

THE VERB TENSES IN SPANISH

INDICATIVE MOOD		SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD		CONDITIONAL MOOD		IMPERATIVE
present yo hablo yo como yo vivo	present perfect yo he hablado yo he comido yo he vivido	present yo hable yo coma yo viva	present perfect yo haya hablado yo haya comido yo haya vivido	simple yo hablaría yo comería yo viviría	perfect yo habría hablado yo habría comido yo habría vivido	habla tú, hable Ud. come tú, coma Ud. vive tú, viva Ud.
preterit yo hablé yo comí yo viví	pluperfect yo había hablado yo había comido yo había vivido	imperfect yo hablara yo comiera yo viviera	pluperfect yo hubiera hablado yo hubiera comido yo hubiera vivido			
imperfect yo hablaba yo comía yo vivía	future perfect yo habré hablado yo habré comido yo habré vivido					
future yo hablaré yo comeré yo viviré						

Usages:

The **present perfect** is used to refer to a **past action** that usually has an **effect on the present**: He estudiado 3 años de español. In Spain, it is used as the preterit.

The **pluperfect** (a.k.a. past perfect): to refer to an action that occurred **before another past action**: ella salió a las 12:00, pero ya había comprado los boletos de cine por teléfono.

The **future perfect**: to indicate that a certain action will occur **by a certain time**: ex: habré terminado para el sábado.

The **present subjunctive** *may imply the future* and is used in the 2nd clause, when the first clause contains a wish, emotion, etc., about the 2nd clause, usually preceded by **que**

ex: Mis padres esperan que yo *sea* feliz. (My parents hope I am / I will be happy)

unless it contains an *adverbial clause*, in which case, the **que** may or may not exist in the adverbial clause

ex: Yo voy a salir de la universidad en cuanto terminen las clases. (I will leave the university as soon as classes end).

The **imperfect subjunctive** is used as the present subjunctive, but when the wish, emotion, etc., occurs in the past.

ex: Mis padres esperaban que *fuera* feliz. (My parents hoped I was happy)

ex: Mis padres iban a visitarme en cuanto *terminaran* las clases. (compare: Mis padres me visitaron en cuanto terminaron las clases)

or in a **SI-clause** (if-clause) to express hypothetical situations in the **present**:

ex: Si *tuviera* más tiempo, aprendería a esquiar. (If I had more time, I would learn to ski)

The **present perfect subjunctive** is used as the present subjunctive, but when the wish, emotion, etc. occurs in the present or future, and verb of the 2nd clause

indicates an action that occurred **before the main verb**:

ex: Espero que *hayan llegado* a tiempo. (I hope they have arrived on time)

ex: Voy a viajar en cuanto *haya escrito* todas las cartas. (I'll travel as soon as I have written the letters.)

The **pluperfect subjunctive** (a.k.a. past subjunctive) is used as any subjunctive tense, but when what is wished, etc., took place **before the main verb**

that is in the preterit or imperfect:

ex: Teresa se alegró de que su novio le *hubiera comprado* un regalo el día de los enamorados. (She was glad her boyfriend had bought her a gift....)

or in a **SI-clause** (if-clause), to express hypothetical situations in the **past**:

ex: Si *hubiera tenido* más tiempo, habría aprendido a esquiar. (If I had had more time, I would have learned to ski)