

Summary of Present Tense

Patterned irregular:

“G” verbs (hacer, decir, oír, poner, salir, traer, tener, venir)

“Z” verbs (conocer, parecer, merecer, pertenecer)

“Stem-changing” verbs

E-->I

servir, pedir, vestir, repetir

E-->IE

tener, venir, sentar, cerrar, pensar

O-->UE

dormir, poder, costar, encontrar, soñar, mostrar



<i>(subject)</i>	-AR	-ER	-IR
yo	-o	-o	-o
tú	-as	-es	-es
él/ella/usted	-a	-e	-e
nosotros	-amos	-emos	-imos
vosotros	-áis	-éis	-ís
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-an	-en	-en

Just plain irregular:

ser: *soy, eres, es, somos, son*

ir: *voy, vas, va, vamos, van*

saber: *sé...*

ver: *veo...*

dar: *doy...*

estar: *estoy...*



Sudden past

a.k.a el pretérito

REGULAR

	-AR	-ER/-IR
yo	-é	-í
tú	-aste	-iste
él/ella/ud.	-ó	-ió
nosotros	-amos	-imos
vosotros	-asteis	-isteis
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	-aron	-ieron

Special spelling rule:

IF 3 pronounced vowels are in a row

AND the middle one is *i*

THEN the *i* changes to *y*

caer	construir
caio	construio
cayó	construyó

BUT: ^{silent}
seguir
siguieron
^{still silent}

PATTERNED IRREGULAR

THIS VERB ^{changes to} THIS STEM ^{before adding} THESE ENDINGS

hacer	hic-	
andar	anduv-	
haber	hub-	-e
estar	estuv-	-iste
tener	tuv-	-o
poder	pud-	-imos
poner	pus-	-isteis
venir	vin-	-ieron
querer	quis-	
saber	sup-	
caber	cup-	

conducir	conduj-	
decir	dij-	-eron
traer	traj-	

these drop the 'i' on the last ending only

"STEM CHANGERS"

IF

- verb vowel changes in present tense

AND

- verb infinitive ends in *-ir*

AND

- subject is 3rd person (él, ella, usted, ellos, ellas, ustedes)

THEN

- e --> i
- o --> u

PEDIR:	DORMIR:
pedí	dormí
pediste	dormiste
pidió	durmió
pedimos	dormimos
pedisteis	dormisteis
pidieron	durmieron

Other common examples:
servir, vestir, repetir
morir

JUST PLAIN IRREGULAR

IR and *SER* both become: *DAR* (rhymes with *VER*):

fui	di
fuiste	diste
fue	dio
fuimos	dimos
fuisteis	disteis
fueron	dieron



Descriptive past

a.k.a el imperfecto

REGULAR

	-AR	-ER/-IR
yo	-aba	-ía
tú	-abas	-ías
él/ella/ud.	-aba	-ía
nosotros	-ábamos	-íamos
vosotros	-abais	-íais
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	-aban	-ían

IRREGULAR

	IR	VER	SER
yo	iba	veía	era
tú	ibas	veías	eras
él/ella/ud.	iba	veía	era
nosotros	íbamos	veíamos	éramos
vosotros	ibais	veíais	erais
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	iban	veían	eran



USES

- Past action in progress
often was/were + _____ing
“We were watching television when...”
- Setting the scene in the past
Including setting the time, period, or place
“It was nine o’clock when...”
“When I was a child/young/a certain age...”
“We were at the store and...”
“It was a dark and stormy night...”
- Talking about habits in the past
often includes “used to” or “would” to establish habit
“We used to go every year...”
“We would swim there every summer...”
- Describing things and people in the past
“He was tall and handsome...”
“The park was large and full of trees...”
- Simultaneous actions joined by “while”
“She painted while he read her a story...”

A note about the descriptive past:

*Many times in language, there seem to be exceptions to every “rule”! You may see or hear a native speaker use the sudden past for something that seems to fit very well in the “uses” for the descriptive past. This is a judgment call. It’s all about **how you feel** about the action. Use the list as a general guideline and don’t stress about it! Ask yourself, “Is this like a snapshot (sudden past)? Or more like painting a landscape (descriptive past)?”*

Future | Conditional

INSTEAD OF TRANSLATING
"will" | **"would"**

	ALL
yo	-é
tú	-ás
él/ella/ud.	-á
nosotros	-emos
vosotros	-éis
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	-án

DON'T TAKE OFF

-AR, -ER, -IR

INSTEAD, ADD

	ALL
yo	-ía
tú	-ías
él/ella/ud.	-ía
nosotros	-íamos
vosotros	-íais
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	-ían

IRREGULAR STEMS FOR BOTH:

dir-	podr-	pondr-
har-	querr-	saldr-
	sabr-	tendr-
	habr-	vendr-

Future for conjecture/probability:

I wonder where he is?

¿Dónde *estará*?

He's probably at/in...

Estará en...



Conditional for conjecture/probability:

I wonder where he was?

¿Dónde *estaría*?

He was probably at/in...

Estaría en...

Commands

Formal (ud.)

Informal (tú)

pronouns go between "no" and verb

Negative
"NO"

CRAZY VERB SWITCH

(subjunctive)

1. put verb in *yo* form
2. drop *o*
3. add "opposite" vowel endings:

don't forget the irregulars!

