

Saber Conjugation



Free Spanish Lesson and Exercises

To know the meaning of Spanish verbs is an important part in the process of learning Spanish.

To know how to conjugate these verbs is even more essential.

To know that the English verb “to know” means both *saber* and *conocer* in Spanish will prove useful in conversations.

To know, to know, to know. We use this verb quite a lot without even noticing, and in Spanish it’s pretty much the same thing.

In this post, we’ll differentiate between *saber* and *conocer*, learn the *saber* conjugation set, and try a few exercises to practice your new skills.

The Spanish Verb *Saber*

People are always learning new information. For instance, we go to school because there are important things we need to know. We also need to know about the news, or perhaps we want to get to know a person better.

As you can see, in English, “to know” is an important verb. However, in Spanish this verb is translated as two different verbs: *saber* and *conocer*. They both mean “to know,” but we use them in different contexts.

Saber is the verb you have to use when [talking about facts](#), information, or how to do something. *Conocer*, on the other hand, is the verb we use when talking about [knowing people](#), places, or things.

A good tip about when to use these two verbs is to ask yourself if you can replace the verb “to know” in English for the verb “to meet.” If so, you should probably use *conocer* instead of *saber*.

Saber: An Irregular Verb

Saber is an irregular verb, which means that it doesn’t follow the most common pattern of conjugations in Spanish. The *saber* conjugations follow a unique and specific pattern.

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This verb [is irregular](#) in the first person of present indicative, in the preterite, the future, conditional, and the present tense of the subjunctive mood.

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As every set of irregular verb conjugations, the saber conjugations have their own peculiarities. Going from prefix *sab-* to prefixes *sup-* and *sep-* are big changes that can be hard to master at first.

However, this is a two-tier process. Memorizing the conjugations is the first step, and practicing them in real conversations will help you get a natural feeling even for the strangest conjugations of *saber*.

Saber Verbals

Infinitive, gerund, and participle are the three [verbals](#) of the Spanish language. Remember that verbals are never conjugated and that they always need another conjugated verb in order to be used in a sentence.

Saber Verbals		
	Verbal	Example
Infinitive	<i>saber</i> (to know)	<i>Me gustaría saber para qué sirve.</i> – I'd like to know what's this for.
Gerund	sabiendo (knowing)	<i>No puedes hacer eso sabiendo que es un error.</i> – You can't do that knowing it is a mistake.
Participle	<i>sabido</i> (known)	<i>De haberlo sabido antes, no lo habría hecho.</i> – If I'd known before, I wouldn't have done it.

Saber Conjugation: Indicative Mood

Let's see now the indicative mood of the [saber conjugation](#) set, dividing them in simple tenses and compound tenses. Remember that compound tenses include the auxiliary verb *haber* (to have).

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Saber Conjugation: Simple Tenses of the Indicative Mood

Subject	Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Conditional	Future
	(know)	(knew)	(knew)	(would knew)	(will know)
<i>yo</i>	<i>sé</i>	<i>supe</i>	<i>sabía</i>	<i>sabría</i>	<i>sabré</i>
<i>tú</i>	<i>sabes</i>	<i>supiste</i>	<i>sabías</i>	<i>sabrías</i>	<i>sabrás</i>
<i>él/ella</i>	<i>sabe</i>	<i>supo</i>	<i>sabía</i>	<i>sabría</i>	<i>sabrà</i>
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>sabemos</i>	<i>supimos</i>	<i>sabíamos</i>	<i>sabríamos</i>	<i>sabremos</i>
<i>ustedes</i>	<i>saben</i>	<i>supieron</i>	<i>sabían</i>	<i>sabrían</i>	<i>sabrán</i>
<i>ellos/ellas</i>	<i>saben</i>	<i>supieron</i>	<i>sabían</i>	<i>sabrían</i>	<i>sabrán</i>

Saber Conjugation: Compound Tenses of the Indicative Mood

Subject	Present Perfect	Preterite Perfect	Past Perfect (Pluperfect)	Conditional Perfect	Future Perfect
	(have/has known)	(had known)	(had known)	(would have known)	(will have known)
<i>yo</i>	<i>he sabido</i>	<i>hube sabido</i>	<i>había sabido</i>	<i>habría sabido</i>	<i>habré sabido</i>
<i>tú</i>	<i>has sabido</i>	<i>hubiste sabido</i>	<i>habías sabido</i>	<i>habrías sabido</i>	<i>habrás sabido</i>
<i>él/ella</i>	<i>ha sabido</i>	<i>hubo sabido</i>	<i>había sabido</i>	<i>habría sabido</i>	<i>habrá sabido</i>
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>hemos sabido</i>	<i>hubimos sabido</i>	<i>habíamos sabido</i>	<i>habríamos sabido</i>	<i>habremos sabido</i>
<i>ustedes</i>	<i>han sabido</i>	<i>hubieron sabido</i>	<i>habían sabido</i>	<i>habrían sabido</i>	<i>habrán sabido</i>
<i>ellos/ellas</i>	<i>han sabido</i>	<i>hubieron sabido</i>	<i>habían sabido</i>	<i>habrían sabido</i>	<i>habrán sabido</i>

