

THE USUAL SUSPECTS: SPANISH HIGH-FREQUENCY VERBS

Many high frequency verbs are irregular. If you know them, you know the hard part of Spanish verbs. **GOOD NEWS:** There are not many irregular verbs. Most Spanish verbs are **regular**, they follow a pattern and would not make this list. **GOOD NEWS:** The irregular verbs are used a lot. Irregular verbs tend to be those that are common, so you will have a lot of exposure to them in class conversations and readings. **BAD NEWS:** Irregular verbs don't follow predictable patterns. But... **GOOD NEWS:** You do not have to memorize as much as it may appear. Many of the irregular forms are interrelated, plus they are used so much that you will pick them up with little conscious effort. Parentheses (#) indicate the frequency in Spanish for the word from A Frequency Dictionary of Spanish by Mark Davies; lower number = more often used and the more important that word is to know.

* = IRREGULAR CONJUGATIONS. NOTICE HOW FEW OF THESE HIGH-FREQUENCY VERBS ARE REGULAR.

Tenses/Moods → * = Irregular ↓ Infinitives #= Frequency in Spanish	él Present (The base form: irregular forms show up here)	yo Present (yo form is often irregular with common verbs)	ellos Preterit (Past) (Often irregular with common verbs)	yo / él Imperfect (Past) (Almost all forms are regular)	yo / él Present Subjunctive (Often based on present yo form)	él Future (There are only 10 irregulars among common verbs)	yo / él Imperfect Subjunctive (Based on preterit ellos form)
1. ser (#8)	*	*	*	*	*		*
2. haber (#11)	*	*	*		*	*	*
3. estar (#17)	*	*	*		*		*
4. tener (#18)	*	*	*		*	*	*
5. hacer (#25)		*	*		*	*	*
6. poder (#27)	*	*	*		*	*	*
7. decir (#28)	*	*	*		*	*	*
8. ir (#30)	*	*	*	*	*		*
9. ver (#37)		*	*	*	*		*
10. dar (#39)		*	*		*		*
<i>How they are used in a sentence:</i>	Ahora él...	Ahora yo...	Ayer ellos...	El año pasado yo siempre...	Mi mamá quiere que yo...	El próximo año, ella...	Yo sería rico si yo...

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11. saber (#46)		*	*		*	*	*
12. querer (#57)	*	*	*		*	*	*
13. poner (#77)		*	*		*	*	*
14. seguir (#97)	*	*	*		*		*
15. encontrar (#100)	*	*			*		
16. venir (#105)	*	*	*		*	*	*
17. pensar (#106)	*	*			*		
18. salir (#111)		*			*	*	
19. volver (#112)	*	*			*		
20. conocer (#124)		*			*		
21. empezar (#161)	*	*			*		
22. oír (#263)	*	*	*		*		*
<i>How they are used in a sentence:</i>	Ahora él...	Ahora yo...	Ayer ellos...	El año pasado yo siempre...	Mi mamá quiere que yo...	El próximo año, ella...	Yo sería rico si yo...

↓ IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES ↓

23. **abrir** (#252) _____ (7.) **dicir** _____ (5.) **hacer** _____ (13.) **poner** _____ (9.) **ver** _____
 24. **cubrir** (#691) _____ 25. **escribir** (#187) _____ 26. **morir** (#293) _____ 27. **romper** (#601) _____ (19.) **volver** _____

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DISCOVER THE PATTERNS. THESE COMMON VERBS HAVE IRREGULAR FORMS IN THESE TENSES & MOODS:

Please Notice: 1) How they are grouped

- Which tenses have the most irregular conjugations?
- Which tense has the fewest?
- Which specific verbs have the most irregular forms?

2) There is a limited set of irregular verbs

- How many different infinitive verbs are represented here?
- Is the frequency number of the verb related to how many forms of it are irregular? • Explain

3) They are all high frequency (commonly used and extremely valuable for communication)

- Why is it relatively easy to acquire these verb forms even though they are irregular?

4) With imagination and cognates there is little you could not say with these verbs.

