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GCSE to A LEVEL TRANSITION GRAMMAR



As an A/S Level student there will be lots of new grammar to learn during the course. This is then further built upon in Year 13 as part of the A2 course.

All of the new grammar needs to build upon your knowledge of Spanish grammar from GCSE. This booklet has explanations of some key grammar that you must have a firm understanding of prior to the Year 12 course starting.

The booklet has some exercises to test your understanding and to consolidate your knowledge of these key grammar areas.

We will be going through these activities in the first few lessons so please spend some time over the summer reading the explanations and completing the activities.

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EXERCISES ON THE FUTURE

THE PRESENT TENSE

MEANING:

(yo) hablo may be translated into English as follows:

I speak

I am speaking – this “immediate” present may also be translated by ESTAR + PRESENT PARTICIPLE. This is also known as the present continuous.

I do speak – do / does is used in English in interrogative and negative forms, and for emphasis. The auxiliary do / does is never translated in Spanish

FORMATION

Regular verbs – three conjugations AR / ER / IR

-AR e.g. hablar = to speak

Remove –ar and add the below endings

Habl- o

Habl- as

Habl- a

Habl- amos

Habl- áis

Habl- an

-ER e.g. vender = to sell

Remove –er and add the endings

Vend o

Vend es

Vend e

Vend emos

Vend éis

Vend en

-IR type e.g. vivir = to live

Remove –ir and add the endings

Viv o

Viv es

Viv e

Viv emos

Viv ís

Viv en

Subject pronouns.

Yo = I

Tú = You

Él / Ella / Usted (Vd) = He/ She/ You

Nosotros / as = We

Vosotros / as = You (pl)

Ellos / Ellas / Ustedes (Vds.) = They/ You

Radical changing verbs in the present tense:

-AR / -ER / -IR verbs

These are verbs that changes their stem.

Note: The stem is the part of the verb before the AR/ER/ IR ending

Common examples

pensar, perder, sentir - to think, to lose, to feel

pienso pierdo siento
piensas pierdes sientes
piensa pierde siente
pensamos perdemos sentimos
pensáis perdéis sentís
piensan pierden sienten

contar, volver, dormir - to count, to return, to sleep
cuento vuelvo duermo
cuentas vuelves duermes
cuenta vuelve duerme
contamos volvemos dormimos
contáis volvéis dormís
cuentan vuelven duermen

Pedir - To ask

Pido
Pides
Pide
Pedimos
Pedís
Piden

Corregir, Seguir - To correct, To follow

Corrijo sigo
Corrigan sigues
Corrige sigue
Corregimos seguimos
Corregís segues
Corrigen siguen

Reír - To laugh

Río
Ríes
Ríe
Reímos
Reís
Ríen

Jugar - To play

Juego

Juegas

Juega

Juegan

Inquirir - To inquire

Inquiero

Inquieres

Inquiere

Inquieren

Oler - To smell

Huelo

Hueles

Huele

Huelen

Radical changing weather verbs

Llover – llueve It rains

Tronar – trueno It thunders

Helar – hiela It freezes

Nevar – nieva It snows

Some nouns and adjectives share these stem changes – this makes them easier to remember:

