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Objetivos










- Recognize and understand the conditional tense

The conditional tense in Spanish, like the future tense, adds the endings right onto the verb's full infinitive. The endings are actually the same as the -ER/-IR verb endings for the imperfect past tense: -ía, -ías, -ía, -íamos, -íais, -ían. And the irregular forms in the conditional tense are the same as the irregular forms that you learned for the future tense.

Conjugation of the regular conditional tense

 contaminar	 proteger	 destruir
 contaminaría	 protegería	 destruiría
 contaminarías	 protegerías	 destruirías
 contaminaría	 protegería	 destruiría
 contaminarías	 protegeríamos	 destruiríamos
 contaminaríais	 protegeríais	 destruiríais
 contaminarían	 protegerían	 destruirían

Irregular conditional: vowel > d

 poner	 tener	 salir
 pondría	 tendría	 saldría
 pondrías	 tendrías	 saldrías

▶ pondría	▶ tendría	▶ saldría
▶ pondríamos	▶ tendríamos	▶ saldríamos
▶ pondríais	▶ tendríais	▶ saldríais
▶ pondrían	▶ tendrían	▶ saldrían

Irregular conditional: "e" disappears

▶ haber	▶ caber	▶ querer
▶ habría	▶ cabría	▶ querría
▶ habría	▶ cabrías	▶ querrías
▶ habría	▶ cabría	▶ querría
▶ habríamos	▶ cabríamos	▶ querríamos
▶ habríais	▶ cabríais	▶ querríais
▶ habrían	▶ cabrían	▶ querrían

Irregular conditional: "c" disappears

▶ decir	▶ hacer
▶ diría	▶ haría
▶ dirías	▶ harías
▶ diría	▶ haría
▶ diríamos	▶ haríamos

▶ diríais	▶ haríais
▶ dirían	▶ harían

The conditional tense is translated to English as “would” and is used to express hypothetical actions. For now, be sure to just use it in simple one-verb sentences (e.g. “In that case, I would say yes”), because when the conditional is used in complex hypothetical sentences (e.g. “If you asked me, I would say yes”) the conditional pairs with a verb tense that we haven’t learned yet.

- ▶ ¿Qué súperpoder **querrias** tener? (*What superpower **would you want** to have?*)
- ▶ **Yo sacaría** toda la basura y contaminación de los océanos. (*I **would remove** all the garbage and pollution from the oceans.*)
- ▶ Con suficiente voluntad y disciplina **podríamos cambiar** muchos de nuestros malos hábitos y mejorar el medio ambiente. (*With enough determination and discipline **we would be able to change** a lot of our bad habits and improve the environment.*)

¡Ojo! Not all uses of “would” are the same:

Habitual past action: translate with imperfect past tense.



- ▶ Cuando éramos jóvenes **tirábamos** a la basura los platos y utensilios de plástico después de usarlos una sola vez. (*When we were younger **we would throw out** plastic plates and utensils after using them just once.*)

Hypothetical or contrary-to-fact action: translate with conditional tense.

- ▶ Al usar platos o utensilios de plástico ahora, **los volveríamos a usar** y finalmente los tiraríamos en el reciclaje. (*When using plastic plates or utensils now, **we would reuse** them and eventually we would throw them in the recycling.*)

Conditional of probability

Remember that the future tense can be used to speculate about circumstances in the present? Similarly, the conditional can be used to speculate about circumstances in the past.

-  Las personas que inventaron el motor de combustión interna, ¿**entenderían** las consecuencias ambientales de su invención? (***Do you think the people who invented the internal combustion engine understood the environmental consequences of their invention?***)
-  **Las generaciones anteriores pensarían** que el mundo era suficientemente grande como para absorber todas las emisiones. (***Previous generations probably thought that the world was big enough to absorb all the emissions.***)

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