

Perfect tenses

General rules:

- The past participle does change gender or number.
Ex: He leído los libros
He leído el libro
He leído la novela.
- Pronouns will never be attached to the participle.
Ex: Lo he leído.

1. El pretérito perfecto

The *pretérito perfecto* is very similar to the English present perfect tense.

HOW TO FORM IT:

To form the present perfect tense, you will need the preterit conjugated form of *haber* followed by the past participle.

*Ella **ha** comprado su pasaje de avión.*
She **has** already bought her plane ticket.

HOW TO USE IT:

The present perfect is used to describe an event in the past that influences the present, or continues in the present.

*Ya **he** visto la película.*
I **have** already seen the movie.

2. El pretérito pluscuamperfecto

The *pretérito pluscuamperfecto* is very similar to the English past perfect tense.

HOW TO FORM IT:

To form the past perfect tense, you will need the imperfect conjugated form of *haber* followed by the past participle.

*Ella **había** comprado su pasaje de avión...*
She **had** bought her plane ticket...

HOW TO USE IT:

The past perfect is used to describe an event in the past that happened before another past event.

*Ya **había** visto la película, cuando ella llegó.*
I **had** already seen the movie when she arrived.

3. *El futuro perfecto*

The *futuro perfecto* is very similar to the English future perfect tense.

HOW TO FORM IT:

To form the past future tense, you will need the future conjugated form of *haber* followed by the past participle.

*Ella **habrá** comprado su pasaje de avión.*
She **will have** bought her plane ticket.

HOW TO USE IT:

The future perfect is used to talk about an event that will be completed in the future before another event or time in the future.

*Usted **habrá** visto la película para el viernes.*
You **will have** seen the movie by Friday.

Just like the future tense in Spanish is used for probability, the future perfect can also be used to expressed probability.

*Ya **habrán** visto la película.*

They have probably already seen the movie.

“Deber + de + perfect infinitive (infinitivo compuesto)¹” can also be used to express probability.

*Deben de **haber visto** la película.*

1. *El potencial compuesto*

The *potencial compuesto* is very similar to the English conditional perfect tense.

HOW TO FORM IT:

To form the conditional perfect tense, you will need the conditional conjugated form of *haber* followed by the past participle.

*Ella **habría** comprado su pasaje de avión.*
She **would have** bought her plane ticket.

HOW TO USE IT:

The conditional perfect is used to talk about an event that would have happened in the past.

*Usted **habría** visto la película.*
You **would have** seen the movie.

The conditional perfect can also be used to express probability *in the past*.

*Ya **habrían** visto la película.*
They had probably already seen the movie.

¹ The *Infinitivo Compuesto* is formed with the infinitive of haber + past participle

Past Participle

To form the past participle, drop the infinitive ending and add *-ado* (for *-ar* verbs) or *-ido* (for *-er, -ir* verbs).

hablar = *hablado*

comer = *comido*

vivir = *vivido*

The following common verbs have irregular past participles:

abrir (to open) – ***abierto*** (open)

decir (to say) – ***dicho*** (said)

escribir (to write) – ***escrito*** (written)

hacer (to do) – ***hecho*** (done)

morir (to die) – ***muerto*** (dead)

poner (to put) – ***puesto*** (put)

ver (to see) – ***visto*** (seen)

volver (to return) – ***vuelto*** (returned)