- Invent or adapt a short story using only high frequency verbs

Irregular él, Present Tense:

(Also the basis of the other present forms)

decir	estar	haber	ir	oír	poder	querer	ser	tener	venir	ver

Irregular yo, Present Tense:

(Also the basis of the
Present Subjunctive Mood)

dar	decir	estar	haber	hacer	ir	oír	poder	poner	querer	salir	saber	ser	tener	traducir	traer	venir	ver

Irregular Preterit:

(Also the basis of the
Past Subjunctive Mood)

dar	decir	estar	haber	hacer	ir	poder	poner	querer	saber	ser	tener	traducir	traer	venir			

Irregular Future / Conditional:

decir	haber	hacer	poder	poner	querer	salir	saber	tener	venir

Irregular Imperfect:

		ir														

Irregular Past Participles: abrir cubrir decir escribir

hacer morir poner romper

ver volver

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[ANSWER KEY](#) [ANSWER KEY](#) [ANSWER KEY](#) [ANSWER KEY](#) [ANSWER KEY](#) [ANSWER KEY](#) [ANSWER KEY](#)

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Tenses/Moods → ↓ Infinitives #= Frequency in Spanish	él Present (The base form: irregular forms show up here)	yo Present (The yo form is often irregular with common verbs)	ellos Preterit (Past) (Often irregular with common verbs)	yo / él Imperfect (Past) (Most forms are regular)	yo / él Present Subjunctive (Often based on the present yo form)	él Future (There are only ten irregular forms among the common verbs)	yo / él Imperfect Subjunctive (Based on the preterit ellos form)
1. ser (#8)	* es	* soy	* fueron	* era	* sea	será	* fuera
2. haber (#11)	* hay / ha	* he	* hubieron	había	* haya	* habrá	* hubiera
3. estar (#17)	* está	* estoy	* estuvieron	estaba	* esté	estaré	* estuviera
4. tener (#18)	* tiene	* tengo	* tuvieron	tenía	* tenga	* tendrá	* tuviera
5. hacer (#25)	hace	* hago	* hicieron	hacía	* haga	* hará	* hiciera
6. poder (#27)	* puede	* puedo	* pudieron	podía	* pueda	* podrá	* pudiera
7. decir (#28)	* dice	* digo	* dijeron ↑ (no i)	decía	* diga	* dirá	* dijera ↑
8. ir (#30)	* va	* voy	* fueron	* iba	* vaya	irá	* fuera
9. ver (#37)	ve	* veo	* vieron	* veía	* vea	verá	* viera
10. dar (#39)	da	* doy	* dieron	daba	* dé	dará	* diera
How they are used in a sentence:	Ahora él...	Ahora yo...	Ayer ellos...	El año pasado yo siempre...	Mi mamá quiere que yo...	El próximo año, ella...	Yo sería rico si yo...

Tenses/Moods →	él Present	yo Present	ellos Preterit (Past)	yo / él Imperfect (Past)	yo / él Present Subjunctive	él Future	yo / él Imperfect Subjunctive
↓ Infinitives # = Frequency in Spanish	(The base form: irregular forms show up here)	(The yo form is often irregular with common verbs)	(Often irregular with common verbs)	(Most forms are regular)	(Often based on the present yo form)	(There are only ten irregular forms among the common verbs)	(Based on the preterit ellos form)
11. saber (#46)	sabe	* sé	* supieron	sabía	* sepa	* sabrá	* supiera
12. querer (#57)	* quiere	* quiero	* quisieron	quería	* quiera	* querrá	* quisiera
13. poner (#77)	pone	* pongo	* pusieron	ponía	* ponga	* pondrá	* pusiera
14. seguir (#97)	* sigue	* sigo	* siguieron	seguía	* siga	seguirá	* siguiera
15. encontrar (#100)	* encuentra	* encuentro	encontraron	encontraba	* encuentre	encontrará	encontrara
16. venir (#105)	* viene	* vengo	* vinieron	venía	* venga	* vendrá	* viniera
17. pensar (#106)	* piensa	* pienso	pensaron	pensaba	* piense	pensará	pensara
18. salir (#111)	sale	* salgo	salieron	salía	* salga	* saldrá	saliera
19. volver (#112)	* vuelve	* vuelvo	volvieron	volvía	* vuelva	volverá	volviera
20. conocer (#124)	conoce	* conozco	conocieron	conocía	* conozca	conocerá	conociera
21. empezar (#161)	* empieza	* empiezo	empezaron	empezaba	* empiece	empezará	empezara
22. oír (#263)	* oye	* oigo	* oyeron	oía	* oiga	oirá	* oyera
<i>How they are used in a sentence:</i>	Ahora él...	Ahora yo...	Ayer ellos...	El año pasado yo siempre...	Mi mamá quiere que yo...	El próximo año, ella...	Yo sería rico si yo...

↓ IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES ↓

abrir abierto
cubrir cubierto

dicir dicho
escribir escrito

hacer hecho
morir muerto

poner puesto
romper roto

ver visto
volver vuelto