

## **THE USUAL SUSPECTS: SPANISH HIGH FREQUENCY VERBS**

Many high frequency verbs are irregular. If you know them, you know the hard part of Spanish verbs. **GOOD NEWS: There are not many irregular verbs.** *Most Spanish verbs are regular*, they follow a pattern and would not make this list. **GOOD NEWS: The irregular verbs are used a lot.** Irregular verbs tend to be those that are common, so you will have a lot of exposure to them in class conversations and readings. **BAD NEWS: Irregular verbs don't follow predictable patterns.** But... **GOOD NEWS: You do not have to memorize as much as it appears.** Many of the irregular forms are interrelated, plus they are used so much that you will pick them up with little conscious effort. Parentheses (#) indicate the frequency in Spanish for the word from A Frequency Dictionary of Spanish by Mark Davies; lower number = more often used and the more important that word is to know.

\* = **IRREGULAR CONJUGATIONS. NOTICE HOW FEW OF THESE HIGH FREQUENCY VERBS ARE REGULAR.**

<b>Tenses/Moods →</b> * = Irregular <b>↓ Infinitives</b> # = Frequency in Spanish	<b>él</b> <b>Present</b>  <i>(The base form: irregular forms show up here)</i>	<b>yo</b> <b>Present</b>  <i>(yo form is often irregular with common verbs)</i>	<b>ellos</b> <b>Preterit</b> <b>(Past)</b>  <i>(Often irregular with common verbs)</i>	<b>yo / él</b> <b>Imperfect</b> <b>(Past)</b>  <i>(Almost all forms are regular)</i>	<b>yo / él</b> <b>Present</b> <b>Subjunctive</b>  <i>(Often based on present yo form)</i>	<b>él</b> <b>Future</b>  <i>(There are only 10 irregulars among common verbs)</i>	<b>yo / él</b> <b>Imperfect</b> <b>Subjunctive</b>  <i>(Based on preterit ellos form)</i>
1. <b>ser</b> (#8)	*	*	*	*	*		*
2. <b>haber</b> (#11)	*	*	*		*	*	*
3. <b>estar</b> (#17)	*	*	*		*		*
4. <b>tener</b> (#18)	*	*	*		*	*	*
5. <b>hacer</b> (#25)		*	*		*	*	*
6. <b>poder</b> (#27)	*	*	*		*	*	*
7. <b>decir</b> (#28)	*	*	*		*	*	*
8. <b>ir</b> (#30)	*	*	*	*	*		*
9. <b>ver</b> (#37)		*	*	*	*		*
10. <b>dar</b> (#39)		*	*		*		*
<b>How they are used in a sentence:</b>	Ahora él...	Ahora yo...	Ayer ellos...	El año pasado yo siempre...	Mi mamá quiere que yo...	El próximo año, ella...	Yo sería rico si yo...

<b>Tenses/Moods →</b>	<b>él Present</b> <i>(The base form; irregular forms show up here)</i>	<b>yo Present</b> <i>(yo form is often irregular with common verbs)</i>	<b>ellos Preterit (Past)</b> <i>(Often irregular with common verbs)</i>	<b>yo / él Imperfect (Past)</b> <i>(Almost all forms are regular)</i>	<b>yo / él Present Subjunctive</b> <i>(Often based on present yo form)</i>	<b>él Future</b> <i>(There are only 10 irregulars among common verbs)</i>	<b>yo / él Imperfect Subjunctive</b> <i>(Based on preterit ellos form)</i>
<b>↓ Infinitives</b> # = Frequency in Spanish							
11. <b>saber</b> (#46)		*	*		*	*	*
12. <b>querer</b> (#57)	*	*	*		*	*	*
13. <b>poner</b> (#77)		*	*		*	*	*
14. <b>seguir</b> (#97)	*	*	*		*		*
15. <b>encontrar</b> (#100)	*	*			*		
16. <b>venir</b> (#105)	*	*	*		*	*	*
17. <b>pensar</b> (#106)	*	*			*		
18. <b>salir</b> (#111)		*			*	*	
19. <b>volver</b> (#112)	*	*			*		
20. <b>conocer</b> (#124)		*			*		
21. <b>empezar</b> (#161)	*	*			*		
22. <b>oír</b> (#263)	*	*	*		*		*
<i>How they are used in a sentence:</i>	Ahora él...	Ahora yo...	Ayer ellos...	El año pasado yo siempre...	Mi mamá quiere que yo...	El próximo año, ella...	Yo sería rico si yo...