Nevar = to snow = la nieve = snow

Almorzar = to have lunch = el almuerzo = lunch

Forzar = to force = la fuerza = force

Renovar = to renew = el renuevo = renewal

TWENTY VERBS THAT ARE IRREGULAR IN THE PRESENT TENSE

Caber - To fit in

Quepo

Cabes

Cabe

Cabemos

Cabéis

Caben

Caer - To fall

Caigo

Caes

Cae

Cameos

Caéis

Caen

Dar - To give

Doy

Das

Da

Damos

Dais

Dan

Estar - To be

Estoy

Estás

Está

Estamos

Estáis

Están

Hacer - To do / make

Hago

Haces

Hace

Hacemos

Hacéis

Hacen

Decir - To say

Digo

Dices

Dice

Decimos

Decís

Dicen

Haber - To have

He

Has

Ha

Hemos

Habéis

Han

Ir - To go

Voy

Vas

Va

Vamos

Vais

Van

	Saber - To know	Traer - To bring
	Sé	Traigo
Oír - To hear	Sabes	Traes
Oigo	Sabe	Trae
Oyes	Sabemos	Traemos
Oye	Sabéis	Traéis
Oímos	saben	Traen
Oís		
Oyen	Salir - To go out	Valer - To be worth
	Salgo	Valgo
Poder - To be able	Sales	Vales
Puedo	Sale	Vale
Puedes	Salimos	Valemos
Puede	Saís	Valéis
Podemos	Salen	Valen
Podéis		
Pueden		Venir - To come
		Vengo
Poner - To put	Ser - To be	Vienes
Pongo	Soy	Viene
Pones	Eres	Venimos
Pone	Es	Venís
Ponemos	Somos	Vienen
Ponies	Sois	
Ponen	Son	Ver - To see
		Veo
Querer - To want / like	Tener - To have / hold	Ves
Quiero	Tengo	Ve
Quieres	Tienes	Vemos
Quiere	Tiene	Veis
Queremos	Tenemos	ven
Quieres	Tenéis	
Quieren	Tienen	

EXERCISES: THE PRESENT TENSE FORMATION

A.1.1 Place an appropriate subject pronoun before each of the following verbs:

_____ hablan _____ vivo
 _____ vendéis _____ trabajas
 _____ decide _____ compran
 _____ comemos _____ arreglo
 (you) _____ habla (you) _____ viven

A.1.2 Translate into Spanish, using subject pronouns where appropriate

1. My father sells books _____
2. My mother lives in Málaga _____
3. They speak Spanish _____
4. I work in Spain _____
5. I study French _____
6. Do *you* speak English? _____

7. I live in Madrid, *she* lives here _____
8. I am a student. _____
9. Is he Spanish? _____
10. Is *she* French? _____

RADICAL CHANGING VERBS:

A.2.1 Put the following Radical Changing Verbs into the present tense, in the form indicated

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pensar (yo) _____ | Perder (ellos) _____ |
| Perder (tú) _____ | Sentir (nosotros) _____ |
| Contar (ella) _____ | Volver (ellas) _____ |
| Dormir (Vd.) _____ | atravesar (él) _____ |
| Empezar (vosotros) _____ | almorzar (yo) _____ |

SECTION 2 THE PRESENT TENSE

Irregular Verbs

B.1.1 Translate into Spanish, using subject pronouns where appropriate

1. I don't fit in here _____
2. He brings wine from Spain _____
3. I want to know the truth _____
4. I have two sisters _____
5. I don't know _____
6. Where are you going? _____
7. I say nothing _____
8. I put the cat under the table _____
9. How much is it worth? _____
10. I give the book to Maria _____

THE IMPERFECT TENSE

MEANINGS

1. Recognition

- a) WAS / WERE -ING – While I was / we were working at the factory
- b) USED TO (a routine)– Every day I used to visit my uncle
- c) WOULD (when WOULD = USED TO) – Every morning I would visit my uncle
- d) THE SIMPLE PAST – DISGUISED – I worked / I visited. Apply this test – if you can replace the verb with A B or C then it is actually a DISGUISED imperfect. While I worked at the factory : really means While I was working at the factory

2. Examples of the Imperfect

- a) Description of state – llevaba un pantalón azul = He was wearing blue trousers
- b) Repetition or Habit – Todos los días se levantaba a las ocho, y después tomaba una ducha = Every day he used to get up at eight and then he

would take a shower

c) Simultaneous, incompleted actions – Mientras yo hablaba él leía un libro = Whilst I was speaking he was reading a book.

d) Continuous background:

Estábamos comiendo (We were eating – imperfect) Cuando ellos llegaron (When they arrived – preterite)

