

# Future Tense Spanish Lessons To (Hopefully) Spark Joy

Of all the verb tenses we teach in Spanish class, the **future tense** is many a teacher's absolute favorite—and it tends to be a fan favorite for students, too. By the time they reach this point, they've usually survived the roller coaster of present, preterite, imperfect, and maybe even subjunctive. After all that chaos, the **simplicity and predictability** of the future tense feels like a breath of fresh air.

## Why Students Love the Future Tense

Let's be honest: Spanish has a lot of tricky tenses. But the **future tense is refreshingly regular**—for the most part. Once students learn that all they need to do is **attach endings to the full infinitive**, they realize it's actually manageable. Even the nine irregular verbs don't overwhelm them.

## Kick Off With Fun: El Futuro Fortune-Telling Game

Introduce the [future](#) tense with a little drama and a lot of fun. Call it “**El futuro**”. It sets the stage for [comprehensible input](#) (CI) and student buy-in.

### What it looks like:

- Put on a scarf and pull out a glowing ball (a novelty toy, but a flashlight and plastic bowl will do the trick!).
- Go into “fortune teller” mode and give each student a **mini prediction** about their future—all in Spanish.

This context gets them **hearing future tense structures** without pressure. It's funny, meaningful, and full of repeated input.

## Teach the Structure in Context

Once they've had some input, explain how the tense works. Start by telling them what you think will happen in *your* future, emphasizing the “**yo**” form (e.g., *viajaré*, *tendré*, *comeré*). Then write some of these sentences on the board.

If you have a budding linguist in the room, invite them to guess the pattern. If not, introduce the **endings on the verb chart** directly.

## Predict Your Own Future

Next, students shift the focus to themselves. They make **predictions about their own futures** using the future tense. They can:

- Record videos
- Submit Google Docs
- Write on old-fashioned paper

Then move on to the **“tú” form**, with students predicting their classmates’ futures. (“*Tendrás cinco hijos.*” / “*Viajarás por el mundo.*”) You can collect these in a Google Doc and share out, or have a live class session for laughs and feedback.

## Bring in the Magic 8 Ball

Add a twist with this fun, Spanish-language **Magic 8 Ball** tool:

<https://spinhewheel.io/es/magic-8-ball-online>

Let students ask their own questions about the future and react to the ball’s answers using the future tense. It’s a creative, interactive break that reinforces input.

## Explicit Instruction Still Matters

After plenty of CI and play, bring it back to **explicit grammar instruction**. Students fill in a **future tense verb chart**, starting with “yo” forms and eventually moving through all subjects. The structure and repetition help students develop early mastery.

Yes, it’s a little old-school—but it works.

## Practice with Purpose

Use the completed charts during lessons to:

- Conjugate new verbs

- Fill in practice exercises (from the text or teacher-created)
- Do group activities like **fortune-teller skits** or **cootie catcher predictions**

A popular review game involves students creating fortune readings for each other or for historical figures, celebrities, or fictional characters. It's a fun way to apply the tense in varied contexts.

## **Wrap-Up Writing & Quiz**

To end the unit, assign a short writing task:

**“Write your predictions about the future of the world.”**

This could include climate, technology, careers, or anything they're curious about.

Follow up with a quiz that mirrors the **same chart they filled out for notes**. It's familiar, scaffolded, and supports success. Students walk away feeling confident with their understanding and use of the future tense.

