**Grammar Crib Sheet – The imperfect, future, and conditional tenses explained**

The imperfect tense

The imperfect tense is used very similarly in Spanish as it is in English; to refer to ongoing or incomplete events that happened in the past. The distinction between this tense and the perfect or preterite tense lies in whether the action has a clear start and end time, or if it was completed. If the action you wish to convey is not known or ambiguous, or is incomplete, use the imperfect tense.

The main uses of the imperfect tense are:

* To describe past states and situations (e.g. During Dickens’ time, only the most privileged children had access to education.)

* To describe what used to happen/recurring events that took place in the past (e.g. During my childhood, I played football every Sunday.)

So, let’s look at how regular verbs are formed in the imperfect tense, starting with *‘ar’* verbs.

**Regular *‘AR’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘hablar’* will be conjugated.

***Hablar*** *–* To speak

I ***Yo*** *habl****aba*** (I was speaking)

You (sing.) ***Tú*** *habl****abas*** (You were speaking)

He/She/It ***Él/Ella***  *habl****aba*** (He/She was speaking)

We ***Nosotros/as***  *habl****ábamos*** (We were speaking)

You (pl.) ***Vosotros/as*** *habl****abais*** (You were speaking)

They ***Ellos/Ellas*** *habl****aban*** (They were speaking)

**Regular *‘ER’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘vender’* will be conjugated.

***Vender*** *–* To sell

I ***Yo*** *vend****ía*** (I was selling)

You (sing.) ***Tú*** *vend****ías*** (You were selling)

He/She/It ***Él/Ella***  *vend****ía*** (He/She was selling)

We ***Nosotros/as***  *vend****íamos*** (We were selling)

You (pl.) ***Vosotros/as*** *vend****íais*** (You were selling)

They ***Ellos/Ellas*** *vend****ían*** (They were selling)

**Regular *‘IR’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘vivir’* will be conjugated.

***Vivir*** *–*To live

I ***Yo*** *viv****ía*** (I was living)

You (sing.) ***Tú*** *viv****ías*** (You were living)

He/She/It ***Él/Ella***  *viv****ía*** (He/She/It was living)

We ***Nosotros/as*** *viví****amos*** (We were living)

You (pl.) ***Vosotros/as*** *viv****íais*** (You were living)

They ***Ellos/Ellas*** *viv****ían*** (They were living)

The future

As in English, the Spanish future tense modifies verbs in two ways – one for saying **what** **will happen** (the future tense), and one for saying **what is going to happen** (the immediate future).

The difference between the two languages appears when saying **what will happen**, as in Spanish verb endings are used to express this idea, rather than a word equivalent to ‘will’ in this instance.

But, the verb ‘to go’ *(‘ir’)* plus an infinitiveis similarly used when saying **what is going to happen** in Spanish.

So, let’s look at how regular verbs are formed in the future tenses, starting with the future tense.

**The future tense**

**Regular *‘AR’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘hablar’* will be conjugated.

***Hablar*** *–* To speak

I ***Yo*** *hablar****é*** (I will speak)

You (sing.) ***Tú*** *hablar****ás*** (You will speak)

He/She/It ***Él/Ella***  *hablar****á*** (He/She will speak)

We ***Nosotros/as***  *hablar****emos*** (We will speak)

You (pl.) ***Vosotros/as*** *hablar****éis*** (You will speak)

They ***Ellos/Ellas*** *hablar****án*** (They will speak)

**Regular *‘ER’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘vender’* will be conjugated.

***Vender*** *–*To sell

I ***Yo*** *vender****é*** (I will sell)

You (sing.) ***Tú*** *vender****ás*** (You will sell)

He/She/It ***Él/Ella***  *vender****á*** (He/She/It will sell)

We ***Nosotros/as*** *vender****emos*** (We will sell)

You (pl.) ***Vosotros/as*** *vender****eis*** (You will sell)

They ***Ellos/Ellas*** *vender****án*** (They will sell)

**Regular *‘IR’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘vivir’* will be conjugated.

***Vivir*** *–*To live

I ***Yo*** *vivir****é*** (I will live)