**↓ IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES ↓**

23. **abrir** (#252) \_\_\_\_\_ (7.) **decir** \_\_\_\_\_ (5.) **hacer** \_\_\_\_\_ (13.) **poner** \_\_\_\_\_ (9.) **ver** \_\_\_\_\_  
 24. **cubrir** (#691) \_\_\_\_\_ 25. **escribir** (#187) \_\_\_\_\_ 26. **morir** (#293) \_\_\_\_\_ 27. **romper** (#601) \_\_\_\_\_ (19.) **volver** \_\_\_\_\_

# **THE USUAL SUSPECTS: SPANISH HIGH FREQUENCY VERBS**

DISCOVER THE PATTERNS. THESE COMMON VERBS HAVE IRREGULAR FORMS IN THESE TENSES & MOODS:

**Please Notice: 1) How they are grouped**

- Which tenses have the most irregular conjugations?
- Which tense has the fewest?
- Which specific verbs have the most irregular forms?

**2) There is a limited set of irregular verbs**

- How many verbs are represented here?
- Is the frequency number of the verb related to how many forms of it are irregular? • Explain

**3) They are all high frequency (commonly used and extremely valuable for communication)**

- Why is it relatively easy to acquire these verb forms even though they are irregular?

**4) With imagination and cognates there is little you could not say with these verbs.**

- Invent or adapt a short story using only high frequency verbs

**Irregular él, Present Tense:**

(Also the basis of the other present forms)

decir            estar haber            ir oír poder            querer            ser tener            venir ver

**Irregular yo, Present Tense:**

(Also the basis of the Present Subjunctive Mood)

dar    decir            estar haber hacer ir oír poder poner querer salir saber ser tener traducir traer venir ver

**Irregular Preterit:**

(Also the basis of the Past Subjunctive Mood)

dar    decir            estar haber hacer ir            poder poner querer            saber ser tener traducir traer venir

**Irregular Future / Conditional:**

decir            haber hacer            poder poner querer salir saber            tener            venir

**Irregular Imperfect:**

ir            ser            ver

**Irregular Past Participles:**

abrir    cubrir    decir    escribir            hacer    morir            poner    romper            ver    volver

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ANSWER KEY ANSWER KEY ANSWER KEY ANSWER KEY ANSWER KEY ANSWER KEY ANSWER KEY

\* = **IRREGULAR CONJUGATIONS. NOTICE HOW FEW OF THESE COMMON VERBS ARE IRREGULAR.**

<b>Tenses/Moods →</b>	<b>él</b> <i>Present</i>	<b>yo</b> <i>Present</i>	<b>ellos</b> <i>Preterit</i> <i>(Past)</i>	<b>yo / él</b> <i>Imperfect</i> <i>(Past)</i>	<b>yo / él</b> <i>Present</i> <i>Subjunctive</i>	<b>él</b> <i>Future</i>	<b>yo / él</b> <i>Imperfect</i> <i>Subjunctive</i>
↓ <b>Infinitives</b> # = Frequency in Spanish	<i>(The base form: irregular forms show up here)</i>	<i>(The yo form is often irregular with common verbs)</i>	<i>(Often irregular with common verbs)</i>	<i>(Most forms are regular)</i>	<i>(Often based on the present yo form)</i>	<i>(There are only ten irregular forms among the common verbs)</i>	<i>(Based on the preterit ellos form)</i>
1. <b>ser</b> (#8)	* <b>es</b>	* <b>soy</b>	* <b>fueron</b>	* <b>era</b>	* <b>sea</b>	<b>será</b>	* <b>fuera</b>
2. <b>haber</b> (#11)	* <b>hay / ha</b>	* <b>he</b>	* <b>hubieron</b>	<b>había</b>	* <b>haya</b>	* <b>habrá</b>	* <b>hubiera</b>
3. <b>estar</b> (#17)	* <b>está</b>	* <b>estoy</b>	* <b>estuvieron</b>	<b>estaba</b>	* <b>esté</b>	<b>estará</b>	* <b>estuviera</b>
4. <b>tener</b> (#18)	* <b>tiene</b>	* <b>tengo</b>	* <b>tuvieron</b>	<b>tenía</b>	* <b>tenga</b>	* <b>tendrá</b>	* <b>tuviera</b>
5. <b>hacer</b> (#25)	<b>hace</b>	* <b>hago</b>	* <b>hicieron</b>	<b>hacía</b>	* <b>haga</b>	* <b>hará</b>	* <b>hiciera</b>
6. <b>poder</b> (#27)	* <b>puede</b>	* <b>puedo</b>	* <b>podieron</b>	<b>podía</b>	* <b>pueda</b>	* <b>podrá</b>	* <b>podiera</b>
7. <b>decir</b> (#28)	* <b>dice</b>	* <b>digo</b>	* <b>dijeron</b> ↑ (no i)	<b>decía</b>	* <b>diga</b>	* <b>dirá</b>	* <b>dijera</b> ↑
8. <b>ir</b> (#30)	* <b>va</b>	* <b>voy</b>	* <b>fueron</b>	* <b>iba</b>	* <b>vaya</b>	<b>irá</b>	* <b>fuera</b>
9. <b>ver</b> (#37)	<b>ve</b>	* <b>veo</b>	* <b>vieron</b>	* <b>veía</b>	* <b>vea</b>	<b>verá</b>	* <b>viera</b>
10. <b>dar</b> (#39)	<b>da</b>	* <b>doy</b>	* <b>dieron</b>	<b>daba</b>	* <b>dé</b>	<b>dará</b>	* <b>diera</b>
<i>How they are used in a sentence:</i>	Ahora él...	Ahora yo...	Ayer ellos...	El año pasado yo siempre...	Mi mamá quiere que yo...	El próximo año, ella...	Yo sería rico si yo...