Mientras estaba actuando (While he was acting – imperfect) Se cayó al suelo (He fell down – preterite)

FORMATION

1.Regular

Remove the –ar, add the following endings

Hablar – AR

Hablaba

Hablabas

Hablaba

Hablábamos

Hablabais

Hablaban

Remove the –er, add the following endings

Vender - ER

Vendía

Vendías

Vendía

Vendíamos

Vendíais

Vendían

Remove the –ir, add the following endings

Vivir - IR

Vivía

Vivías

Vivía

Vivíamos

Vivíais

Vivían

THE 3 IRREGULAR IMPERFECT VERBS

IR ,SER, VER = To go, to be, to see

Iba era veía

Ibas eras veías

Iba era veía

Íbamos éramos veíamos

Íbais erais veíais

Iban eran veían

EXERCISES: THE IMPERFECT TENSE

FORMATION

C.2.1 Place and appropriate subject pronoun (or pronouns) before each of the following verbs:

_____ hablaban _____ vivía _____ veníais
_____ trabajabais _____ eras _____ comprábamos
_____ eras _____ veían _____ iba
_____ volvías

C.2.2 Translate into Spanish

1. My father sold books _____
2. My mother lived in Málaga when she was young

3. They spoke Spanish when they were in Spain

4. I used to work in Spain _____
5. I studied French at school _____
6. He was waiting at the door? _____
7. Every day she went to school at eight _____
8. He was tall _____
9. Was he Spanish? _____
10. Was he wearing black trousers? _____

THE PRETERITE TENSE – THE SIMPLE PAST

MEANING:

I opened – The auxiliary *did* is used in English in interrogative and negative forms and for emphasis –

Did I open? I *did* not open. I *did* open.

The auxiliary *did* is never translated into Spanish.

1. Simple Narrative : Ayer, Juan se levantó, salió a la calle y después compró un periódico = Yesterday Juan got up, went out, then he bought a newspaper.

See the contrast the Imperfect – for Repetition or Habit

Cada mañana Juan se levantaba, salía a la calle, y después compraba un periódico = Every morning Juan used to get up, used to go out, and then he would buy a newspaper.

2. Completed past events and actions

Preterite for event / action e.g.

Juan abrió la ventana = Juan opened the window

Maria cerró la puerta = Maria closed the door

El niño se cayó = The boy fell over.

FORMATION

1.Regular

a) –AR verbs. Remove –AR to form the stem and add these endings

habl é

habl aste

habl ó

habl amos

habl asteis

habl aron

b) –ER verbs. Remove –ER and add these endings

vend í

vend iste

vend ió

vend imos

vend isteis

vend ieron

c) –IR verbs. Remove –IR and add these endings

viv í

viv iste

viv ió

viv imos

viv isteis

viv ieron

2.Radical changing verbs – IR verbs only

The following STEM changes occur in the 3rd person

O – U

Dormir

To sleep

Dorm í

Dorm iste

DUrm ió

Dorm imos

Dorm isteis

DUrm ieron

E – I

Sentir pedir reír

To feel, to ask for, to laugh

Sent í, ped í, re í

Sent iste, ped iste, re iste

SInt ió, PId ió, RI o

Sent imos, ped imos, re imos

Sent isteis, ped isteis, re ísteis

SInt ieron, pId ieron, rI eron

3. Verbs that change their spellings in the preterite:

a) Changes in the YO form before the é

-car : c – QU

Buscar = *To look for*

BuscQUé

Buscaste

Buscó

Buscamos

Buscasteis

Buscaron

-gar : G – GU

Llegar = *to arrive*

llegGUé

llegaste

llegó

llegamos

llegasteis

llegaron

Common examples:

Sacar = to take out, pagar = to pay, cazar = to hunt

Tocar = to touch, plegar = to fold, comenzar = to start

Cegar = to blind, rogar = to beg, cruzar = to cross

Colgar = to hang, apaciguar = to pacify, empezar = to start

Jugar = to play, almorzar = to lunch, forzar = to force

b) Changes in the endings of the 3rd persons: I -Y in verbs ending in: -aer, -eer, oír, uir, oer.

