish example:	English Translation:
adjectives need to match noun in number and gender	los zapatos rojos y grandes	the big red shoes
articles need to match noun in number and gender	los hombres / unas chicas un animal / la casa	the men /some girls an animal / the house
placement of descriptive adjectives after the noun	las flores amarillas bonitas	the beautiful yellow flowers
expressing possession--never use an 'S, instead use a "de" construction	la casa de mi amiga	my friend's house
use TENER with age--always	Tengo 26 años.	I am 26 years old
only use GUSTA/GUSTAN in GUSTAR constructions	Me gustan los caramelos. not: yo gusto los caramelos	The caramels, they please, me.
Make sure verbs are conjugated to represent person	Pedro y Raúl (ellos) trabajan mucho.	Pedro and Raúl (they) work a lot.
make sure you are using SER and ESTAR correctly	see SER and ESTAR page	see SER and ESTAR page

SAMPLE

Filler Words and Prepositions for Better Essays

SPANISH WORD	ENGLISH TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
a (also verb infinitives)	to	a la casa (comer = to eat)
antes de (verb infinitive)	before (finishing)	antes de terminar
a propósito	by the way	A propósito, ¿puede hablar chino?
y, e	and	gato y perro , gato e iguana
o, u	or	pastel o torta, fuego u horno
contra	against	contra el plan
con	with	los helados con chocolate
de	of, with, from, (possession)	de mi amigo
durante	during	durante la clase
después de (verb infinitive)	after (eating)	después de comer
hasta	until	Trabajo hasta morir.
según	according to	Según mi mapa, estamos perdidos.
sin	without	Ven conmigo sin hablar.