

Gramática

Nouns are words that refer to an object or thing, often preceded by 'the' or 'a'.

In Spanish, nouns are always either masculine or feminine. Almost all masculine nouns end in -o, whilst most feminine nouns end in -a, e.g. *el amigo / la amiga, el puerto / la puerta*.

But there are some exceptions:

Masculine word patterns

- words ending in -ma (yes, ma is masculine in Spanish!), e.g. *el programa*.
- usually words ending in -e, e.g. *el puente* (exceptions include *la gente, la leche, la calle, la carne*)
- usually words ending in -i, -l, -r or -u, e.g. *el autor*

Feminine word patterns

- words ending in -dad (yes, dad is feminine in Spanish!), e.g. *la calidad*
- words ending in -ión and -sis, e.g. *la crisis*

- 1** Classify the following words into the masculine (el) or feminine (la) categories in the table below.

| | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| sistema | calle | ciudad | problema |
| chico | cuestión | música | publicidad |
| traje | móvil | argumento | ausencia |
| televisión | motor | ordenador | |

| Masculine | Feminine |
|-----------|----------|
| | |

- 2** Write el or la before each noun according to whether it is masculine or feminine.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 _____ tema | 7 _____ estación |
| 2 _____ prioridad | 8 _____ planeta |
| 3 _____ mente | 9 _____ yogur |
| 4 _____ muerte | 10 _____ cuadro |
| 5 _____ mapa | 11 _____ lámpara |
| 6 _____ coche | 12 _____ nación |

LOS NÚMEROS

1 uno 11 once
 2 dos 12 doce
 3 tres 13 trece
 4 cuatro 14 catorce
 5 cinco 15 quince
 6 seis 16 dieciséis
 7 siete 17 diecisiete
 8 ocho 18 dieciocho
 9 nueve 19 diecinueve
 10 diez 20 veinte

21 veintiuno
 22 veintidós
 23 veintitrés
 24 veinticuatro
 25 veinticinco
 26 veintiséis
 27 veintisiete
 28 veintiocho
 29 veintinueve
 30 treinta

¡CUIDADO!

veintiuno veinteuno veinte y uno veinte

- Solo una palabra hasta el número 30
- De 30 a 100 una palabra o tres:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 31 treinta y uno | 38 treinta y ocho |
| 32 treinta y dos | 39 treinta y nueve |
| 33 treinta y tres | 40 cuarenta |
| 34 treinta y cuatro | 41 cuarenta y uno |
| 35 treinta y cinco | ... |
| 36 treinta y seis | 98 noventa y ocho |
| 37 treinta y siete | 99 noventa y nueve |

50 cincuenta 60 sesenta 70 setenta 80 ochenta 90 noventa 100 cien

101 ciento uno
 102 ciento dos

¡CUIDADO!

ciento y dos
 doscientos y veinte

En español indicamos
 los millares con un
 punto no una coma

LAS DIVISAS

- £ Libras y peniques
- € Euros y céntimos
- \$ Dólares y centavos

...
 200 doscientos 1.000 mil
 300 trescientos 2.000 dos mil
 400 cuatrocientos ...
 500 quinientos 10.000 diez mil
 600 seiscientos 100.000 cien mil
 700 setecientos 1.000.000 un millón
 800 ochocientos
 900 novecientos

Los cientos cambian
 de género:
 trescientos niños
 trescientas niñas

¡CUIDADO CON EL NÚMERO 1!

Todos los números que terminan en
 1 cambian si va:
 antes del sustantivo masculino:
 Un episodio
 o después del sustantivo masculino:
 Episodio uno

Cardinal numbers (D1)

Exercise 1

Escribe los números siguientes en palabras.

- 1 16 botellas _____
- 2 100 euros _____
- 3 150 kilómetros _____
- 4 1.000.000 de habitantes _____
- 5 1.700 libros _____
- 6 31 días _____
- 7 570 libras esterlinas _____
- 8 23 alumnos _____
- 9 33 alumnas _____
- 10 60 meses _____

Exercise 2

Haz los cálculos siguientes, escribiendo los números en palabras.