Examples:

Caer = *To fall*

Caí

Caíste

CaYó

Caímos

Caísteis

CaYeron

Leer = *To read*

Leí

Leíste

LeYó

Leímos

Leísteis

LeYeron

Oír = *To hear*

Oí

Oíste

OYó

Oímos

Oísteis

OYeron

Like leer – creer = to believe

Like huir - other verbs in -UIR. E.g. construir = to construct, contribuir to contribute

18 Verbs that are Irregular in the Preterite tense:

ANDAR = *To walk*

Anduve

Anduviste

Anduvo

Anduvimos

Anduvisteis

Anduvieron

DAR = *To give*

Di

Diste

Dio

Dimos

Disteis

Dieron

HACER = *To do / make*

Hice

Hiciste

Hizo

Hicimos

Hicisteis

Hicieron

CABER = *To fit*

Cupe

Cupiste

Cupo

Cupimos

Cupisteis

Cupieron

DECIR = *To say*

Dije

Dijiste

Dijo

Dijimos

Dijisteis

Dijieron

IR = *To go*

Fui

Fuiste

Fue

Fuimos

Fuisteis

Fueron

CONducIR = *To drive*

Conduje

Condujiste

Condujo

Condujimos

Condujisteis

Condujieron

ESTAR = *To be*

Estuve

Estuviste

Estuvo

Estuvimos

Estuvisteis

Estuvieron

PODER = *To be able*

Pude

Pudiste

Pudo

Pudimos

Pudisteis

Pudieron

PONER = *To put*

Puse

Pusiste

Puso

Pusimos

Pusisteis

Pusieron

SABER = *To know*

Supe

Supiste

Supo

Supimos

Supisteis

Supieron

TRAER = *To bring*

Traje

Trajiste

Trajo

Trajimos

Trajisteis

Trajieron

QUERER = *To want /
love*

Quise

Quisiste

Quiso

Quisimos

Quisisteis

Quisieron

SER = *To be*

Fui

Fuiste

Fue

Fuimos

Fuisteis

Fueron

VENIR = *To come*

Vine

Viniste

Vino

Vinimos

Vinisteis

Vinieron

TENER = *To have / hold*

Tuve

Tuviste

Tuvo

Tuvimos

Tuvisteis

Tuvieron

VER = *To see*

Vi

Viste

Vio

Vimos

Visteis

Vieron

EXERCISES: THE PRETERITE TENSE

FORMATION

D.1 Put the following verbs into the PRETERITE TENSE in the form indicated by the subject pronoun:

_____ hablar (él) _____ vivir (vosotros)
_____ vender (tú) _____ trabajar (yo)
_____ decidir (ellos) _____ comprar (Vds.)
_____ comer (vosotros) _____ arreglar (ella)
_____ beber (Vd.) _____ llamar (ellos)

D.2 Translate into Spanish, using subject pronouns where appropriate:

1. I opened the book _____
2. My mother bought a house _____
3. They got up at 8 _____
4. *He* went out _____
5. The boy shut the door _____
6. My father sold his car _____
7. The train arrived at midday _____
8. I drank a glass of water _____
9. He caught the bus _____
10. Did *you* understand the lesson? _____

RADICAL CHANGING VERBS E –I

O – U

D.3 Put the following Radical Changing Verbs into the PRETERITE tense, in the form indicated : Note – some are reflexive!!

_____ pedir (yo) _____ morir (ellos)
_____ pedir (tú) _____ sentir (nosotros)
_____ dormir (ella) _____ reír (ellas)
_____ dormir (Vd) _____ divertirse (él)
_____ sentir (vosotros) _____ vestirse (ella)

The Immediate Future

Meaning:

There are two ways of describing events in the future. We can use the pure future or we can use the immediate future. The immediate future is used to describe what you are "GOING" to do. For example I am going to buy, He is going to eat, We are going to find.

