

Grammar Packet

A. Hacer Time Expressions

To describe how long something has been going on:

If you try to translate “I have been living in Carmel for five years” word-for-word into Spanish, you’ll end up really confusing people—just as if a Spanish-speaker translated the Spanish expression into English and said “It makes five years that I live in Carmel”. Before we translate an expression like this, we need to think about what we’re *really* saying in Spanish. It will sound awkward, but understandable:

I have been living in Carmel for five years. ⇔ **It makes** five years **that I live** in Carmel.

Translate that, and you get: **Hace cinco años que vivo en Carmel.**

The formula: Hacer + period of time + que + present-tense verb.

To describe how long ago something happened:

I **lived** in Carmel ten years ago. ⇔ **It makes** ten years **that I lived** in Carmel. ⇔ **Hace diez años que viví** en Carmel. **The formula: Hacer + period of time + que + past-tense verb.**

So, how would we make a question like this?

How long have you been living in Carmel? ⇔ How much time does **it make that** you **live** in Carmel?

Translate that, and you get: *¿Cuánto tiempo hace que vives en Carmel?*

How long ago did you live in Carmel? ⇔ How much time does **it make that** you **lived** in Carmel?

Translate that, and you get: *¿Cuánto tiempo hace que viviste en Carmel?*

The formula: ¿Cuánto/a(s) tiempo (horas, meses, días, etc.) hace + que + present or preterite verb?

B. Making adjectives into adverbs

Adverbs are words that explain how an action is done, like “quickly”, “well”, or “rudely” (or that modify an adjective or adverb, like “noticeably different”, or “extremely fast”). You know by now that the most adverbs in Spanish end in *-mente*, just as most adverbs in English end in *-ly*.

To change an adjective into an adverb, you start with the *feminine* form of the adjective and add *-mente*:

rápido ⇔ rápida + *mente* = rápidamente

If the adjective does not have a feminine form (because it doesn’t end in *o*), just add *-mente*:

fácil + *mente* = fácilmente

probable + *mente* = probablemente

C. Present Progressive (is ___-ing) (present form of *estar* + present participle)

A **progressive** tense is used to talk about an action “in-progress”. The **present progressive**, then, emphasizes that something is in-progress *now*.

You already know how to say the “is” (or “am”, or “are”) part. (Just use a present-tense form of *estar*. It makes sense to use *estar* rather than *ser*, because you’re talking about something that’s going on at a “given instant”.)

Now for the “-ing” part: You have learned that *-ando* and *-iendo* endings correspond to English *-ing* endings. When one of these endings is added to a verb stem, the word that is created is called a “**present participle**”. To form the **present participle**, simply drop the infinitive ending (*-ar*, *-er*, or *-ir*) and add *-ando* (*-ar* verbs) or *-iendo* (*-er* or *-ir* verbs): **trabajando, comiendo, viviendo**

Examples of Present Progressive:

Estoy escuchando la canción nueva de Jack Johnson.

Mi padre **está escribiendo** un libro.

D. Past Progressive (was ___-ing)

Just put *estar* in the **imperfect** (ongoing past) tense. That's the obvious choice, because something "in-progress" in the past is "ongoing".

Examples of Past Progressive:

Mi padre **estaba** (was) **hablando** (-ing) por teléfono. *My dad was talking on the phone.*

Mis hermanas **estaban** (were) **haciendo** (-ing) la tarea. *My sisters were doing homework.*

E. Irregular Present Participles, and Adding Pronouns

Some **present participles** (the "-ing" word) are irregular:

The same rules that apply to some **preterites** also apply to **present participles**. "change the *i* on the endings third-singular and -plural to *y*" when the stem ends in a vowel: *leyendo, cayendo, trayendo, oyendo*. "the only verbs that have a change in the stem are *-ir* verbs"..."*u* or *l* just one letter in its space": *compitiendo, divirtiendo, muriendo, durmiendo*. One more irregular: *yendo* (going)

Examples of the Present Progressive:

Mi padre **está** (is) **hablando** (-ing) por teléfono. *My dad is talking on the phone.*

Mis hermanas **están** (are) **haciendo** (-ing) la tarea. *My sisters are doing homework.*

Pronouns can be added to present participles just like infinitives. Just like you may need to do *any* time you add a syllable to a word, add an accent to keep the stress from changing: *amándote, diciéndonos*

F. Personal "a"

When a person or a pet is the direct object in a sentence, you'll put an untranslatable *a* before it. This does not apply after forms of *tener*.

Yo conozco **a** James Franco. (*Know who? James Franco.* He's the direct object, and a person, so use *a*.)

¿Oíste **a** la profesora? (*Hear who? The teacher.* She's the direct object, and a person, so use *a*.)