- 1 cien menos cuarenta más uno es igual a _____
- 2 trescientos por dos es igual a _____
- 3 ochocientos doce dividido por cuatro es igual a _____
- 4 mil uno más veintiuno es igual a _____
- 5 ciento cuarenta por tres es igual a _____
- 6 quinientos sesenta más ciento cuarenta y uno es igual a _____

Exercise 3

Traduce al español.

- 1** half of ten is five _____
- 2** twenty-five per cent of Spaniards _____
- 3** the year two thousand and seventeen _____
- 4** 23 flats _____
- 5** a million dollars _____
- 6** a dozen houses _____
- 7** half a kilo _____
- 8** a third of the population _____
- 9** 20th May 2019 _____
- 10** three metres long _____

Gramática

Adjectives are words that add further description to a noun.

The important thing to remember with adjectives is that they must **always** agree with the noun that they are describing. So, if the noun is masculine, so is the adjective. If the noun is plural, then the adjective must also be plural.

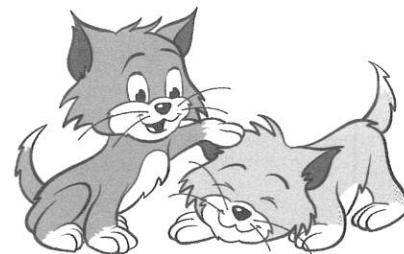
The table below shows how standard adjective endings change according to whether they are masculine, feminine, singular or plural.

| Masculine form | Feminine form | Masculine plural | Feminine plural |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| -o | -a | -os | -as |
| -a | -a | -as | -as |
| -or (except comparatives*) | -ora | -ores | -oras |
| -án / -ín / -ón | -ana / -ina / -ona (no accents!) | -anes / -ines / -ones (no accents!) | -anas / -inas / -onas (no accents!) |
| -e | NO CHANGE | -es | |
| consonant | NO CHANGE | -es NOTE: z → ces | |

*Comparatives such as *mejor* (better), *mayor* (bigger / older), *peor* (worse) and *menor* (less / younger) do not agree with the noun they are describing in gender, but do agree in number, e.g. *Son los mejores artículos*. Note that these comparatives go **before** the noun.

- 1 Add the appropriate ending on to each adjective, making it agree with the noun it is describing.

- 1 (*broken* = *roto*) la televisión _____
- 2 (*fascinating* = *fascinante*) la emisión _____
- 3 (*worse* = *peor*) los resultados _____
- 4 (*unforgettable* = *inolvidable*) las películas _____
- 5 (*playful* = *juguetón*) los gatitos _____



- 2 Convert the following examples into the plural.

- 1 el león feroz _____
- 2 el lugar precioso _____
- 3 la palabra incomprendible _____
- 4 la estudiante trabajadora _____
- 5 el jugador actual _____

Definite articles – 'the'

| Masculine singular | Feminine singular | Masculine plural | Feminine plural |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| el | la | los | las |

Gramática

Definite articles describe a specific item or thing ('the').

Indefinite articles describe a general item ('a', 'an' or 'some').

Indefinite articles – 'a' / 'an' / 'some'

| Masculine singular | Feminine singular | Masculine plural | Feminine plural |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| un | una | unos | unas |

Consejo

When talking about professions or nationality, you do not include the article, e.g. *Mi madre es enfermera. Soy escocés*. However, you do need the article if you include an adjective: *Es un cantante famoso*.

