

Spanish

Week 15 – Alex Bailey

¡Hola a todos! We made it! We have reached the last week of school, so for this week, our resource will be a review of some of the more difficult concepts we have learned in class this semester. However, please note that this is very consolidated, and I recommend that you review other weeks' resources as well here: https://www.baylor.edu/support_programs/index.php?id=967950. Remember, we have free tutoring sessions throughout the week that you can schedule at:

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

Key Words:

- Preterite Tense – **Week 3**
- Imperfect Tense – **Week 6**
- Impersonal “se” – **Week 9**
- Por vs. Para – **Week 10**
- Present Subjunctive Tense – **Weeks 12-14**

Preterite Tense

The preterite tense is one of the two main past-tense branches in Spanish. The preterite tense is used when an action has already been completed in the past within a defined time frame. For example:

I visited my mother. = Yo visité a mi madre.

In this example, we see that the action “to visit” in this sentence is indicative of a situation in the past that has definitely been completed and occurred one time, so this calls for a preterite conjugation of the verb. Below is a graphic (<https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-preterite-tense-forms>) that shows you how to conjugate regular verbs in the preterite tense:

SUBJECT	-AR VERBS	-ER AND -IR VERBS
yo	-é	-í
tú	-aste	-iste
él, ella, usted	-ó	-ió
nosotros	-amos	-imos
vosotros	-asteis	-isteis
ellos, ellas, ustedes	-aron	-ieron

Imperfect Tense

The Imperfect tense is the second branch of the past-tenses in Spanish. In short, the imperfect tense is used in situations when an action has occurred in the past for an unknown or undefined length of time. For example:

When I was a kid, I used to swim a lot. = Cuando era niño, nadaba mucho.

In this example, we see that the action “to swim” occurs during an undefined time frame of completion. In other words, “used to” doesn’t suggest the definite completion of an action, leaving us with questions of when the action started, ended, or if it ever ended at all. That being said, this calls for an Imperfect conjugation. Below is a graphic (<https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-imperfect-tense-forms>) that will teach you how to conjugate regular verbs in the preterite tense:

SUBJECT	-AR VERBS	-ER AND -IR VERBS
yo	-aba	-ía
tú	-abas	-ías
él, ella, usted	-aba	-ía
nosotros	-ábamos	-íamos
vosotros	-abais	-íais
ellos, ellas, ustedes	-aban	-ían

Impersonal “se”

While there are two uses of the word “se”, the impersonal use may be a bit more common (I would still recommend reviewing the passive use of “se”). We use the word “se” in Spanish to make an “in general” alternative to a subject. For example:

It is said that no one lives there. = Se dice que allí no vive nadie.

In this example, we see that an “in general” statement is made as an alternative to a supposed subject. Rather than defining a specific person who has said such thing, we leave it as a generally spoken suggestion by using the Impersonal “se”.

Por vs. Para

One of the more difficult concepts to master in Spanish is the differentiation between “por” and “para”. This is because in many cases, the English alternative for both of these words would be “for”. Because of this, it is important to review all the scenarios that call for either “por” vs. “para” because

they are generally exclusive of one another. Below is a graphic (<https://lalcenter.com/explanation-for-por-vs-para/>) that provides a generalized list of these situations.

Para	Por
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End point or destination • Literal purpose • The reason to do / In order to • Deadline • Comparison with a standard • Express an opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop by or pass by • Cause & Consequence • Stop by or pass by • Price & in exchange of • On behalf of • Duration of time • Means of • Per is always por

Present Subjunctive Tense

Our last tense taught this semester is the Present Subjunctive Tense. If you remember, the subjunctive is a branch of verb tenses that are required when encountering specific situations that can be categorized by the acronym “WEIRDO”:

W- Wishes E- Emotions I- Impersonal Expressions R- Recommendation D- Doubt O- “Ojala”

In general, when the scenario has a verb that focuses on the subjectivity of the subject’s action as opposed to the objectivity, there will be a required subjunctive verb in the secondary clause. Below is a graphic (<https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-present-subjunctive>) that will teach you how to conjugate in the present subjunctive tense:

SUBJECT	-AR VERB ENDINGS	-ER AND -IR VERB ENDINGS
yo	e	a
tú	es	as
usted, él, ella	e	a
nosotros	emos	amos
vosotros	éis	áis
ustedes, ellos, ellas	en	an

YouTube Links:

I have included YouTube links to videos that go further into detail regarding each of the topics within this resource:

Preterite Tense - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4SiKCStHuU>

Imperfect Tense - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q-RE3VVgTM>

Impersonal "se" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8DV6Kyud0M>

Por vs. Para - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mE8LnJ3BDb8>

Present Subjunctive Tense - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pG_2m9_sTTY

Final Tips

Hopefully you have begun to study for the final, and if you haven't, luckily we still have ample time. For each of the verb tenses above, I would recommend memorizing the stem changes and irregular verbs that each tense has. I would also go ahead and review past resources over specific concepts that you feel you may be weak in or you just need a refresher on. I would also recommend using any YouTube video links that are provided in resources to have someone verbally explain Spanish concepts you'll need to know for the test. The tutoring center will have its last week of sessions this week so make sure to use the online tutoring sessions as you come up with questions while studying (its free, fun, and helpful). Lastly, after having used all the resources that are available, I would use your professor's office hours to get those last questions answered. That being said, I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside you through your Spanish journey this year and I hope that this is just the beginning of your Spanish learning experience. Best of luck on the final!