

Conditional sentences (“Would”)

Spanish has its own tense for expressing the concept of “would” as in “I would go.” This tense, called the *conditional*, is formed in the same way the true future tense is formed-by adding a new set of endings on to the infinitive. Coincidentally, the endings are the same as the imperfect endings for -er/-ir verbs, as seen in the following chart:

Conditional endings (-ar / -er / -ir verbs)

ía	íamos
ías	íais
ía	ían

Sample conjugation: comer

comería	comeríamos
comerías	comeríais
comería	comerían

Using the conditional form simply adds the concept of “would” to the action, as in :

yo* comería. (I would eat).
 nosotros iríamos. (we would go)
 lo comprarías. (you would buy it.)
 Me gustaría comprar el traje. (I would like to buy the suit.)

*Note that “yo” is usually used with this tense, to distinguish from the él/ella form

The following 12 verbs are irregular in the conditional tense. The only irregularity is that a new stem is used in place of the infinitive, as with regular verbs. Regular endings are then added to the new stem. **Please note that these irregular verbs are exactly the same as the irregular future verbs.**

Group #1: Drop an “e”

caber: cabr-
 haber: habr-
 poder: podr-
 querer: querr-
 saber: sabr-

Sample conjugation: tener

tendría	tendríamos
tendrías	tendríais
tendría	tendrían

Sample conjugation: decir

diría	diríamos
dirías	diríais
diría	dirían

Group #2: Replace “e/l” with “d”

poner: pondr-
 salir: saldr-
 tener: tendr-
 valer: valdr-
 venir: vendr-

Group #3: Drop 2 letters

decir: dir-
 hacer: har-

As with other perfect tenses, the conditional perfect tense (I would have danced) is formed by using the verb “haber”, conjugated in the conditional form, and the past participle (-ado/-ido).

habría	habríamos	-ado	Yo habría bailado	Nosotros habríamos bailado
habrías	habríais	+	Tú habrías bailado	Vosotros habríais bailado
habría	habrían	-ido	Ella habría bailado	Ellos habrían bailado

To practice this concept, please visit:

- <http://www.conjuguemos.com> (exercise #13)
- <http://www.studyspanish.com/lessons/conditional.htm>
- <http://www.spaleon.com/cond.php>
- <http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercises/conditional.html>