1 Choose the correct answer from the options below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 <i>the teachers (female)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <i>a city</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a los profesores | a una ciudad |
| b las profesoras | b la ciudad |
| c unas profesoras | c el ciudad |
| 2 <i>a castle</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <i>some TVs</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a un castillo | a los televisores |
| b el castillo | b las televisiones |
| c unos castillos | c unas televisiones |
| 3 <i>the people</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <i>a law</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a las gente | a un ley |
| b los gente | b una ley |
| c la gente | c el ley |

2 Use the correct definite or indefinite article, if necessary, to complete the following translations.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 <i>I like Spanish people.</i> | Me gustan _____ españoles. |
| 2 <i>I want to be a teacher.</i> | Quiero ser _____ profesora. |
| 3 <i>I'm interested in water sports.</i> | Me interesan _____ deportes acuáticos. |
| 4 <i>Music causes aggression.</i> | _____ música provoca agresión. |
| 5 <i>There are some quite serious problems.</i> | Hay _____ problemas bastante graves. |
| 6 <i>His father is German.</i> | Su padre es _____ alemán. |
| 7 <i>I saw a horror film.</i> | Vi _____ película de terror. |
| 8 <i>Do you fancy going to the pool?</i> | ¿Te apetece ir a _____ piscina? |

Gramática

The preterite tense is used to describe a past, finished event. It is often translated as '-ed' in English, e.g. I walked, he painted, we visited. It is formed as follows:

Step 1) Remove the -ar / -er / -ir from the infinitive.

Step 2) Add the following endings according to who did the action.

| | -ar | -er | -ir |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| I (yo) | -é | -í | -í |
| he (él) / she (ella) / you [formal] (usted) | -ó | -ió | -ió |
| Examples | hablé / habló | bebí / bebió | escribí / escribió |

Consejo

The infinitive is the basic form of a verb, which in English is translated as 'to...', e.g. to play, to think. In Spanish there are three types of infinitive: those that end in -ar, those that end in -er and those that end in -ir. All of the verb tenses rely on you knowing your infinitives.

In English there are no patterns to infinitives except that they start with 'to'; this can make English grammar really tricky!

- 1** Tick the correct option to translate the verbs in the preterite. Use the advice above, your existing knowledge and common sense!

1 I ate (comer)

a comiste

4 It caused (causar)

a causé

b comí

c comió

2 She accepted (aceptar)

a acepté

5 You [formal] decided

a decidiste

b aceptamos

(decidir)

b decidí

c aceptó

3 I described (describir)

a describieron

b describí

c describió

| Infinitive | I | He / she / it / you (formal) |
|----------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| decir (to say) | dije | dijo |
| hacer (to do / make) | hice | hizo |
| ir (to go) | fui | fue |
| querer (to want) | quise | quiso |
| ser (to be) | fui | fue |
| tener (to have) | tuve | tuvo |
| ver (to see) | vi | vio |

Gramática

The table to the left shows some key irregular preterites. Notice they do not have written accents.

Remember that compound verbs (which include these infinitives) are also irregular, e.g. *contener* (to contain).

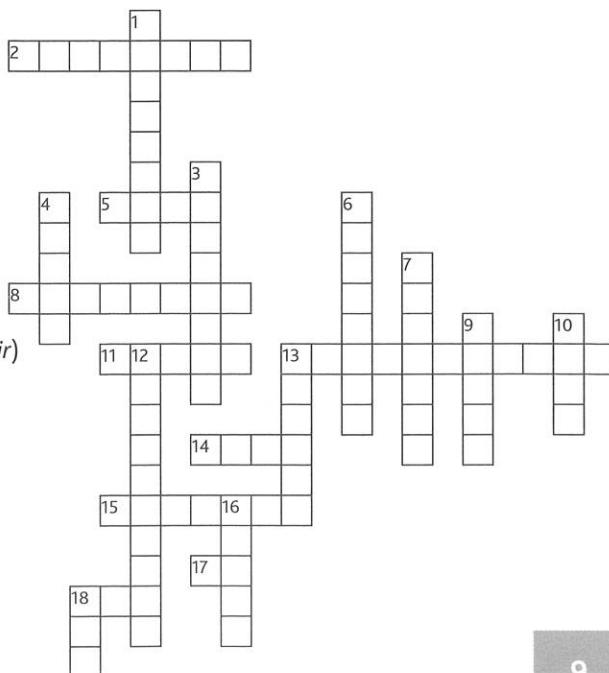
- 2** Translate the clues to complete the crossword below. Verbs that are irregular in the preterite are marked with an asterisk.