Saber Conjugation: Subjunctive Mood

Now, let's study the saber conjugations of the [subjunctive mood](#). Remember that this mood is used to express wishes, hopes, and desires.

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Saber Conjugation: Simple Tenses of the Subjunctive Mood

Subject	Present	Imperfect	Imperfect 2	Future
<i>yo</i>	<i>sepa</i>	<i>supiera</i>	<i>supiese</i>	<i>supiere</i>
<i>tú</i>	<i>sepas</i>	<i>supieras</i>	<i>supieses</i>	<i>supieres</i>
<i>él/ella</i>	<i>sepa</i>	<i>supiera</i>	<i>supiese</i>	<i>supiere</i>
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>sepamos</i>	<i>supiéramos</i>	<i>supiésemos</i>	<i>supiéremos</i>
<i>ustedes</i>	<i>sepan</i>	<i>supieran</i>	<i>supiesen</i>	<i>supieren</i>
<i>ellos/ellas</i>	<i>sepan</i>	<i>supieran</i>	<i>supiesen</i>	<i>supieren</i>

Saber Conjugation: Compound Tenses of the Subjunctive Mood

Subject	Present Perfect	Past Perfect (Pluperfect)	Past Perfect 2 (Pluperfect 2)	Future Perfect
<i>yo</i>	<i>haya sabido</i>	<i>hubiera sabido</i>	<i>hubiese sabido</i>	<i>hubiere sabido</i>
<i>tú</i>	<i>hayas sabido</i>	<i>hubieras sabido</i>	<i>hubieses sabido</i>	<i>hubieres sabido</i>
<i>él/ella</i>	<i>haya sabido</i>	<i>hubiera sabido</i>	<i>hubiese sabido</i>	<i>hubiere sabido</i>
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>hayamos sabido</i>	<i>hubiéramos sabido</i>	<i>hubiésemos sabido</i>	<i>hubiéremos sabido</i>
<i>ustedes</i>	<i>hayan sabido</i>	<i>hubieran sabido</i>	<i>hubiesen sabido</i>	<i>hubieren sabido</i>
<i>ellos/ellas</i>	<i>hayan sabido</i>	<i>hubieran sabido</i>	<i>hubiesen sabido</i>	<i>hubieren sabido</i>

Saber Conjugation: Imperative Mood

The imperative mood in Spanish is used to give orders or commands, which can be affirmative or negative. This mood has fewer subjects to conjugate, due to the obvious reason that you cannot give an order to yourself or to a third person.

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Saber Conjugation: Imperative Mood

Subject	Affirmative	Negative
	(know / let's know)	(don't know / let's not know)
tú	<i>sabe</i>	<i>no sepas</i>
nosotros	<i>sepamos</i>	<i>no sepamos</i>
ustedes	<i>sepan</i>	<i>no sepan</i>

Saber Conjugation: Exercises

Fill in the blank using the right conjugation of *saber*.

1. *¡* _____ *que vendrías!* - I knew you'd come!.
2. *Mañana* _____ *quién ganó las elecciones.* - Tomorrow we'll know who won the election.
3. *Si* _____ *español, esto no habría pasado.* - If you knew Spanish, this wouldn't have happened.
4. *Lo* _____ *desde el principio.* - I've known it from the beginning.
5. *Juan* _____ *que está equivocado.* - Juan knows he's wrong.
6. *Pensé que tú* _____ . - I thought you would know.
7. *Si nos hubieras llamado, lo* _____ *desde antes.* - If you had called, we would have known it way before.
8. *Ellos* _____ *que los están buscando.* - They know that you are looking for them.
9. *La próxima semana* _____ *si conseguí el empleo.* - Next week I'll know if I've got the job.
10. _____ *que lo harás muy bien.* - I know you'll do it very well.

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Answer Key:

1. *Sabía*
2. *sabremos*
3. *supieras*
4. *he sabido*
5. *sabe*
6. *sabrías*
7. *habríamos sabido*
8. *saben*
9. *sabré*
10. *Sé*