You (sing.) ***Tú*** *vivir****ás*** (You will live)

He/She/It ***Él/Ella***  *vivir****á*** (He/She/It will live)

We ***Nosotros/as*** *vivir****emos*** (We will live)

You (pl.) ***Vosotros/as*** *vivir****éis*** (You will live)

They ***Ellos/Ellas*** *vivir****án*** (They will live)

**The immediate future**

**Regular *‘AR’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘hablar’* will be conjugated.

***Hablar*** *–* To speak

***Yo******voy*** *a hablar* (I am going to speak)

***Tú*** ***vas*** *a**hablar* (You are going to speak)

***Él/Ella*** ***va*** *a hablar* (He/She is going to speak)

***Nosotros/as*** ***vamos*** *a**hablar* (We are going to speak)

***Vosotros/as******vais*** *a hablar* (You are going to speak)

***Ellos/Ellas******van*** *a**hablar*(They are going to speak)

**Regular *‘ER’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘vender’* will be conjugated.

***Vender*** *–*To sell

***Yo******voy*** *a vender* (I am going to sell)

***Tú*** ***vas*** *a**vender* (You are going to sell)

***Él/Ella*** ***va*** *a vender* (He/She is going to sell)

***Nosotros/as*** ***vamos*** *a**vender* (We are going to sell)

***Vosotros/as******vais*** *a vender* (You are going to sell)

***Ellos/Ellas******van*** *a**vender*(They are going to sell)

**Regular *‘IR’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘vivir’* will be conjugated.

***Vivir*** *–*To live

***Yo******voy*** *a vivir* (I am going to live)

***Tú*** ***vas*** *a**vivir* (You are going to live)

***Él/Ella*** ***va*** *a vivir* (He/She is going to live)

***Nosotros/as*** ***vamos*** *a**vivir* (We are going to live)

***Vosotros/as******vais*** *a vivir* (You are going to live)

***Ellos/Ellas******van*** *a**vivir*(They are going to live)

The conditional tense

The conditional tense in Spanish is just as common as in English, and can be defined in a simple way as the tense that expresses what ‘would happen’.

For example – ‘If Man City signed Lionel Messi, **they would win** the Champions League.’

It can also be used when telling someone to do something, or when making a request.

For example – ‘**Could** **you** stop poking me on Facebook, please?’ or **‘I’d like** a glass of lemonade.’

So, let’s look at how regular verbs are formed in the conditional tense in Spanish.

**Regular *‘AR’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘hablar’* will be conjugated.

***Hablar*** *–* To speak

I ***Yo*** *hablar****ía*** (I would speak)

You (sing.) ***Tú*** *hablar****ías*** (You would speak)

He/She/It ***Él/Ella***  *hablar****ía*** (He/She would speak)

We ***Nosotros/as***  *hablar****íamos*** (We would speak)

You (pl.) ***Vosotros/as*** *hablar****íais*** (You would speak)

They ***Ellos/Ellas*** *hablar****ían*** (They would speak)

**Regular *‘ER’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘vender’* will be conjugated.

***Vender****–* To sell

I ***Yo*** *vender****ía*** (I would sell)

You (sing.) ***Tú*** *vender****ías*** (You would sell)

He/She/It ***Él/Ella***  *vender****ía*** (He/She would sell)

We ***Nosotros/as***  *vender****íamos*** (We would sell)

You (pl.) ***Vosotros/as*** *vender****íais*** (You would sell)

They ***Ellos/Ellas*** *vender****ían*** (They would sell)

**Regular *‘IR’* verb endings**

To demonstrate, the regular verb *‘vivir’* will be conjugated.

***Vivir*** *–*To live

I ***Yo*** *vivir****ía*** (I would live)

You (sing.) ***Tú*** *vivir****ías*** (You would live)

He/She/It ***Él/Ella***  *vivir****ía*** (He/She/It would live)

We ***Nosotros/as*** *vivir****íamos*** (We would live)

You (pl.) ***Vosotros/as*** *vivir****íais*** (You would live)

They ***Ellos/Ellas*** *vivir****ían*** (They would live)