



BATTLE PLAN: GRAMMAR

THE 8 PARTS OF SPEECH (plus “yes” and “no”)

NOUNS

- words that represent people, places or things
- can be subjects, objects and/or agents

VERBS

- words that represent actions

ADJECTIVES

- words that tell us more about nouns; they modify or describe nouns

ADVERBS

- words that tell us more about verbs, adjectives or other adverbs; they modify or describe them

PREPOSITIONS

- words the speaker uses to POSITION one noun (in our minds) BEFORE it interacts with a second noun (pre-position)
- connector words; allow us to connect additional nouns (objects) to our clauses

PRONOUNS

- words that replace nouns, or represent nouns in some way
- grammatically, I look at pronouns as nouns, they're just a special type of noun

CONJUNCTIONS

- connector words; allow us to connect additional words, phrases or clauses to our sentences
- conjunctions are to clauses what prepositions are to nouns

INTERJECTIONS

- an abrupt remark, made especially as an aside or interruption
- like inject (put something into) & eject (kick something out) but interject means “put something between”

YES/NO

- sometimes “yes” is an adverb
- sometimes “no” is an adjective
- sometimes they're both interjections
- sometimes they're just “yes” & “no”

NOMENCLATURE

phrase -- group of words working together without a verb

clause -- group of words working together with a verb (and a subject and direct object--even if they're not mentioned)

active construction -- the subject does the verb grammatically and the action in reality

passive construction -- the subject does the verb grammatically, but NOT the action in reality

THE SENTENCE

Each sentence is comprised of words (vocabulary) with a central, core idea. The words are first grouped into phrases and clauses, then organized into sentences. The phrases, clauses and sentences are all assembled according to local customs and habits (grammar “rules”).



BATTLE PLAN: NOUNS

At its essence, every clause contains a noun doing a verb to a noun. Most of the other parts of the sentence are tools the speaker uses to talk about those nouns (frame them). Below are the topics (and subtopics) you need to be familiar with, relating to nouns.

GENDER

- masculine/feminine

NUMBER

- singular/plural

OBJECTS

- objects are people, places or things (nouns) that the subject interacts with in a clause, via the verb
- direct objects
- indirect objects
- objects of a preposition

ADJECTIVES

- adjectives are used to modify or describe nouns
- definite & indefinite articles
- numbers
- descriptive adjectives
- possessive adjectives
- interrogative adjectives
- demonstrative adjectives
- comparison adjectives

PRONOUNS

- used to replace or represent nouns
- subject pronouns
- direct object pronouns
- indirect object pronouns
- object of a preposition pronouns
- reflexive object pronouns
- double object pronouns
- possessive pronouns
- interrogative pronouns
- demonstrative pronouns
- relative pronouns

PREPOSITIONS

- used to position how nouns do actions or interact with other nouns (they PRE-POSITION nouns)



BATTLE PLAN: VERBS

THE BASIC IDEAS

There are three battles-within-a-battle that we must win to conquer verb conjugation.

- 1) understand the concepts of *the infinitive* and *verb conjugation*
- 2) memorize the conjugation patterns
- 3) learn when to use each verb tense

NOMENCLATURE

Verb tenses don't really have names. We give them names to make teaching and learning them easier--to discuss them for any reason.

The most popular Spanish websites often refer to the same verb tenses by different names.

The names I use for stuff are just the names I use. I do use common names, but they have other names too.

VERB TENSES IN SPANISH

Below is a list of all the verb tenses you need to learn. Each verb tense also has its own checklist featuring all the conjugation patterns you need to learn for that tense.

