

Lesson 30

SURVEY OF MOODS AND TENSES

VOCABULARY

el algodón	cotton	la media	stocking
el/la americano (a)	American; <i>also adjective</i>	el/la niño (-a)	child
el/la mexicano (-a)	Mexican; <i>also adjective</i>	el sastre	tailor
la corbata	necktie	sastrería	tailor shop
la fábrica	factory	la seda	silk
la lana	wool	eso	(<i>pronoun</i>) that
la mano	hand	a pesar de	in spite of
		en vez de	instead of
trajes hechos	ready-made suits		
hecho a mano	made by hand		

I. MOODS. A thought or idea may be expressed in Spanish in any one of four moods: indicative, conditional, subjunctive, or imperative.

Moods, as the name indicates, express in a large measure the state of mind of the speaker.

(a) The indicative mood is used to state facts. The person framing the sentence is in a positive mood. The indicative mood can express the time of the action in all eight tenses, namely:

Primary Tenses

present
preterit
past (imperfect)
future

Perfect Tenses

present perfect
preterit perfect
past perfect
future perfect.

Viena a casa; vino a casa, ha venido a casa, etc.

(b) The conditional mood is used to state what *would be* or what *would have been* (*would see, would have seen, would write, would have written, etc.*) The fulfillment of the chain of actions is shown as contingent on the occurrence of some basic action; the action is always a condition (an “if” clause), expressed or understood.

He would fall. (if I didn’t hold him; if he tried it)

He would have fallen (if I hadn’t held him, *etc.*)

As we readily see, there can be two, and only two, tenses in the conditional mood: the present and the perfect.

I would send it. (Lo mandaría)
I would have sent it (Lo habría mandado)

(c) Whereas the indicative mood expresses fact or certainty, the subjunctive mood is used to express uncertainty or doubt in the mind of the speaker or the writer as to the absolute truth of his statement; it is used to state even something contrary to fact.

I fear she has forgotten it. (Temo que lo haya olvidado)
If she had forgotten it, she would have told me. (This gives the idea that she did not forget it, and that she did not tell me.)

The subjunctive mood in Spanish has four tenses:

present	present perfect
past (Imperfect)	past perfect

Present:	I hope that he finds it.	(que lo halle)
Imperfect:	I hoped that he would find it.	(que lo hallara)
Present Perfect:	I hope that he has found it.	(que lo haya hallado)
Past Perfect:	I hoped that he had found it.	(que lo hubiera hallado)

(d) The imperative mood also denotes the mood of the speaker. He is imperious, he gives commands. The Spanish verb can express commands to persons as tú, vosotros, Ud., and Uds.

<i>tú</i>	<i>vosotros</i>	<i>Ud.</i>	<i>Uds.</i>
¡Escribe!	¡Escribid!	¡Escriba Ud.	¡Escriban Uds.
¡No escribas!	¡No escribáis!	¡No escriba Ud.!	¡No escriban Uds.!
¡Habla!	¡Hablad!	¡Hable Ud.!	¡Hablen Uds.!
¡No hables!	¡No habléis	¡No hable Ud.!	¡No hablen Uds.!

II. TENSES. The Spanish tenses usage is practically the same as English. The following differences should be noted.

(a) Spanish uses the past (imperfect) tense to express a continued, customary, or habitual action in the past. The past tense (imperfect) is often used descriptively, equivalent to the English progressive *was* or *were* with the present participle.

Los niños jugaban.	<i>The children were playing.</i>
Jugaba muchas veces con él.	<i>I often played with him.</i>
Iba allí todos los días.	<i>I used to go there every day.</i>

(b) While Spanish has progressive tenses (Lesson 14), they are used less than in English, since the simple Spanish tenses may also express the progressive idea.

Mi amigo estudia.	<i>My friend studies, or My friend is studying.</i>
¿Qué lee Ud.?	<i>What are you reading?</i>
¿Que leí Ud.?	<i>What were you reading?</i>

III. PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE OF **haber**. This tense of **haber** is mostly used, of course, as the auxiliary verb in forming the present perfect subjunctive.

haya	hayamos
hayas	hayáis
haya	hayan

Espero que hayan llegado a Madrid.	<i>I hope that they have arrived at Madrid.</i>
No creo que ellos hayan tomado.	<i>I do not believe that they have drunk.</i>

IV. COMPLETE CONJUGATION OF **comprar** (page 138). Take a large sheet of unruled paper and on one side of it copy, in ink, the complete conjugation of **comprar**, taking care to name the tenses and arrange them exactly as shown. After making this copy, discuss in class the moods and their tenses. Discuss the possibility or impossibility of other moods or other tenses. How can the Chinese express themselves with no mood and no tenses, the basic verb form always remaining unchanged?

Secondly, discuss the symmetry of the Spanish verb with its four primary tenses and its four perfect tenses. Why are they called perfect tenses?

Lastly, explain the location of the present conditional tense opposite the future indicative. Explain, too, why the perfect conditional stands where it does.

