

Hay

The word "hay" taken from the verb *haber*, is very useful. "Hay" means "there is" or "there are" in Spanish. It is both plural and singular. For example:

*Hay tres sillas en la sala.
Hay un mapa en la pared.
¿Qué hay en el carro?*

*There are three chairs in the room.
There is a map on the wall.
What's in the car?*

When we use "hay" in the Imperfect past tense, to indicate that "there was" or "there were" things, we say "había" which is also both singular and plural. For example:

*Había tres sillas en la sala.
Había un mapa en la pared.
¿Qué había en el carro?*

*There were three chairs in the room.
There was a map on the wall.
What was in the car?*

We use "hay" in the Preterite past tense to indicate that some one-time action or event occurred in the past. For example:

¡Hubo un accidente!

There was an accident!

Haber y el Presente Perfecto

If I call you up at 7:30 to invite you to dinner, you might say, "Oh, sorry—I have *eaten* already!" I may respond by suggesting that we see a movie instead, to which you might answer, "Oh, I have *seen* that one five times already." At this point, I might say, "I have *had* enough of this!"

All of these verbs are in the Present Perfect Tense. While these actions have taken place in the past, they still have a sense of immediacy: they have taken place recently. In English, we use a conjugation of the verb "to have" and a past participle. Examples of past participles are italicized in the paragraph, above.

To use the Present Perfect in Spanish, we do essentially the same thing, although we do not use the verb *tener*. We use *haber* instead. The verb *haber* is conjugated as you see here.

he	hemos
has	habéis
ha	han

To form past participles in Spanish, we add *-ado* to the stem of AR verbs and *-ido* to the stem of ER and IR verbs. So...

estudiar becomes estudiado

perder becomes perdido

vivir becomes vivido

Here are some examples of the Present Perfect in use:

*Tú has hablado bastante, ya.
Tomás ha terminado la tarea.
Nosotros hemos perdido las llaves.*

*You have spoken enough, already.
Tomás has finished his homework.
We have lost the keys.*

When used as part of a compound verb as in the examples above, past participles have nothing to do with gender and their endings remain the same, whatever the context. On the other hand, **past participles can also be used as adjectives**, in which case, the endings must match the gender and number of the nouns they describe. For example:

la revista ilustrada
las revistas ilustradas

vs.

Yo he ilustrado este libro.
I have illustrated this book.

Participios Irregulares

There are some irregular past participles. Keep in mind that their derivatives are also irregular, as with the verbs *cubrir* and *descubrir*. Here are some of the most common irregular past participles:

abrir	abierto	opened
[des]cubrir	[des]cubierto	[dis]covered
decir	dicho	said
escribir	escrito	written
freír	frito	fried
hacer	hecho	done, made
imprimir	impreso	printed
morir	muerto	died, dead (adjective)
poner	puesto	put, placed
resolver	resuelto	resolved
romper	roto	broken
satisfacer	satisfecho	satisfied
ver	visto	seen
volver	vuelto	returned

Other past participles require accent marks to preserve the original pronunciation because they have stems which end in a weak vowel. For example:

caer	caído	fallen
creer	creído	believed
leer	leído	read
oír	oído	heard
traer	traído	brought