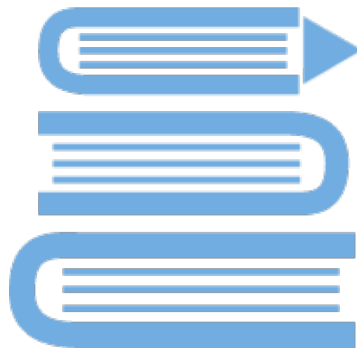


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Past Subjunctive

Past Subjunctive

The subjunctive is very tricky to master for English speakers, as there isn't really an English equivalent. You can quite easily bypass the subjunctive altogether in your Spanish exam, but in order to obtain a H1 grade, you'll need to have a good grasp of it.

Formation : 'Si' + imperfect subjunctive + conditional

('Sin que' also takes subjunctive)

Go to the 3rd person plural form of the verb in the preterite, remove the '-ron', and add the appropriate ending.

Endings:

ra	se
ras	ses
ra	se
ramos	semos
rais	seis
ran	sen

The '-ra' set of endings is more commonly used, but you need to be able to recognise the '-se' set for comprehensions and conversations with Spanish people!

E.G. Si tuviera más dinero, compraré una casa nueva.

Si pudiera, volvería a los Estados Unidos

Si fuera el presidente, cambiaría mucho

There is no distinction in the imperfect subjunctive between regular and irregular verbs. All verbs will drop the '-ron' ending and adopt the imperfect subjunctive endings.

Main Uses:

1. Express subjectivity (doubt) in the past. For the imperfect subjunctive to be needed, the verb in the main clause has to be in one of the following tenses: Preterite, Imperfect, Conditional, or Pluperfect. E.G. Quería que lo hicieras - I wanted you to do it
2. Make a very polite request or suggestion ('Deber', 'Poder', and 'Querer' only). E.G. Pudiera usted ayudarnos? - Could you help us?
3. In conditional sentences, and with the conjunction 'como si'. E.G. Me escucha como si fuera su profesor - He listens to me as if I were his teacher.