Down

- it depended (depender)
- I confirmed (confirmar)
- I broke (romper)
- it allowed (permitir)
- I wrote (escribir)
- she wanted (querer*)
- he did (hacer*)
- it surprised (sorprender)
- she was unaware (ignorar)
- I danced (bailar)
- it was (ser*)

Across

- she answered (contestar)
- she said (decir*)
- she learned (aprender)
- I assumed (asumir)
- she interrupted (interrumpir)
- he had (tener*)
- he celebrated (celebrar)
- I saw (ver*)
- I went (ir*)



* indicates an irregular preterite

■ Transition: The imperfect tense

Gramática

The **imperfect tense** is used to describe an ongoing or habitual action in the past – so there's no 'perfect finish'!

It is usually translated as 'was (doing)' or 'used to (do)' in English.

It is formed as follows:

Step 1) Remove the *-ar / -er / -ir* from the infinitive.

Step 2) Add the following endings according to who did the action.

| | -ar | -er | -ir |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| I (yo) | -aba | -ía | -ía |
| he (él) / she (ella) / you [formal] (usted) | -aba | -ía | -ía |
| Examples | escuchaba a mi madre | comía mucho pan | vivía en Francia |

Gramática

Only three verbs are irregular in the imperfect:

| Infinitive | I | he / she / it / you (formal) |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| ir (<i>to go</i>) | iba | iba |
| ser (<i>to be</i>) | era | era |
| ver (<i>to see</i>) | veía | veía |

Consejo

Yes, you are right: the 'I' form is **always** exactly the same as the 'he / she / it / you (formal)' form of the imperfect tense.

1a Decide if the statements below are true or false.

1b Correct the false statements on the lines below.

- 1 The imperfect tense refers to events in the future. T / F
- 2 To form the imperfect, add the appropriate ending on to the infinitive. T / F
- 3 The imperfect tense means 'was (doing)' or 'used to (do)'. T / F
- 4 To say 'I was' or 'I used to', for an *-ar* verb the ending is *-ía*. T / F
- 5 The endings for 'I' are the same as for 'he / she / it / you (formal)'. T / F
- 6 There are only three irregulars in the imperfect: *ir*, *ser* and *tener*. T / F

| Number | Correction? |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |

■ Transition: The immediate future tense

Gramática

The **immediate future tense** is used in Spanish to say 'going to (do)'.

It is formed as follows:

Step 1) Take the appropriate part of the verb *ir* (to go). **Step 2)** Follow it with *a*. **Step 3)** Add an infinitive.

e.g. *Voy a visitar a mi tío, vamos a bañarnos en el mar.*

ir = to go

| | |
|---|-------|
| I (yo) | voy |
| you (tú) | vas |
| he (él) | va |
| she (ella) | va |
| you [formal] (usted) | va |
| we (nosotros) | vamos |
| you [plural] (vosotros) | vais |
| they [masculine] (ellos) / they [feminine] (ellas) / you [plural, formal] (ustedes) | van |

- 1** Match the Spanish on the left to the English translations on the right.

| | |
|--|--|
| 1 Vamos a ir a la playa esta tarde. | a I'm going to buy it. |
| 2 ¿Vas a ver la película este fin de semana? | b Are you going to go to the concert tomorrow? |
| 3 ¿Vais a ir al concierto mañana? | c It's going to be quite difficult for them. |
| 4 Pronto van a lanzar otro disco. | d I'm going to relax a bit. |
| 5 Voy a comprarlo. | e They're going to launch a new album soon. |
| 6 Vamos a tener un problema grande. | f We're going to go to the beach this afternoon. |
| 7 Va a ser bastante difícil para ellos. | g Are you going to see the film this weekend? |
| 8 Voy a descansar un poco. | h We're going to have a big problem. |

- 2a** Find the eight examples of the immediate future in the wordsearch below.