EXERCISES

A. LA ROPA MEXICANA

- Ud. ha viajado mucho en México ¿verdad?
- Eso es, señora, mucho. Conozco aquel país bastante bien.
- ¿No es Ud. americano?
- Sí, señora, he pasado la mayor parte de mi vida en los Estados Unidos.

- A pesar de haber vivido en los Estados Unidos, Ud. habla español muy bien. ¿Cómo se explica eso?
- Se explica de este modo. En vez de pasar mis vacaciones en Vermont o Florida, las he pasado todas en país de lengua españolas.
- De modo que aquellos países deben gustarle ¿verdad?
- Sí, señor, todos me gustan, pero México sobre todo.
- Yo vivo en Venezuela. He viajado por toda la América del Sur, he estado en Alemania, Italia, Francia, Inglaterra y muchas veces en los Estados Unidos, pero nunca en México. Nadie me ha dicho que sea un país interesante. ¡Dígame algo sobre México, si Ud. no tiene prisa!
- Con mucho gusto, señora. No tengo prisa nunca, cuando se me da la oportunidad de hablar de mi México querido. Hay muchas diferencias entre las americanas y las mexicanas, entre los niños americanos y los niños mexicanos, entre la vida americana y la vida mexicana. El país más rico del mundo son los Estados Unidos; México es uno de los más pobres. La seda no se produce en México y la seda es cara. Por eso en México no se ven medias y vestidos de seda sino en Monterrey, Puebla, la ciudad de México y otras grandes ciudades. Casi toda la ropa se hace o de lana o de algodón. En vez de llevar medias de seda, las mexicanas llevan por lo común medias de algodón. En vez de llevar medias de seda, las mexicanas llevan por lo común medias de algodón. La mayor parte de los hombres llevan corbatas y camisas de lana o de algodón.
- ¿Dónde y cómo se hacen los trajes y gabanes en México.
- No se encuentran muchas fábricas allí; por eso casi toda la ropa se hace a mano en casa o en sastrerías.
- ¿Hay sastres en un país tan pobre como México?
- Si, señora, hay muchos, hasta en los pueblos. El anuncio “Trajes hechos” no se ve mucho en México porque no hay fábricas para hacerlos. A pesar de todo eso, los mexicanos se visten muy bien. Por todas partes en campo se ven ovejas que dan lana. Por eso, la lana es muy barata y se emplea más en México que en los Estados Unidos. Casi toda la ropa de los niños es de lana, sobre todo en el campo.
- Muchas gracias, señor. Yo habría viajado en México también, pero nadie me había dicho que es un país tan interesante. Siento mucho que no haya hecho al menos un viaje allí.

B. *Translate into Spanish.* 1. The children were wearing white stockings. 2. Instead of buying a silk necktie, he bought woolen shirt. 3. What does that mean? 4. There were few factories in Juarez when I was there. 5. In spite of that, everyone dressed well. 6. American women wear lots of silk stockings. 7. I wouldn't have bought a ready-made suit in Chile. 8. There were tailor shops in almost every street. 9. What is the name of the tailor who made your overcoat? 10. Did he make it by hand? 11.

His tailor shop wasn't the second floor, wasn't it? 12. I remember that I had to go up two flights of stairs. 13. I didn't chat with him, but with his wife. 14. They had only one bedroom. 15. Some children were playing on the kitchen floor. 16. There wasn't a picture in their living room. 17. One must read the advertisements too. 18. Before dying, he gave them to her. 19. She will give them to him, won't she? 20. Her son had made several trips to South America. 21. I hope you have reviewed that lesson. 22. Which pictures do you prefer? 23. What is that?

C. 10-minute quiz on infinitives; 5% for each correct answer.

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. instead of helping him | 11. Before sitting down, he.... |
| 2. before going home | 12. without taking them |
| 3. in order to open them | 13. instead of describing her |
| 4. without selling it to her | 14. in order to live |
| 5. after finishing it | 15. on opening it |
| 6. in spite of knowing it | 16. after telling it to me |
| 7. After getting up, I | 17. Before taking leave, we |
| 8. After getting up, we | 18. Before taking leave, we |
| 9. After shaving, they | 19. on waking up |
| 10. In order to dress, she | 20. instead of looking at her. |

Note from the Internet Publisher: Donald L. Potter

It is important to remember that Eric Greenfield's *Spanish Grammar* was published in 1943. I have made no effort has been made to update the cultural references. The reference to Mexico therefore reflects the situation in Mexico and the Spanish speaking world at that time. The grammar itself remains an excellent introduction to the Spanish language through a tightly controlled high-frequency vocabulary, concise grammatical explanations and Spanish to English translation (and English to Spanish) exercises. (At a future time, I would like to update the historical and cultural references, especially population figures.)

I am providing numerous supplementary aids (mp3 audio files, translations of all stories, etc.) to help students using *Spanish Grammar*.

Last edited 4/29/06 www.donpotter.net