

Spanish

Week 9 – Alex Bailey

¡Hola a todos! I hope everyone had a successful midterms week! This is a great time to reflect on some weaker areas that can be improved upon going into the latter half of the semester. Take some time to look back on previous resources and work on topics that you may not feel as confident in to strengthen your Spanish ability. Remember, we also provide free online tutoring for Spanish courses, so make sure to schedule appointments as needed at

https://www.baylor.edu/support_programs/index.php?id=40917

Key Words:

- Irregular “i” stem changing verbs – preterite
- Passive “se”
- Impersonal “se”
- Forming Adverbs

Irregular “I” stem changing verbs – Preterite tense

Similar to last week’s section covering irregular “u” stem changing verbs in the preterite tense, there are also some very important irregular verbs that have “I” stem changes when conjugating in the preterite tense. Below is a list of important irregulars and how to conjugate them in the preterite:

SUBJECT	HACER (TO DO)	QUERER (TO WANT)	VENIR (TO COME)
yo	hice	quise	vine
tú	hiciste	quisiste	viniste
él, ella, usted	hizo	quiso	vino
nosotros	hicimos	quisimos	vinimos
vosotros	hicisteis	quisisteis	vinisteis
ellos, ellas, ustedes	hicieron	quisieron	vinieron

This graphic can be found at: <https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-preterite-stem-changes>

Passive “se”

In Spanish, the word “se” is used in two main forms that are imperative to know. Typically, it is used as a placeholder in an “in general” statement or an occurrence that happened to a subject by a general or unknown object. For our first form, the passive “se”, is used to replace a subject that is unknown or avoided being stated. For example:

The cake was eaten. - Se comió el pastel.

As you can see in this example, where an object would normally be placed, we have used the word “se” in order to suggest an unknown that has eaten the cake. Notice we also conjugate the verb “comer” to the el, ella, usted form.

Impersonal “se”

In the second form of “se” usage, the impersonal “se”, we use the word “se” to make an “in general” statement about what “they”, “you”, or “someone” does. For example:

Se vive a gusto en España. - Life is good in Spain.

In this case, we see that the word “se” is used to replace a general subject that is doing the “living” but isn’t necessarily identified. In this case, we also conjugate the verb “vivir” to the el, ella, usted form.

I have included a great YouTube video that gives more great examples of passive and impersonal uses of “se” here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWU_lvuUXrU

Forming Adverbs

One simple adverb that can be formed in Spanish is the equivalent of the English “adj + -ly”, for example “badly”. Look at the simple formula used to make these adverbs:

Feminine form of adjective + -mente

For example:

Mala + -mente = Malamente (badly)

Practice Time!

Translate the following sentences from English to Spanish:

1. You eat well at the beach.
2. I want it desperately.
3. Professionals are being sought out.
4. Books are sold here.
5. Food is given at the church.
6. He slowly stopped breathing.
7. They crazily screamed.

Answers

1. Se come bien en la playa.
2. Lo quiero desesperadamente.
3. Se buscan profesionales.
4. Los libros se venden aquí.
5. La comida se da en la iglesia.
6. Dejó de respirar lentamente.
7. Gritaron locamente.