



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