

Reference 12.3: The Immediate Future Tense

Tense: Tense describes a time reference to the moment of when a person is speaking. There are various tenses in each language. Each tense is described with the word “happen”. The word “happen” will actually be formed in the tense that it describes.

- **Present Tense:** The Present Tense describes what happens in general.
- **The Present-Progressive Tense:** The Present-Progressive Tense describes what is happening now.
- **Immediate Future Tense:** The Immediate Future Tense describes what is going to happen soon.
- **Future Tense:** The Future Tense describes what will happen eventually.
- **Conditional Tense:** The Conditional Tense describes what would happen.
- **The Preterit Tense:** The Preterit Tense describes what happened that is done in a particular moment.
- **The Imperfect Tense:** The Imperfect Tense describes what happened over a period of time.
- **The Subjunctive Tense:** The Subjunctive Tense describes what may happen.
- **The Past Subjunctive Tense:** The Past Subjunctive Tense describes what might happen in the past.

In this chapter, we are going to study **The Immediate Future Tense**. Therefore, we are going to express: what is going to happen. In order to do this, we must apply a formula because expressing the Immediate Future requires more than one word; instead, the formula we are memorizing is actually a phrase.

Expressing the Immediate Future

- **Step 1:** the subject or subject pronoun
- **Step 2:** the conjugation of “ir” with the subject
- **Step 3:** “a”
- **Step 4:** the infinitive form of the verb

Example:

- I want to express the sentence: “I am going to read today.”
 - **Step 1:** The word “I” in Spanish is “yo”
 - **Step 2:** The “yo” form of the verb “ir” is “voy”
 - **Step 3:** “a”
 - **Step 4:** The infinitive “to read” is “leer”.
 - **Translation:** Yo voy a leer hoy.
- I want to express the sentence: “She is going to sing.”
 - **Step 1:** The word “she” in Spanish is “ella”
 - **Step 2:** The “ella” form of the verb “ir” is “va”
 - **Step 3:** “a”
 - **Step 4:** The infinitive “to sing” is “cantar”.
 - **Translation:** Ella va a cantar.
- I want to express the sentence: “We are going to live in California.”
 - **Step 1:** The word “we” in Spanish is “nosotros”
 - **Step 2:** The “yo” form of the verb “ir” is “vamos”
 - **Step 3:** “a”
 - **Step 4:** The infinitive “to read” is “vivir”.
 - **Translation:** Nosotros vamos a vivir en California.

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Subject Pronouns

1st Person

- | | | |
|---|----|----------|
| • Speaking about yourself (singular) | I | Yo |
| • Speaking about yourself with a group of people (plural) | We | Nosotros |

2nd Person

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| • Speaking directly to a person (singular) | You | Tú |
| | ▪ You (formal) | Usted |
| • Speaking directly to a group of people (plural) | You all | Vosotros |
| | ▪ You all (formal) | Ustedes |

3rd Person

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|
| • Speaking about someone or something (singular) | He, She, It | Él, Ella, _____ |
| • Speaking about a group of people or things (plural) | They | Ellos, Ellas |

Conjugating Irregular Verbs

- An Irregular Verb is a verb that does not follow a pattern. If you look below, you will notice that the conjugations do not even look close to the infinitive form of the verb. Although, you will see some similarities when looking at the conjugations, it is important to know that irregular verb conjugations must be memorized.

Conjugating “ir”- to go:

	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
1st Person	yo	VOY	nosotros	VAMOS
2nd Person	tú	VAS	vosotros	VAIS
3rd Person	él, ella, usted	VA	ellos, ellas, ustedes	VAN

Conjugaton: The suffix endings that you just created now change the meaning of the verb in order to identify who or what is doing the verb.

Example: I want to say “You go”.

- Step 1:** memorize that the “tú” form of “ir” is: “vas”.

Infinitive: A verb that is not conjugated is called an infinitive. Infinitives mean “to _____”

- Example:** The word “ir” means “to go”
- Note:** Infinitives are the only form of a verb found in a Spanish-English dictionary.

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Expressing “It”

- When you want to say “it” as the subject of the sentence, you simply put nothing in front of a verb when the verb is conjugated in third person singular form. That’s it!
 - **Example:** It is.
 - Es
 - **Example:** It speaks.
 - Habla.
 - **Example:** It has.
 - Tiene
 - **Example:** It plays.
 - Juega.
 - **Example:** It knows.
 - Sabe.
- When we express weather, we generally use the phrase “it”. You can see it on the weather expressions themselves. In order to express these weather expressions correctly in the Immediate Future Tense, you simply have to conjugate the verb “ir” in the third person singular form.
 - **Example:** It is sunny.
 - Hace sol.
 - **Example:** It going to be sunny.
 - Va a hacer sol.
 - **Example:** It is cloudy.
 - Está nublado.
 - **Example:** It is going to be cloudy.
 - Va a estar nublado.
 - **Example:** It rains.
 - Llueve.
 - **Example:** It is going to rain.
 - Va a llover.
- In the above examples, we used the formula for the Immediate Future Tense. Yet, we conjugated the form of “ir” in third person singular with no subject in order to express “it”, then used “a” and then the infinitive form of the weather expression. Below are the verbs used in weather expression but in their infinitive forms.
 - hace → hacer
 - está → estar
 - hay → haber
 - llueve → llover
 - nieva → nevar
 - truena → tronar