- 2b** Translate each example.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| s | p | b | r | q | p | b | r | f | s |
| v | a | n | a | d | e | c | i | r | o |
| r | e | e | l | a | y | o | v | r | o |
| p | c | t | i | s | e | o | g | t | a |
| v | o | y | a | a | y | u | d | a | r |
| o | s | u | b | k | y | c | o | e | u |
| r | e | v | a | s | o | m | a | v | j |
| v | a | i | s | a | j | u | g | a | r |
| r | b | v | a | m | o | s | a | i | r |
| o | k | v | v | a | a | s | e | r | a |

| | Immediate future | Translation |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | | |

Gramática

Gustar means 'to please'. In order to express what you like in Spanish, you use the verb *gustar*, but you have to say **what** it is that pleases, and **whom** it pleases, e.g.

I like ice cream = Ice cream pleases me – *Me gusta el helado*.

He likes swimming = To swim pleases him – *Le gusta nadar*.

| | Literal meaning | Accurate translation |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Me gusta</i> | It pleases me | I like |
| <i>Me encanta</i> | It delights me | I love |
| <i>Me duele</i> | It is hurting to me | It hurts |

1 Choose the correct indirect object pronoun for each example below.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| 1 to us | _____ | 5 to me | _____ |
| 2 to them | _____ | 6 to you (singular) | _____ |
| 3 to her | _____ | 7 to him | _____ |
| 4 to you (plural) | _____ | 8 to you (plural, formal) | _____ |

2 Draw lines to match the English and Spanish sentences, ensuring that you check both the indirect object pronoun and the verb itself.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 <i>¿Te interesaría?</i> | a <i>I've got three bottles left over.</i> |
| 2 <i>Me sobran tres botellas.</i> | b <i>I lacked the necessary patience.</i> |
| 3 <i>Nos quedaron unos minutos.</i> | c <i>Would you be interested?</i> |
| 4 <i>Me faltó la paciencia necesaria.</i> | d <i>They needed a bit of help.</i> |
| 5 <i>Les hizo falta un poco de ayuda.</i> | e <i>We had a few minutes left.</i> |

3 Translate the sentences below. Think carefully about what tense is being used.

- 1 *Me sobran diez.* _____
- 2 *Te interesó mucho.* _____
- 3 *Les interesaría saber un poco más.* _____
- 4 *I like them.* _____
- 5 *We have got some biscuits left over.* _____
- 6 *She used to love it.* _____
- 7 *They are hurting me.* _____
- 8 *I liked it.* _____

Gramática

Gustar, like the verbs below, follows its normal conjugation pattern to say **what** is pleasing and **when** (i.e. what tense), e.g. *gustan* = they are pleasing.

Who is being pleased/interested etc. is indicated by the 'indirect object pronoun' (see page 31).

me = to me
te = to you
le = to him / her / it / you (formal)
nos = to us
os = to you (plural)
les = to them / you (plural, formal)

Similar verbs

interesar – to be interested

faltar – to lack / be missing

hacer falta – to need

sobrar – to have left over / too much of

quedar – to have remaining

Examples:

Le gustas = To him you are pleasing
(= He likes you)



Nos quedan dos entradas. = To us two tickets are remaining. (= We've got two tickets left.)

Gramática

The present tense is used to talk about the here and now – something ...

- that is happening now.
- that happens on a regular basis.

Formation

Step 1) Remove *-ar* / *-er* / *-ir* from the infinitive.

Step 2) Add the ending for the person who is doing the action.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| I | hablo | como | vivo |
| you | hablas | comes | vives |
| he / she / it / you (formal) | habla | come | vive |
| we | hablamos | comemos | vivimos |
| you (plural) | habláis | coméis | vivís |
| they / you (plural, formal) | hablan | comen | viven |

1 Complete the grid below using the regular present tense.

| | <i>aprovechar</i> (to make the most of) | <i>temer</i> (to fear) | <i>decidir</i> (to decide) |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| I | | | |
| you | | | |
| he / she / it / you (formal) | | | |
| we | | | |
| you (plural) | | | |
| they / you (plural, formal) | | | |

2a Circle the ten verbs in the present tense in the text below (look out for the endings!). Take care: there are two irregular present tense verbs that you should already know.