SIMPLE PRESENT

- 3 regular patterns
- lots of irregular patterns
- difficult

IMPERFECT

- 2 regular patterns
- only three irregular verbs
- not difficult

PRETERITE

- 2 regular patterns
- lots of irregular patterns
- difficult

FUTURE

- only 1 regular pattern
- three irregular patterns (very similar to conditional irregular patterns)
- not difficult

CONDITIONAL

- only 1 regular pattern
- three irregular patterns (very similar to conditional irregular patterns)
- not difficult

IMPERATIVE

- affirmative commands
- negative commands
- a few spelling changes and irregulars, but not many
- not difficult

THE PROGRESSIVES

- powerful; learn only the present participle to speak in five more tenses
- 2 regular patterns
- some irregular patterns, but not many
- pretty easy

THE PERFECTS

- powerful; learn only the past participle to speak in five more tenses
- 2 regular patterns
- some irregular patterns, but not many
- confusing at first, but easy

THE SUBJUNCTIVE

- there are 7 subjunctive tenses, but two of them are NOT used and one is RARELY used
- a separate world (mood) with 4 tenses to learn
- difficult, but not as hard as they make it seem

ADVERBS

- adverbs modify or describe verbs, adjectives or other adverbs.
- adverbs of manner
- adverbs of degree
- adverbs of time
- adverbs of place
- adverbs of comparison



BATTLE PLAN: SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

At first, focus exclusively on the three, regular conjugation patterns. Learn those. Learn them well. You need to know them like the back of your hand. The better you know those three, regular patterns, the easier the irregulars will be. And the other tenses too!

REGULAR

AR VERBS

ER VERBS

IR VERBS

STEM-CHANGING

O TO UE

E TO IE

E TO I

IRREGULAR GROUPS

VOWEL + CER

ENDS IN UCIR

CONSONANT + CER/CIR

ENDS IN GER/GIR

ENDS IN GUIR

ENDS IN UIR (NO G)

JUST PLAIN IRREGULAR

HABER

ESTAR, DAR, IR

SER, ESTAR

THE TENER FAMILY

VERBS KINDA LIKE TENER

SABER, VER, OÍR



BATTLE PLAN: IMPERFECT TENSE

The imperfect tense is SO much easier than the simple present tense (and the preterite tense--next). There are only two regular conjugation patterns this time--and only three irregular verbs. Not three patterns--three verbs! That's cool!

REGULAR

AR VERBS

ER & IR VERBS

IRREGULAR

IR

SER

VER



BATTLE PLAN: PRETERITE TENSE

The present and preterite tenses are the hardest ones, because there are so many irregular patterns to learn. The good news is, when you're done with the preterite, the worst is behind you. At first, it's best to focus solely on the two regular conjugation patterns.

REGULAR

AR VERBS

ER & IR VERBS

SPELLING CHANGES

G TO GU

C TO QU

Z TO C

IRREGULAR

IR & SER

DECIR & TRAER

VER & DAR

HABER

VERBS LIKE DORMIR

VERBS LIKE SENTIR

VERBS LIKE PEDIR

VERBS LIKE CREER

VERBS LIKE REDUCIR

VERBS KINDA LIKE TENER

VERBS KINDA LIKE SABER

VERBS KINDA LIKE QUERER

VERBS KINDA LIKE CONSTRUIR



BATTLE PLAN: FUTURE TENSE

The future tense is the easiest tense yet. There's only ONE regular pattern to learn! PLUS, there are only a few *irregular* patterns. PLUS, once you know the *future* irregular patterns, learning *the conditional* irregulars (next) is super easy--they're basically the same.

REGULAR

AR, ER & IR VERBS

IRREGULAR

VERBS LIKE SABER

VERBS LIKE SALIR

VERBS LIKE DECIR



BATTLE PLAN: CONDITIONAL TENSE

If you've already learned the future tense conjugation patterns, the conditional tense will be nothing! In the conditional tense, there's only ONE regular conjugation pattern. PLUS, the three irregular patterns are very similar to those of the future tense.

REGULAR

AR, ER & IR VERBS

IRREGULAR

VERBS LIKE SABER

VERBS LIKE SALIR

VERBS LIKE DECIR



BATTLE PLAN: THE IMPERATIVE

The imperative tense isn't as hard as it's made to seem. There are only three regular patterns, with very few irregulars. Learn the one regular, *affirmative* pattern and the two regular, *negative* patterns, then move on with your life. Come back for the irregular patterns when you decide it's time.

