Perfect tenses

General rules:

- *The past participle does change gender or number.*

  *Ex: He leíd**o los libros***
  *He leíd**o el libro***
  *He leíd**o la novela.***

- *Pronouns will <u>never</u> 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.

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)*