



# PODER CONJUGATIONS & USES

## CAN, TO BE ABLE TO

SYNONYMS: **SER CAPAZ**

Type	Irregular	Infinitive	Gerund	Past Participle
-ER	YES	<b>Poder</b> <i>To be able to / Can</i>	<b>Pudiendo</b> <i>Being able to</i>	<b>Podido</b> <i>Been able to</i>

	Indicative	Subjunctive
Irregularities	<b>Preterite:</b> <i>pud</i> for all subject pronouns. <b>Future &amp; Conditional:</b> <i>podr</i> for all subject pronouns.	<b>Imperfect:</b> <i>podie</i> for all subject pronouns.

	Indicative	Subjunctive
Stem Changes	<b>Present:</b> <i>pued</i> for all subject pronouns except 'nosotros' and 'vosotros'.	<b>Present:</b> <i>pued</i> for all subject pronouns except 'nosotros' and 'vosotros'.

## DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES

## PODER

### #1 - Expressing what someone is able to do (Can / To be able to)

#### Formula

[Poder conjugated] + [infinitive verb]

No **pude** abrir el archivo.  
I **couldn't** open the file.

Si nos hubieras dicho, **hubiéramos podido** ir contigo.  
If you had told us, we **could have gone** with you.

Si nos hubieras dicho, **hubiéramos podido** ir contigo.  
If you had told us, we **would have been able to go** with you.

**Take Note:** Examples #2 and 3 above are exactly the same in Spanish, but can be written differently in English. This depends on whether you use the translation 'to be able to' or the modal verb 'can'. Notice that using one verb or the other would also affect how the second verb is translated (go vs gone).

### #2 - Asking things politely (Could/May / To be able to)

#### Formula

[Conditional forms of poder] + [infinitive verb]

Señorita, ¿**podría** traerme un vaso de agua?  
Miss, **could** you bring me a glass of water?

Disculpe, ¿**podrían** decirme dónde está el museo?  
Excuse me, **could** you guys tell me where the museum is?

**Take Note:** Since it refers to capabilities or abilities, poder must always work with an infinitive verb. Without the information provided by this second verb, poder couldn't stand alone in a sentence unless such information was implicit.

# INDICATIVE CONJUGATIONS



## SIMPLE INDICATIVE TENSES

## PODER

Pronoun	Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Future	Conditional
Yo	Puedo I am able to	Pude I was able to	Podía I was able to / used to be able to	Podré I will be able to	Podría I would be able to
Tú	Puedes You are able to	Pudiste You were able to	Podías You were able to / used to be able to	Podrás You will be able to	Podrías You would be able to
Él / Ella Usted	Puede He/She is able to	Pudo He/She was able to	Podía He/She was able to / used to be able to	Podrá He/She will be able to	Podría He/She would be able to
Nosotros	Podemos We are able to	Pudimos We were able to	Podíamos We were able to / used to be able to	Podremos We will be able to	Podríamos We would be able to
Vosotros	Podéis You are able to	Pudisteis You were able to	Podíais You were able to / used to be able to	Podréis You will be able to	Podrías You would be able to
Ellos / Ellas Ustedes	Pueden They/You are able to	Pudieron They/You were able to	Podían They/You were able to / used to be able to	Podrán They/You will be able to	Podrían They/You would be able to

## PERFECT (COMPOUND) INDICATIVE TENSES

## PODER

Pronoun	Present	Past	Future	Conditional
Yo	He podido I have been able to	Había podido I had been able to	Habré podido I will have been able to	Habría podido I would have been able to
Tú	Has podido You have been able to	Habías podido You had been able to	Habrás podido You will have been able to	Habrías podido You would have been able to
Él / Ella Usted	Ha podido He/She has been able to	Había podido He/She had been able to	Habrá podido He/She will have been able to	Habría podido He/She would have been able to
Nosotros	Hemos podido We have been able to	Habíamos podido We had been able to	Habremos podido We will have been able to	Habríamos podido We would have been able to
Vosotros	Habéis podido You have been able to	Habíais podido You had been able to	Habréis podido You will have been able to	Habríais podido You would have been able to
Ellos / Ellas Ustedes	Han podido They/You have been able to	Habían podido They/You had been able to	Habrán podido They/You will have been able to	Habrían podido They/You would have been able to

# INDICATIVE & SUBJUNCTIVE



## PROGRESSIVE (INDICATIVE) TENSES

## PODER

Pronoun	Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Future	Conditional
Yo	Estoy pudiendo I am being able to	Estuve pudiendo I was being able to	Estaba pudiendo I was being able to	Estaría pudiendo I will be being able to	Estaré pudiendo I would be being able to
Tú	Estás pudiendo You are being able to	Estuviste pudiendo You were being able to	Estabas pudiendo You were being able to	Estarías pudiendo You will be being able to	Estarás pudiendo You would be being able to
Él / Ella Usted	Está pudiendo He/She is being able to	Estuvo pudiendo He/She was being able to	Estaba pudiendo He/She was being able to	Estaría pudiendo He/She will be being able to	Estará pudiendo He/She would be being able to
Nosotros	Estamos pudiendo We are being able to	Estuvimos pudiendo We were being able to	Estábamos pudiendo We were being able to	Estaríamos pudiendo We will be being able to	Estaremos pudiendo We would be being able to
Vosotros	Estáis pudiendo You are being able to	Estuvisteis pudiendo You were being able to	Estabais pudiendo You were being able to	Estaríais pudiendo You will be being able to	Estaréis pudiendo You would be being able to
Ellos / Ellas Ustedes	Están pudiendo They/You are being able to	Estuvieron pudiendo They/You were being able to	Estaban pudiendo They/You were being able to	Estarían pudiendo They/You will be being able to	Estarán pudiendo They/You would be being able to

## SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD TENSES

## PODER

Pronoun	Present	Present Perfect	Imperfect (Castilian)	Imperfect (Latin American)	Past Perfect
Yo	Pueda I am able to	Haya podido I have been able to	Pudiese I was able to	Pudiera I was able to	Hubiera podido I have been able to
Tú	Puedas You are able to	Hayas podido You have been able to	Pudieses You were able to	Pudieras You were able to	Hubieras podido You have been able to
Él / Ella Usted	Pueda He/She is able to	Haya podido He/She has been able to	Pudiese He/She was able to	Pudiera He/She was able to	Hubiera podido He/She has been able to
Nosotros	Podamos We are able to	Hayamos podido We have been able to	Pudiésemos We were able to	Pudiéramos We were able to	Hubiéramos podido We have been able to
Vosotros	Podáis You are able to	Hayáis podido You have been able to	Pudieseis You were able to	N/A	Hubierais podido You have been able to
Ellos / Ellas Ustedes	Puedan They/You are able to	Hayan podido They/You have been able to	Pudiesen They/You were able to	Pudieran They/You were able to	Hubieran podido They/You have been able to

# IMPERATIVE CONJUGATIONS



## IMPERATIVE MOOD TENSES

## PODER

In Spanish, we use the imperative conjugations to command people to do or not do something. Since we cannot order people to be able to do something, poder does not have imperative conjugations.

### LINK TO THIS GUIDE

[Poder Conjugations, Charts & Sentences](#)

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