G. Past Participles (the *-ed* word—a verb changed into an adjective)

To make a verb into an adjective, take off the ending and add *-ado* to *-ar* verbs and *-ido* to *-er/-ir* verbs: preparar ⇒ *preparado/a* (prepared), comer ⇒ *comido /a* (eaten), aburrir ⇒ *aburrido/a* (bored)

Some **past participles** are irregular:

decir <i>dicho</i> (said)	abrir <i>abierto</i> (open, opened)	poner <i>puesto</i> (put, placed, set)
hacer <i>hecho</i> (done)	cubrir <i>cubierto</i> (covered)	volver <i>vuelto</i> (returned)
escribir <i>escrito</i> (written)	descubrir <i>descubierto</i>	devolver <i>devuelto</i> (returned)
ver <i>visto</i> (seen)	(discovered, uncovered)	ir <i>ido</i> (gone)
morir <i>muerto</i> (died, dead)	romper <i>roto</i> (broken)	

H. Perfect Tenses (use *haber* with a **past participle** to talk about what someone "has" done or "had" done)

They **have** arrived to school late every day. **Han llegado** tarde todos los días a la escuela.

Present tense form for *present perfect*

Imperfect tense form for *past perfect*

I **had** not seen the news when I heard the tornado. No **había** visto las noticias cuando oímos el tornado

haber Present

he	hemos
has	
ha	han

haber Imperfect

había	habíamos
habías	
había	habían

I. Comparatives/Superlatives

peor *worse*
 el/la peor * *the worst*
 mejor *better*
 el/la mejor* *the best*
 mayor *older*
 el/la mayor *the oldest*

más *more*
 el/la más *the most*
 menos *less*
 el/la menos *the least*
 menor *younger*
 el/la menor *youngest*

tan 1st "as"
 tanto/a *as much*, tantos/as *as many*
 como 2nd "as"
 "than" *que* (unless followed by a number)
 "than" *de* (when followed by a number)
 example: *Gané más de mil dólares.*

Tricky things about Comparatives and Superlatives:

- tan (quality) vs. tanto (quantity)
 ↘ w/nouns, make agreement
- "the tallest (girl) in the class"
 - Notice the order in Spanish: *la (chica) más alta de la clase*
 Just as in normal sentences, the adjective comes after the noun, except...
 - Also notice the use of *de* instead of *en*: "of", not "in".

* "mejor and peor come before" (the noun)

J. Affirmatives/Negatives

sí <i>yes</i>	algún, algunos, alguna, algunas <i>a, some</i>	siempre <i>always</i>
no <i>no</i> (never use before noun)	ningún, ningunos, ninguna, ningunas	nunca <i>never</i>
alguien <i>someone, somebody</i>	<i>no, not one, none</i>	o...o... <i>either...or...</i>
nadie <i>no one, nobody</i>	también <i>also</i>	ni...ni... <i>neither...nor</i>
algo <i>something</i>	tampoco <i>either, neither</i> (like "also", but in a negative statement)	ni ... <i>not even...</i>
nada <i>nothing</i>		

Notice that *alguno* and *ninguno* are both variations of *uno*: *un, uno, una, unos, unas*, meaning "a" and "some". There is only a subtle difference between "*uno*", etc. and "*alguno*", etc.

Nunca, tampoco, nadie can be used in two ways:

Nunca voy al cine. ***No*** voy ***nunca*** al cine.
Tampoco quiero ir. ***No*** quiero ir ***tampoco***.
Nadie quiere trabajar. ***No*** quiere trabajar ***nadie***.

Double negatives are *correct* in Spanish :

Mi amigo **no** tiene **nada** en su cartera.
 Mi amigo **nunca** tiene **nada** en su cartera.
 Mi amigo **no** va **nunca** al banco.

K. Recognizing Other Tenses:

Infinitive + é/ás/á/emos/án = "will ___" (Future Tense) Endings are forms of *haber* (below) minus the *h*.
Infinitive + ía/ ías/ ía/ íamos/ ían = "would ___" (Conditional Tense) Endings are same as *-er/-ir* Imperfect.
Stem + ía/ ías/ ía/ íamos/ ían = ongoing/repeated action or state in the past. (Imperfect Tense)
-ado/-ido = an adjective made from a verb, ending in *-ed* (Past Participle)
he/has/ha/hemos/han + -ido/-ado = have, has ___-ed (Form of *haber* + past participle = Past Perfect tense)
Stem + preterite ending = event in the past (Preterite tense)
-ando/-iendo = *-ing* (Present Participle)
Present form of *estar* + verb that ends in -ando/-iendo = is ___-ing
Imperfect form of *estar* + verb that ends in -ando/-iendo = was ___-ing
Yo-form stem + -ar ending on -er/-ir verb, or -er/-ir ending on -ar verb: command, or "may".

L. Prepositional Pronouns Use these pronouns after prepositions:

An exception: we don't say "con mí" or "con tí", but *conmigo* and *contigo*.

"Mí" has an accent mark to distinguish it from "my". "Tí" doesn't need one, because there's no other "ti" to distinguish it from.

mí	nosotros
ti	
él	ellos
ella	ellas
Ud.	Uds.

Notice that only the first- and second-person singular differ from subject pronouns.