Formation:

We form it by using the present tense of the verb "IR" = to go and then the infinitive of the verb which describes the action of what you are going to do. You must follow the verb "IR" with "A".

For example: Voy A salir = I am going to go out

IR A = To Go To

Yo voy	Nosotros Vamos
Tú vas	Vosotros Vais
Él va	Ellos van

Examples:

I am going to buy = Voy a comprar

He is going to have = Va a tener

We are going to think = Vamos a pensar

The Pure Future: The Future Tense

Meaning:

The pure future is used when you want to express what "WILL" happen in the future or what you "WILL" do.

Formation:

With the future tense you do not remove the infinitive ending. You add the future endings onto to infinitive. DO NOT REMOVE THE INFINITIVE ENDING. (ar/er/ir) We just ADD THE FUTURE ENDINGS ONTO THE INFINITIVE.

All three groups of verbs (ar/er/ir verbs) have the same endings in the pure future tense.

AR Verbs: Example Comprar = To Buy

Yo comprarÉ (I will buy)	Nosotros comprarEMOS (We will buy)
Tú comprarÁS (You will buy)	Vosotros comprarÉIS (You will buy)
Él comprarÁ (He will buy)	Ellos comprarÁN (They will buy)

ER Verbs: Example Comer = To Eat

Yo comerÉ (I will eat)	Nosotros comerEMOS (We will eat)
Tú comerÁS (You will eat)	Vosotros comerÉIS (You will eat)
Él comerÁ (He will eat)	Ellos comerÁN (They will eat)

IR Verbs: Example Escribir = To Write

Yo escribirÉ (I will write)	Nosotros escribirEMOS (We will write)
Tú escribirÁS (You will write)	Vosotros escribirÉIS (You will write)
Él escribirÁ (He will write)	Ellos escribirÁN (They will write)

Irregular Verbs in the Pure Future Tense

There are, of course, some verbs that are irregular, but they only have an irregular stem. Their endings stay the same, it is just the stem (the part of the verb before the infinitive ending) that changes.

These are:

Saber – Sabré, Sabrás, Sabrá, Sabremos, Sabréis, Sabrán

Querer - Querré, Querrás, Querrá, Querremos, Querréis, Querrán

Poder - Podré, Podrás, Podrá, Podremos, Podréis, Podrán

Tener - Tendré, Tendrás, Tendrá, Tendremos, Tendréis, Tendrán

Venir – Vendré, Vindrás, Vindrá, Vendremos, Vendréis, Vindrán

Salir - Saldré, Saldrás, Saldrá, Saldremos, Saldréis, Saldrán

Poner - Pondré, Pondrás, Pondrá, Pondremos, Pondréis, Pondrán

Decir - Diré, Dirás, Dirá, Diremos, Diréis, Dirán

Hacer - Haré, Harás, Hará, Haremos, Haréis, Harán

Valer - Valdré, Valdrás, Valdrá, Valdremos, Valdréis, Valdrán

EXERCISES: THE IMMEDIATE AND PURE FUTURE

Idenification

E.1 Identify whether the following phrases are in the immediate future or pure future:

Voy a hablar con Pedro _____

Venderás las manzanas _____

Saldrán a las ocho _____

Vamos a comer las naranjas _____

Van a llegar mañana _____

Formation:

E.2. Translate into Spanish, using the correct future tense:

1. I am going to open the door _____

2. He will buy a big house _____

3. They will leave the house at midday _____

4. They are going to win the competition _____

5. Juan will arrive next week _____

6. My mother is going to sell her car _____

7. I will visit the museum next year _____

8. He is going to swim in the sea _____

9. They will find the lesson difficult _____

10. The problem of pollution is going to rise _____