



SPANISH PERFECT TENSES **SUMMARY**

Presente Perfecto (Pretérito Perfecto) – Present Perfect

To express an action that took place at no definite time in the past and that may be ongoing in the present. An action that started in the past and may or may not continue in the present.

Aux. verb “haber” in present tense + main verb in past participle.

Juan **ha estudiado** la lección.

*John **has studied** the lesson.*

Pasado Perfecto (Pluscuamperfecto) – Past Perfect or Pluperfect

To express an action which happened in the past *before* another past action. The other past action is ordinarily expressed in the preterit. However, it is not always necessary to have the other past action expressed.

Aux. verb “haber” in imperfect tense + main verb in past participle.

Juan **había estudiado** la lección.

*John **had studied** the lesson.*

Futuro Perfecto – Future Perfect

To express an action that will happen in the future *before* another future action. It refers to an action that *will have* taken place in the future at or by a specified time. It also can be used to express probability or conjecture with regard to something that took place in the *recent past*.

Aux. verb “haber” in future tense + main verb in past participle.

Juan **habrá estudiado** la lección.

*John **will have studied** the lesson.*

Condicional Perfecto (Potencial Compuesto) – Conditional Perfect

To express an action that you *would have done* if something else had been possible; that is, you would have done something *on condition* that something else had been possible. Of all the tenses, the conditional perfect holds the dubious honor of being the only one to express no action. It is the favorite tense of excuse makers. It refers to an action that *would have* taken place, but DID NOT because something got in the way or some specified condition was not met. It also can express probability or conjecture with regard to an action in the remote past or time.

Aux. verb “haber” in conditional + main verb in past participle.

Juan **habría estudiado** la lección.

*John **would have studied** the lesson.*

SPANISH PERFECT TENSES SUMMARY

Pretérito Anterior – Past Anterior

Aux. verb “haber” in preterit + main verb in past participle.

Juan **hubo estudiado** la lección

*John **had studied** or **studied** the lesson.*

NOTE: This tense is not used much in spoken Spanish. Ordinarily, the pluperfect indicative (and sometimes even the simple preterit) is used in spoken Spanish in place of the Past Anterior. This tense is ordinarily used in formal writing, such as history and literature. It is normally used after certain conjunctions of time, e.g., *después que, cuando, apenas, luego que, en cuanto.*

* * * SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD * * *

Presente Perfecto de Subjuntivo – Present Perfect Subjunctive

It corresponds to the present perfect in the indicative mood. The difference is that it comes after a verb, a conjunction, or an expression that requires the subjunctive mood. If the verb in the main clause is in the present indicative, future, or present perfect tense, the present perfect subjunctive is used in the dependent clause, provided that the subjunctive is required.

Aux. verb “haber” in present subjunctive + main verb in past participle.

Espero que Juan **haya estudiado** la lección.

I hope that *John **has studied** the lesson.*

Pasado Perfecto de Subjuntivo (Pluscuamperfecto de Subjuntivo) – Past Perfect Subjunctive

It corresponds to the pluperfect (past perfect indicative). The difference is that it comes after a verb, conjunction or expression that requires the subjunctive mood in the subordinate clause. If the verb in the main clause is in a past tense (preterit, imperfect, past perfect) this tense is used.

Aux. verb “haber” in imperfect subjunctive + main verb in past participle.

Yo esperaba que Juan **hubiera (hubiese) estudiado** la lección.

I hoped that *John **had studied** the lesson.*