

# Past participle and perfect tenses

## Formation of the past participle

The past participle of regular verbs is formed by dropping the infinitive ending and adding **-ado** to **-ar** verbs and **-ido** to **-er** and **-ir** verbs.

mandar → **mandado** *sent*  
comprender → **comprendido** *understood*  
servir → **servido** *served*

The following verbs have irregular past participles.

abrir → **abierto**  
cubrir → **cubierto**  
decir → **dicho**  
escribir → **escrito**  
hacer → **hecho**  
imprimir → **impreso**  
morir → **muerto**  
poner → **puesto**  
romper → **roto**  
ver → **visto**  
volver → **vuelto**

When a prefix is added to any of the preceding verbs, the past participle shows the same irregularities.

componer → **compuesto**  
descomponer → **descompuesto**  
describir → **descrito**  
descubrir → **descubierto**  
deshacer → **deshecho**  
devolver → **devuelto**  
envolver → **envuelto**  
imponer → **impuesto**  
posponer → **pospuesto**  
predecir → **predicho**  
prever → **previsto**  
revolver → **revuelto**

**Present perfect**

The past participle forms of **ser** and **ir** are **ido** and **ido** respectively.

- caer → **caído**
- creer → **creído**
- leer → **leído**
- oír → **oído**
- traer → **traído**

The perfect tenses in Spanish are similar to their English equivalents. They consist of a conjugated form of the verb **haber** (*to have*) + *the past participle*. The present perfect consists of the present tense of the auxiliary verb **haber** + *the past participle*. The past participle does not change to show gender or number in compound tenses. The present perfect is used in Spanish, as in English, to mark or describe past events that have an influence on the present or that continue into the present. This tense is called **el pretérito perfecto** in Spanish.

**GANAR, COMPRENDER, SALIR**

(yo) <b>he</b> ganado, comprendido, salido	(ellos/ellas/Uds.) <b>han</b> ganado, comprendido, salido
(nosotros[as]) <b>hemos</b> ganado, comprendido, salido	(vosotros[as]) <b>habéis</b> ganado, comprendido, salido
(tú) <b>has</b> ganado, comprendido, salido	(ellos/ellas/Uds.) <b>ha</b> ganado, comprendido, salido

In the perfect tenses, object pronouns precede the forms of **haber** and are not attached to the past participle. In questions, subject pronouns follow the past participle. They are not placed between the auxiliary verb and the past participle as they are in English.

- ?Lo has leído?
- ?Qué han visto Uds.?
- ?Todavía no se ha levantado Ud.?
- ?Have you read it? (object pronoun)
- ?What have you seen?
- ?Haven't you gotten up yet?

**Actividad 1**

**?Listos para viajar?** Ud. y su familia se van de vacaciones. Antes de salir de la casa tienen que hacer ciertas cosas. Describa quién hizo cada cosa. Escriba los verbos usando el pretérito perfecto. Siga el modelo.

**MODELO**  
papá / comprar / el mapa  
Papá ha comprado el mapa.