



SPANISH TENSES 101

PAST PERFECT TENSE

RULES, CONJUGATIONS & EXAMPLES



FORMING THE PAST PERFECT IN SPANISH

ESTAR, TENER, VIVIR IN PAST PERFECT TENSE

Person	Imperfect form of 'haber'	+	[past participle]	Past Perfect
Yo	Había			Había estado
Tú	Habías			Habías tenido
Él/Ella/Usted	Había		<u>estado</u>	Había vivido
Nosotros	Habíamos	+	<u>tenido</u>	Habíamos estado
Vosotros	Habíais		<u>vivido</u>	Habíais tenido
Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes	Habían			Habían vivido

Note: '-ado' and '-ido' are the past participle endings for -AR and -ER/-IR verbs, respectively.

PLACING PRONOUNS IN THE SPANISH PAST PERFECT TENSE

Use the following rule for reflexive, direct and indirect object pronouns:

[Pronoun] + [imperfect form of haber] + [past participle]

Te dije que sí la había visto.

I told you that I had seen her.

No sabía que todavía no le habías dicho.

I didn't know that you hadn't told him yet.



USING THE PAST PERFECT IN SPANISH

PAST TENSE TIMELINE



USES:

- A **past action** that took place before a prior action or past moment.
- **First time** experiences.



Quando llegué, el avión ya había despegado.
When I arrived, the plain had already taken off.

PRESENT PERFECT, PRETERITE VS PAST PERFECT

PRESENT PERFECT

Actions done until now.



Nunca me **he subido** a una moto.
I **have** never **ridden** a bike.

PAST PERFECT

Action wasn't done before now.



No me **había subido** a una moto.
I **had** never **ridden** a bike before.

PRETERITE

Finished actions at a specific past time.



Ayer me **subí** a una moto.
Yesterday, I **rode** a bike.

KEY POINTS: PAST PERFECT SPANISH TENSE

- *Haber in imperfect form* + *past participle* is the **formula** to conjugate to the past perfect in Spanish.
- This perfect tense refers to things that happened **before** a past time frame or a prior action.
- Reflexive, indirect and direct object pronouns must be **placed in front** of the verb *haber*.
- A verbs in preterite tense, adverbs of time, or dates can be used in a sentence as reference points.

LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[Past Perfect Spanish Tense: Rules, Conjugations & Examples](#)

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