2b Write the conjugated verb and its infinitive in the table below.

| | Conjugated verb | Infinitive |
|----|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | | |

Creo que la televisión tiene una influencia negativa en nuestra sociedad. Los niños se levantan y ponen la televisión. No para ver las noticias sino para ver dibujos animados o series estadounidenses. Debemos animar a los jóvenes a llevar una vida más activa – pero es responsabilidad de todos, no sólo de los políticos. En muchos casos estos jóvenes quieren hacer más pero no se les ofrece la oportunidad dado que faltan instalaciones deportivas en su barrio, y por eso no salen para practicar deportes.

2c Use three of these conjugated verbs in sentences of your own.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

■ Topic 1: Irregular present tense verbs

Gramática

There are four types of 'irregular' verb, yet they all follow set patterns.

- Complete irregulars such as *ir* and *ser*
- Irregular 'I' forms
- Radical- or stem-changers, where certain letter patterns are 'different' from normal
- Verbs with spelling changes

Key irregulars

| | estar (to be) | ir (to go) | ser (to be) |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| I | estoy | voy | soy |
| you | estás | vas | eres |
| he / she / it / you (formal) | está | va | es |
| we | estamos | vamos | somos |
| you (plural) | estáis | vais | sois |
| they / you (plural, formal) | están | van | son |

Gramática

Irregular 'I' forms

These are regular for all other forms.

The important ones are:

sé – I know (*saber*)

veo – I see (*ver*)

[no accent on *vosotros* form: *veis*]

-go verbs

These are irregular in the 'I' form, and are -er / -ir verbs only.

The important ones are:

hago – I do / make (*hacer*)

pongo – I put (*poner*)

salgo – I go out (*salir*)

tengo – I have (*tener*)

vengo – I come (*venir*)

Radical- or stem-changers

Tener is also an 'e' to 'ie' radical-changer!

Venir is also an 'i' to 'ie' radical-changer!

We'll look at these verbs on page 39.

Verbs with spelling changes

c to zc – irregular in 'I' form only

conducir (to drive)

conduzco – I drive

g to j – changes take place before an 'a' or 'o'

elijo – I choose (*elegir*)

corrijo – I correct (*corregir*)

Elegir is also an 'e' to 'i' radical-changer (see page 39).

gu to g – irregular in 'I' form only

sigo – I follow (*seguir*)

Also *conseguir*, *perseguir*, etc.

Seguir is also an 'e' to 'i' radical-changer (see page 39).

1 Conjugate the following present tense verbs. Think carefully about which part you are conjugating and whether it is irregular or not.

- 1 *esperar* *they wait* _____
- 2 *ver* *I see* _____
- 3 *tener* *we have* _____
- 4 *hacer* *you (sing.) do* _____
- 5 *enviar* *they send* _____
- 6 *saber* *I know* _____
- 7 *decidir* *we decide* _____
- 8 *leer* *she reads* _____
- 9 *comprar* *you (pl. formal) buy* _____
- 10 *salir* *he goes out* _____

Consejo

It is essential that you know the 'I' forms of the present tense. The present subjunctive (see page 33) is based on this form.

■ Topic 3: Irregular preterites

Gramática

The preterite tense is the most commonly used tense. Within that, there are two sets of verbs that don't follow the regular pattern.

- 1 Radical-changers: where certain letter patterns change.
- 2 Irregulars: usually the most commonly used verbs. They become irregular because they are used so much and people want to make them 'easier' to say!

First of all, a reminder:

The preterite is used to describe a past, finished event. It is usually translated as: '-ed' in English, e.g. he waited, they phoned.

Formation

For regular verbs:

Step 1) Remove the infinitive ending (-ar / -er / -ir).