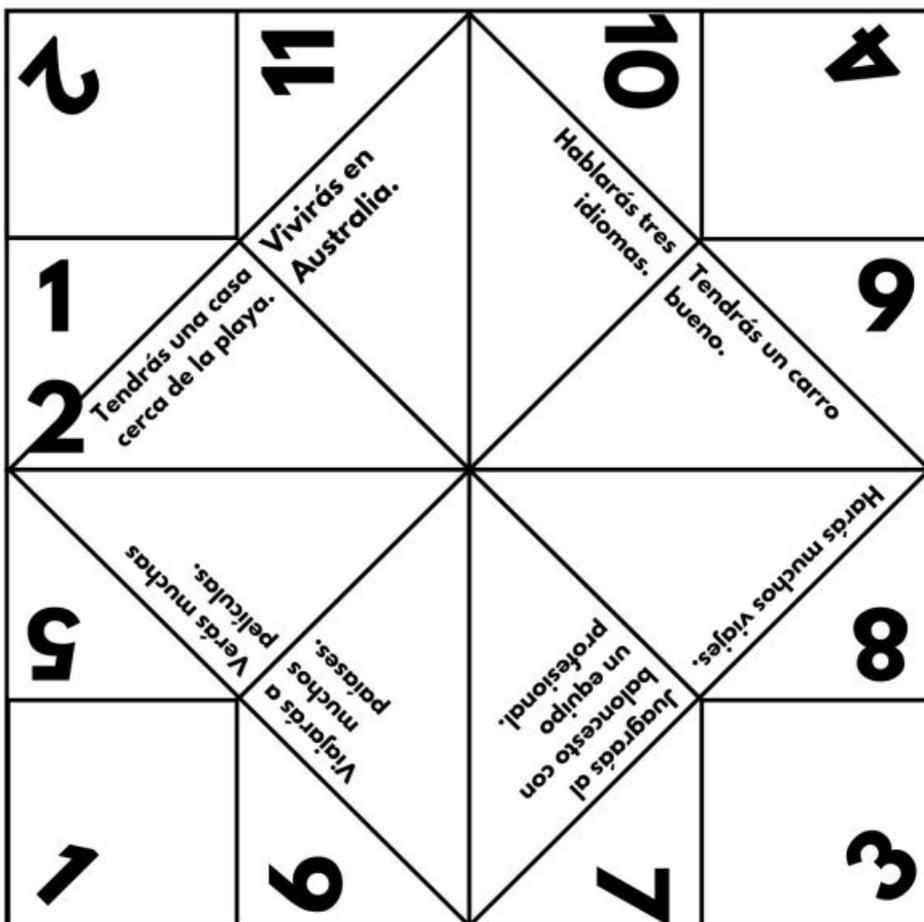
Here's a **chat-style activity** on Canva that your students will love:

# Tu futuro

Fold this cootie catcher or fortune teller according to your teacher's instructions. Use the process to reveal a Halloween writing prompt!

## Here's how to use the final folded object

- Ask the person you're playing with to choose a number from the ones written on the top flaps of the cootie catcher
- Spell out the number or count it out to reveal new numbers
- Choose another number and count or spell again
- Ask the person to choose one final number, and lift the flap to reveal the writing prompt



# Folding instructions

**Fold Diagonally:** Fold the square paper diagonally in half to form a triangle. Open it back up and fold it diagonally the other way. When you unfold it, you should have two diagonal creases that cross in the center.

**Fold the Corners to the Center:** With the square flat, take each corner of the paper and fold it toward the center point where the two diagonal creases meet. You should now have a smaller square shape.

**Flip and Repeat:** Flip the paper over so the folded flaps are facing down. Again, fold each corner to the center point. You'll end up with an even smaller square.

**Create Creases for Opening:** Fold the smaller square in half horizontally, then unfold it. Then fold it in half vertically and unfold it again. This will create creases that make it easier to manipulate the cootie catcher.

**Form the Pockets:** With the folds facing up, gently lift the paper and slip your fingers under the four flaps (pockets) created on the back side. Pinch the sides together to form a 3D shape.

**Shape It for Use:** Once your fingers are in place, you can move the flaps back and forth by pinching and pulling with your fingers. Your cootie catcher is ready!

## Example Sequence

- The person picks "4." You spell out "F-O-U-R" while moving the cootie catcher in and out.
- They see the new numbers inside and pick "7." You move the cootie catcher 7 times.
- Finally, they pick "2." You open up the flap for "2" and reveal a writing prompt underneath.

## Final Thoughts

Teaching the future tense doesn't have to be dry or textbook-driven. With a mix of storytelling, role play, charts, tech tools, and personalization, you can turn this unit into one of the most enjoyable—and effective—moments of your year.

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