(El Futuro Simple / El Futuro de Probabilidad)

The future tense in Spanish is used to express **what will happen** or **what someone will do**, making it essential for talking about plans, predictions, and intentions. Beyond its basic meaning, the future tense also serves a second important purpose: expressing **probability or conjecture** about the present. In this sense, it can communicate what **might** be true or what **must** be happening right now.

Understanding both uses of the future tense helps students communicate confidently about upcoming events while also interpreting uncertainty or possibility in the present.

1) What Does the Future Tense Express?

The **future tense** can express:

1**Simple future actions**
→ *Mañana estudiaré para el examen.* → I will study for the test tomorrow.

2**Predictions or possibilities**
→ *Habrá mucha gente en la fiesta.* → There will be a lot of people at the party.

3**Assumptions or probability in the present**
→ *Estará en casa ahora.* → He must be at home right now.

2) How to Form the Future Tense

The **future tense is easy to form** because you don’t remove the infinitive — you simply **add endings to the entire verb**.

Formula:

Infinitive + Future Endings

These endings are the same for **-AR, -ER, and -IR verbs**.

Subject	Ending
yo	**-é**

tú	**-ás**
él / ella / usted	**-á**
nosotros / nosotras	**-emos**
vosotros / vosotras	**-éis**
ellos / ellas / ustedes	**-án**

3) Regular Verb Conjugations

-AR Example: hablar (to speak)

Subject	Form
yo	hablaré
tú	hablarás
él/ella/Ud.	hablará
nosotros	hablaremos
vosotros	hablaréis
ellos/ellas/Uds.	hablarán

Yo hablaré con mi profesor. → I will talk to my teacher.

-ER Example: comer (to eat)

Subject	Form
yo	comeré
tú	comerás
él/ella/Ud.	comerá
nosotros	comeremos
vosotros	comeréis
ellos/ellas/Uds.	comerán

Comeremos en casa mañana. → We'll eat at home tomorrow.

-IR Example: vivir (to live)

Subject	Form

yo	viviré
tú	vivirás
él/ella/Ud.	vivirá
nosotros	viviremos
vosotros	viviréis
ellos/ellas/Uds.	vivirán

Vivirán en México el próximo año. → They will live in Mexico next year.

4) Irregular Future Stems

Some verbs have **irregular stems**, but **use the same endings** as regular verbs. These changes usually simplify the stem by dropping or changing a letter.

A. Drop the -e from the infinitive ending

Infinitive	Stem	Example	English
poder	podr-	*podré*	I will be able
querer	querr-	*querrás*	you will want
saber	sabr-	*sabrá*	he/she will know
caber	cabr-	*cabremos*	we will fit
haber	habr-	*habrá*	there will be

Habrá una fiesta mañana. → There will be a party tomorrow.

B. Replace the vowel with -d

Infinitive	Stem	Example	English
poner	pondr-	*pondré*	I will put
salir	saldr-	*saldrás*	you will go out
tener	tendr-	*tendrá*	he/she will have
valer	valdr-	*valdrán*	they will be worth
venir	vendr-	*vendremos*	we will come

Tendré mucho trabajo mañana. → I will have a lot of work tomorrow.

C. Completely Irregular Stems

Infinitive	Stem	Example	English
decir	dir-	*diré*	I will say / tell
hacer	har-	*harás*	you will do / make

Te diré la verdad. → I will tell you the truth.
Harán un viaje este verano. → They will take a trip this summer.

5) Summary Chart: Future Tense Endings

Person	Ending	Example (hablar)
yo	-é	hablaré
tú	-ás	hablarás
él/ella/Ud.	-á	hablará
nosotros	-emos	hablaremos
vosotros	-éis	hablaréis
ellos/ellas/Uds.	-án	hablarán

Same endings for all verbs — just memorize the irregular stems.

6) Uses of the Future Tense

A. To express what will happen

- *Mañana lloverá.* → It will rain tomorrow.
- *Estudiaremos mucho este fin de semana.* → We'll study a lot this weekend.

B. To express certainty about the future

- *Llegarán a las ocho.* → They'll arrive at eight.
- *Tendrás éxito algún día.* → You will succeed one day.

C. To express probability or conjecture (in the present)

Used to mean **"I suppose," "I wonder," or "must be."**

- *¿Dónde estará Marta?* → Where could Marta be? / I wonder where Marta is.
- *Estará en casa.* → She must be at home.
- *Serán las tres.* → It must be three o'clock.
- *Tendrán hambre.* → They must be hungry.

This "future of probability" use is **very common in spoken Spanish**.

D. With Time Expressions

Common words and phrases that accompany the future tense:

Spanish	**English**
mañana	tomorrow
pasado mañana	the day after tomorrow
pronto	soon
esta noche	tonight
el próximo (día, mes, año)	next (day, month, year)
algún día	someday
dentro de (time)	within (time period)
más tarde	later
en el futuro	in the future

Algún día seré profesora. → Someday I will be a teacher.

7) Future vs. Ir + a + Infinitive

In Spanish, you can talk about the future using either **the future tense** or **the periphrastic future** (*ir a + infinitive*).

Use	**Formula**	**Example**	**English**
Near future (certain, planned)	*ir a + infinitive*	*Voy a estudiar mañana.*	I'm going to study tomorrow.
Simple future (broader, more formal)	future tense	*Estudiaré mañana.*	I will study tomorrow.

Both are correct — *ir a + infinitive* is more common in conversation, while the

simple future tense is more formal or literary.

8) Practice: Fill in the Blanks

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the future tense.

1. Yo _____ (estudiar) español mañana.
2. Ellos _____ (salir) a las ocho.
3. Nosotros _____ (tener) una prueba el viernes.
4. Tú _____ (decir) la verdad, ¿verdad?
5. ¿Qué _____ (hacer) ustedes este verano?
6. Ella _____ (venir) más tarde.

Answers:

1. estudiaré
2. saldrán
3. tendremos
4. dirás
5. harán
6. vendrá

9) Practice: Express Probability

Translate into Spanish using the future of probability.

1. They must be tired.
2. I wonder what time it is.
3. She must be at the beach.
4. He’s probably studying.

Answers:

1. Estarán cansados.
2. ¿Qué hora será?
3. Estará en la playa.
4. Estará estudiando.

10) Common Pitfalls & Fixes

Wrong	Correct	Why
Hablaro mañana.	*Hablaré mañana.*	Add future ending, not just drop -r.
Voy estudiar mañana.	*Voy a estudiar mañana.*	Must use *a* after *ir*.
Dirásme la verdad.	*Me dirás la verdad.*	Pronouns go **before** conjugated verb.
Comeráslo.	*Lo comerás.*	Same rule — pronoun before verb.

11) Quick Summary Chart: Future Overview

Concept	Formula / Rule	Example
Formation	Infinitive + ending	*hablaré, comerás, vivirá*
Endings	é, ás, á, emos, éis, án	—
Irregular stems	podr-, querr-, sabr-, har-, dir-, tendr-, vendr-, pondr-, saldr-, habr-	—
Use 1	What *will* happen	*Iré al cine mañana.*
Use 2	Probability / conjecture	*Será tarde.*
Use 3	Prediction / assumption	*Habrá tráfico.*
Related form	*ir a + infinitive* = going to	*Voy a estudiar.*

Why the Future Tense Matters

The **future tense** allows you to:

- Talk about **plans and goals**
- Make **predictions** and **assumptions**
- Express **certainty and probability**
- Use **more natural, fluent, and expressive Spanish**

Mastering it helps bridge the gap between **present communication** and **talking about what's to come** — a vital skill for proficiency and storytelling.

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