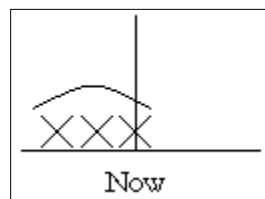


Spanish: The Perfect Tenses

The present perfect is a verb tense comprised of two parts: the auxiliary verb **has/have** and the **past participle**. It indicates that an action was completed at some point in the past, and the action may continue into the present. In English, using the present perfect is equivalent to saying that someone has done something.

The picture below demonstrates how the present perfect refers to actions completed in the past as well as past actions that may continue into the present.



For example, Peter has studied Spanish (and may still be doing it now).

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Conjugating the Present Perfect

In Spanish, the present-tense conjugations of the verb *haber* (**not tener**) form the **present perfect**.

<i>yo</i>	he
<i>tú</i>	has
<i>él/ella/Ud.</i>	ha
<i>nosotros/as</i>	hemos
<i>vosotros/as</i>	habéis
<i>ellos/ellas/Uds.</i>	han

The **past participle** is used immediately following the verb *haber*. Note that verbs ending in **-ar** change to **-ado**, while **-er** and **-ir** verbs both change to **-ido**.

Infinitive	Stem	Ending	Past Participle
Habl <u>a</u> r	Habl	ado	Hablado
Com <u>e</u> r	Com	ido	Comido
Viv <u>i</u> r	Viv	ido	Vivido

Lazaro **ha cenado** con su madre.

Lazaro **has eaten dinner** with his mother.

He salido de mi casa.

I **have left** my house.

No **hemos podido encontrar** nuestro gato.

We **haven't been able to find** our cat.

However, as with all conjugations, there are exceptions to the rules. Here are some of the most common irregular past participles:

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

Note: The present perfect of **hay** is **ha habido**.

Pablo **ha escrito** muchos poemas.

Pablo **has written** many poems.

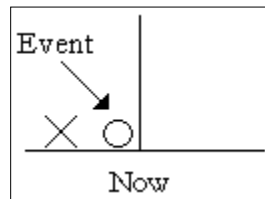
Los hermanos **han hecho** su tarea.

The brothers **have done** their homework.

The Past Perfect

Pairing *haber* with a past participle may also be used to express things that occurred and concluded in the past, before something else happened. This is equivalent to saying in English that someone had done something. This conjugation is called the **past perfect**.

The picture below shows how the action of the past perfect was completed before another past event:



For example, Jessica had taken a shower before she left on her trip.

To form the past perfect, put the imperfect tense conjugation of *haber* next to a past participle. *Haber* is conjugated in the imperfect as shown below:

<i>yo</i>	había
<i>tú</i>	habías
<i>él/ella/Ud.</i>	había
<i>nosotros/as</i>	habíamos
<i>vosotros/as</i>	habíais
<i>ellos/ellas/Uds.</i>	habían

¿Ya **había terminado** el semestre?

The semester **had ended** already?

Yo **había comido** el pollo.

I **had eaten** the chicken.

Habíamos vuelto al restaurante.

We **had returned** to the restaurant.

Note: The imperfect conjugation of **hay** is also **había**.

Había un hombre en el grupo.

There was a man in the group.

The Past Participle as an Adjective

In addition to being paired with *haber*, the past participle may also be used as an adjective. As an adjective, the past participle must agree with the number and gender of the noun it is describing.

la puerta cerrada

the closed door

los teléfonos rotos

the broken telephones

When used as an adjective, the past participle comes after the verb *estar*.

¿Están terminados tus ensayos?

Are your essays finished?

La ventana está abierta.

The window is open.