<b>Tenses/Moods</b> →	<b>él</b> <i>Present</i>	<b>yo</b> <i>Present</i>	<b>ellos</b> <i>Preterit</i> <i>(Past)</i>	<b>yo / él</b> <i>Imperfect</i> <i>(Past)</i>	<b>yo / él</b> <i>Present</i> <i>Subjunctive</i>	<b>él</b> <i>Future</i>	<b>yo / él</b> <i>Imperfect</i> <i>Subjunctive</i>
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11. <b>saber</b> (#46)	<b>sabe</b>	* <b>sé</b>	* <b>supieron</b>	<b>sabía</b>	* <b>sepa</b>	* <b>sabrás</b>	* <b>supiera</b>
12. <b>querer</b> (#57)	* <b>quiere</b>	* <b>quiero</b>	* <b>quisieron</b>	<b>quería</b>	* <b>quiera</b>	* <b>querrá</b>	* <b>quisiera</b>
13. <b>poner</b> (#77)	<b>pone</b>	* <b>pongo</b>	* <b>pusieron</b>	<b>ponía</b>	* <b>ponga</b>	* <b>pondrá</b>	* <b>pusiera</b>
14. <b>seguir</b> (#97)	* <b>sigue</b>	* <b>sigo</b>	* <b>siguieron</b>	<b>seguía</b>	* <b>siga</b>	<b>seguirá</b>	* <b>siguiera</b>
15. <b>encontrar</b> (#100)	* <b>encuentra</b>	* <b>encuentro</b>	<b>encontraron</b>	<b>encontraba</b>	* <b>encuentre</b>	<b>encontrará</b>	<b>encontrara</b>
16. <b>venir</b> (#105)	* <b>viene</b>	* <b>vengo</b>	* <b>vinieron</b>	<b>venía</b>	* <b>venga</b>	* <b>vendrá</b>	* <b>viniera</b>
17. <b>pensar</b> (#106)	* <b>piensa</b>	* <b>pienso</b>	<b>pensaron</b>	<b>pensaba</b>	* <b>piense</b>	<b>pensará</b>	<b>pensara</b>
18. <b>salir</b> (#111)	<b>sale</b>	* <b>salgo</b>	<b>salieron</b>	<b>salía</b>	* <b>salga</b>	* <b>saldrá</b>	<b>saliera</b>
19. <b>volver</b> (#112)	* <b>vuelve</b>	* <b>vuelvo</b>	<b>volvieron</b>	<b>volvía</b>	* <b>vuelva</b>	<b>volverá</b>	<b>volviera</b>
20. <b>conocer</b> (#124)	<b>conoce</b>	* <b>conozco</b>	<b>conocieron</b>	<b>conocía</b>	* <b>conozca</b>	<b>conocerá</b>	<b>conociera</b>
21. <b>empezar</b> (#161)	* <b>empieza</b>	* <b>empiezo</b>	<b>empezaron</b>	<b>empezaba</b>	* <b>empiece</b>	<b>empezará</b>	<b>empezara</b>
22. <b>oír</b> (#263)	* <b>oye</b>	* <b>oigo</b>	* <b>oyeron</b>	<b>oía</b>	* <b>oiga</b>	<b>oírás</b>	* <b>ojera</b>
<i>How they are used in a sentence:</i>	Ahora él...	Ahora yo...	Ayer ellos...	El año pasado yo siempre...	Mi mamá quiere que yo...	El próximo año, ella...	Yo sería rico si yo...

**↓ IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES ↓**

abrir <b>abierto</b>	decir <b>dicho</b>	hacer <b>hecho</b>	poner <b>puesto</b>	ver <b>visto</b>
cubrir <b>cubierto</b>	escribir <b>escrito</b>	morir <b>muerto</b>	romper <b>roto</b>	volver <b>vuelto</b>