REGULAR, AFFIRMATIVE

AR, ER & IR VERBS

REGULAR, NEGATIVE

AR VERBS

ER & IR VERBS

NEGATIVE, SPELLING CHANGE

WHEN YO FORM ENDS IN OY, DROP OY

C TO QU

G TO GU

Z TO C

COMMON IRREGULAR, AFFIRMATIVE & NEGATIVE

The verbs below are irregular in both the affirmative and negative forms. There are more irregulars, but not many.

DECIR

HACER

IR

PONER

SALIR

SER

TENER

VENIR

SABER



BATTLE PLAN: THE PROGRESSIVES

The five progressive tenses are formed by combining “estar” and the present participle of another verb.

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

REGULAR VERBS

AR VERBS

ER & IR VERBS

STEM-CHANGING IR VERBS

O TO U

E TO I

O TO U

ER & IR VERBS W/ STEM ENDING IN VOWEL

ER VERBS

IR VERBS

IR

THE PROGRESSIVE TENSES

To form the progressive tenses, conjugate “estar” in the appropriate tense, then add the present participle.

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE: ESTAR (PRESENT) + PRESENT PARTICIPLE

PRETERITE PROGRESSIVE: ESTAR (PRETERITE) + PRESENT PARTICIPLE

IMPERFECT PROGRESSIVE: ESTAR (IMPERFECT) + PRESENT PARTICIPLE

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE: ESTAR (FUTURE) + PRESENT PARTICIPLE

CONDITIONAL PROGRESSIVE: ESTAR (CONDITIONAL) + PRESENT PARTICIPLE



BATTLE PLAN: THE PERFECTS

The five perfect tenses are formed by combining “haber” and the past participle of another verb.

PAST PARTICIPLE

REGULAR VERBS

AR VERBS

ER & IR VERBS

ER & IR VERBS W/ ÍDO ENDING

ATRAER

CAER

CREER

LEER

OÍR

TRAER

POSEER

SONREÍR

JUST PLAIN IRREGULAR

These “just plain irregular” verbs must be memorized individually. Below are the most common. There are more than this, but not many.

ABRIR

DECIR

DESCRIBIR

ESCRIBIR

FREÍR

HACER

MORIR

PONER

ROMPER

VER

VOLVER

THE PERFECT TENSES

To form the perfect tenses, conjugate “haber” in the appropriate tense, then add the past participle.

PRESENT PERFECT: HABER (PRESENT) + PAST PARTICIPLE

PRETERITE PERFECT: HABER (PRETERITE) + PAST PARTICIPLE

IMPERFECT PERFECT: HABER (IMPERFECT) + PAST PARTICIPLE

FUTURE PERFECT: HABER (FUTURE) + PAST PARTICIPLE

CONDITIONAL PERFECT: HABER (CONDITIONAL) + PAST PARTICIPLE



BATTLE PLAN: THE SUBJUNCTIVE

There are seven subjunctive tenses, but two aren't used, and one is rarely used. Learn these four tenses for real: Present, Imperfect #1, Present Perfect, Past Perfect. Ignore both future tenses. Then just be able to recognize Imperfect #2. The good news is, there are very few irregular verbs in the present subjunctive and zero in the imperfect subjunctive.

THE SUBJUNCTIVE

PRESENT

IMPERFECT 1

IMPERFECT 2

FUTURE

PRESENT, REGULAR

AR, ER, IR VERBS

PRESENT, IRREGULAR

DAR

ESTAR

HABER

IR

SABER

SER

IMPERFECTS (BOTH)

AR, ER, IR VERBS

THE SUBJUNCTIVE PERFECTS

PRESENT PERFECT

PAST PERFECT

FUTURE PERFECT

PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE PERFECT:

HABER (PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE) + PAST PARTICIPLE

PAST SUBJUNCTIVE PERFECT:

HABER (PAST SUBJUNCTIVE) + PAST PARTICIPLE