+

AR:

-e

ER/IR:

-a



CRAZY VERB SWITCH

(subjunctive)

1. put verb in *yo* form
2. drop *o*
3. add "opposite" vowel endings:

AR:

-es

ER/IR:

-as

Negative
"NO"

pronouns go between "no" and verb

pronouns attach to end

Positive

NORMAL UD. FORM

1. drop ar/er/ir

+

AR:

-a

ER/IR:

-e



Positive

pronouns attach to end

IRREGULARS:

decir	di
hacer	haz
ir	ve
poner	pon
salir	sal
ser	sé
tener	ten
venir	ven

Crazy verb switch

a.k.a el subjuntivo

Present

- 1 Put the verb in *yo* form.
- 2 Drop the *o*.
- 3 Add the "opposite" vowel ending.

yo

Irregulars:
dé, esté, haya, vaya, sepa, sea

Ø

	-AR	-ER/-IR
yo	-e	-a
tú	-es	-as
él/ella/ud.	-e	-a
nosotros	-emos	-amos
vosotros	-éis	-áis
ellos/ellas/uds.	-en	-aron

Past

- 1 Put the verb in *ellos* sudden past (pretérito).
- 2 Drop the *ron*.
- 3 Add a *-ra* or *-se* ending.*

Common "irregulars":
fuera, hiciera, supiera, tuviera, diera, dijera, quisiera

(AR, ER, & IR)	"ra"	"se"
yo	-ra	-se
tú	-ras	-ses
él/ella/ud.	-ra	-se
nosotros	-ramos	-semos
vosotros	-rais	-seis
ellos/ellas/uds.	-ran	-sen

accent the preceding vowel:
diéramos

*the *-ra* endings are *generally* preferred in Latin America and the *-se* endings are *generally* preferred in Spain, but many speakers use them interchangeably.

When & why

some general guidelines

AFTER:

- **E**xpression of influence, emotion, or doubt/denial, when followed by QUE (includes ojalá): VERB SWITCH!
 quiero me alegre de dudo QUE mi amiga *vaya* conmigo a la playa.
 no es verdad
- **T**hing + que when the thing is something *nonexistent* or indefinite: VERB SWITCH!
 Busco alguien QUE *hable* alemán.
 No hay nadie
- **C**onjunctions of contingency and purpose:
 Ayudemos a Bryce PARA QUE *pueda* ir con nosotros al centro comercial.
 VERB SWITCH!
 con tal de que
 a menos que
 para que
 en caso de que
 antes de que
- **C**onjunctions of time when the action is in the future:
 Mi hermano quiere comer ANTES DE QUE *salgamos* para el cine.
 VERB SWITCH!
- **W**ord *si* in an "unreal" if clause (use past only, usually followed by conditional)
 Si *tuviera* un millón de dólares, compraría un descapotable.
 (I do not actually have *un millón de dólares*, so it's unreal.)
 VERB SWITCH!



Happening verbs

a.k.a el progresivo

Part 1: intro verb

These verbs parallel the English "is" verbs and others like "goes around" and "keeps on"

Change for the tense you're using*:

estar
(most common)

andar

seguir

ir



Part 2: ando/iendo verb

This part parallels the English -ing verbs.

Drop *-ar, -er, -ir* and add:

-AR	-ER/-IR
-ando	-iendo

+

IRREGULARS:

Special vowel changes:

IF

- verb vowel changes in present tense

AND

- verb infinitive ends in *-ir*

THEN

- *e* --> *i* (*diciendo, pidiendo*)
- *o* --> *u* (*durmiendo*)

Special spelling rule:

IF 3 pronounced vowels are in a row
AND the middle one is *i*
THEN *i* changes to *y*
cayendo, trayendo, construyendo, disminuyendo, distrayendo

Ir & *poder* are just irregular (though uncommon):

yendo
pudiendo

*using this construction in the past, native speakers usually prefer the descriptive forms (*estaba*)

-ado/-ido words



a.k.a el uso de los participios

How?

parallels the English -ed participle (which also has many, many irregulars like gone, sung, and written)

-AR	-ER/-IR
-ado	-ido

MOST COMMON IRREGULARS:

hacer	hecho
decir	dicho
escribir	escrito
poner	puesto
abrir	abierto
freír	frito
cubrir	cubierto
morir	muerto
romper	roto
ver	visto
satisfacer	satisfecho
volver	vuelto

Words that end in these verbs will follow their pattern. So, **suponer** becomes **supuesto**.

When?

- **with estar**

to describe the state of something (and the *participio* will change to match the number and gender of the 'something')

Cuando fui, la tienda estaba cerrada.

- **with ser**

to use passive voice (and the *participio* will change to match the number and gender of the subject).

Los partidos fueron jugados en el estadio de Antalya.

- **alone**

to describe something (and the *participio* will change to match the number and gender of the subject).

Vimos tus fotos publicadas en Facebook.

- **with haber**

to say what happened in reference to another point in time [parallels the English has/had/will have (etc.) happened]

¿Cómo ha cambiado la tecnología?

USING HABER:

	present	descriptive past*	crazy verb switch (pres.)	crazy verb switch (past)	future "will"	conditional "would"
yo	he	había	haya	hubiera	habré	habría
tú	has	habías	hayas	hubieras	habrás	habrías
él/ella/ud.	ha	había	haya	hubiera	habrá	habría
nosotros	hemos	habíamos	hayamos	hubiéramos	habremos	habríamos
vosotros	habéis	habíais	hayáis	hubierais	habréis	habrías
ellos/ellas/uds.	han	habían	hayan	hubieran	habrán	habrían

*this construction is rare in the sudden past