Step 2) Add the appropriate ending for who did the action.

| | -ar | -er | -ir |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| I | -é | -í | -í |
| you | -aste | -iste | -iste |
| he / she / it / you (formal) | -ó | -ió | -ió |
| we | -amos | -imos | -imos |
| you (pl.) | -asteis | -isteis | -isteis |
| they / you (pl. formal) | -aron | -ieron | -ieron |

Gramática

For radical-changers:

Step 1) Find the stem using the patterns listed below.

Step 2) Add endings as above.

Radical change only happens in the 3rd person singular and plural!

o to u *dormir (durmió), morir (murió)*

e to i *pedir (pidió), sentir (sintió), sugerir (sugirió)*

Spelling changes in the 'l' form

car to qu *buscar (busqué), sacar (saqué)*

gar to gu *llegar (llegué), pagar (pagué)*

zar to c *comenzar (comencé), empezar (empecé)*

guar to gü *averiguar (averigüé)*

For irregular verbs:

Step 1) Use the irregular stem.

Step 2) Add the appropriate endings as listed below.

Note: where an irregular differs from the normal ending pattern it is indicated in the following list.

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| I | -e |
| you | -iste |
| he / she / it / you (formal) | -o |
| we | -imos |
| you (pl.) | -isteis |
| they / you (pl. formal) | -ieron |

Irregular stems

| infinitive | meaning | stem | exceptions? |
|------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| andar | to walk | anduv- | |
| estar | to be | estuv- | |
| tener | to have | tuv- | |
| conducir | to drive | conduj- | |
| decir | to say | dij- | |
| traer | to bring | traj- | |
| dar | to give | d- | di = I gave |
| hacer | to do / make | hic- | hizo = he did |
| poder | to be able to | pud- | |
| poner | to put | pus- | |
| saber | to know | sup- | |
| querer | to want | quis- | |
| venir | to come | vin- | |
| ver | to see | v- | vi = I saw |

The odd couple

Ser (to be) and ir (to go) have the same preterite forms:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| I | fui |
| you | fuiste |
| he / she / it / you (formal) | fue |
| we | fuimos |
| you (pl.) | fuisteis |
| they / you (pl. formal) | fueron |

Points to remember:

- 1 There are no accents on any irregular preterites.
- 2 *Haber* is also irregular – but you will use *había* (imperfect) far more often than *hubo* (preterite) as it is usually used to describe ongoing events.

- 1** Write the *yo* form of the preterite for each of the following infinitives.

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1 estar | _____ | 6 buscar | _____ |
| 2 advertir | _____ | 7 adivinar | _____ |
| 3 empezar | _____ | 8 sugerir | _____ |
| 4 tener | _____ | 9 decir | _____ |
| 5 dar | _____ | 10 volver | _____ |

- 2a** Categorise the following verbs into the table below.

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| jugar (<i>to play</i>) | consentir (<i>to consent</i>) | ir (<i>to go</i>) |
| aprovechar (<i>to make the most of</i>) | terminar (<i>to finish</i>) | tocar (<i>to touch</i>) |
| pagar (<i>to pay</i>) | ser (<i>to be</i>) | conseguir (<i>to achieve</i>) |
| hacer (<i>to do</i>) | abrir (<i>to open</i>) | elegir (<i>to choose</i>) |

| Regular | Irregular | Spelling change in 1st person preterite | Radical-changing 3rd person preterite |
|---------|-----------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

- 2b** Now use five of these verbs in the preterite in sentences of your own.

- 1 _____
 2 _____
 3 _____
 4 _____
 5 _____

- 3** Use the following five verbs to describe a relaxing past holiday.

| | | | | |
|----|---------|--------------|-----|----------|
| ir | decidir | darse cuenta | ver | comenzar |
|----|---------|--------------|-----|----------|

- 4** On a separate sheet of paper, write an explanation for yourself of the different patterns used to form the preterite tense.

Record this on your phone as a revision tool for later on – being able to say what happened using a variety of preterite forms is a useful skill, both for exams and life!