CONJUGATION OF VERB ELEGIR IN SPANISH – MEANING AND EXAMPLES

This verb is used when we take one option from several others. In English, this could be the same as **to choose**. We use it when we are deciding between two or more options. For example: **Los colombianos *eligieron* presidente en las últimas elecciones** (Colombian people chose/elected president in last elections) as we can see in this example, Colombian people decided to take one option among those they had, that is what we call **''elegir''.**

However, the verb **''seleccionar''** has a similar meaning as **elegir** but this is more related to the action of classifying. For example: ***seleccionaron* a los más preparados** (they selected those who were more prepared).

Learning Tips!

Before you continue reading, don't forget the following statements.

- ''You'' is a pronoun which has different meanings. However, in Spanish we have 3 important pronouns: **tú, usted, ustedes.** ''Tú'' is used when you have confidence with the person you are talking to, ''usted'' is more formal and ''ustedes'' is used to talk about more than one person we are directing to.

- In Spanish, we have unspoken subjects, so it is not needed to use a pronoun every time as we do in English.

- We use written accents in Spanish, be careful; otherwise, you will have miscommunication problems in your writing.

Indicative Mood

In the **indicative mood**, the facts in the action of which the verb speaks are real and are given by certain events that have occurred, are developing or are about to occur. Read the following examples:

- Yo **elijo** el libro.
- Tú **elegiste** la comida.
- Él **elegía** el postre.
- Nosotros/ nosotros **elegiremos** al presidente.
- Ellos **elegirían** el color.

These are some examples of phrases in the indicative mode of this important verb. Do you recognize these tenses?

Subject	Present	Perfect Preterit (past)	Imperfect preterit (past)	Future simple	Conditional
Yo (I)	Elijo	Elegí	Elegía	Elegiré	Elegiría
Tú (you)	Eliges	Elegiste	Elegías	Elegirás	Elegirías
Él (he) / **ella** (she) / **usted (you: formal)**	Elige	Eligió	Elegía	Elegirá	Elegiría
Nosotros (we)	Elegimos	Elegimos	Elegíamos	Elegiremos	Elegiríamos
Ustedes (you: plural) / **ellos** (they: masculine) / **ellas** (they: feminine)	Eligen	Eligieron	Elegían	Elegirán	Elegirían

Analyze the previous chart and let's review some examples.

- We use present tense when we are currently taking a decision. For example: **''yo elijo el verde''** (I choose green).

- We use perfect preterit to talk mainly about decisions we took in a precise time in the past. For example: **elegiste la camisa pequeña** (you chose the small shirt).

- We use imperfect preterit to talk about decisions we were talking about, but we don't know certainly what the final decision was. For example; **elegíamos entre Kate and Jack** (we chose between Kate and Jake).

- We use the future simple to communicate that we will make a decision in a future time: **ellas elegirán al nuevo director** (they will choose the new director)

- We use the simple conditional tense to express that we would probably take a decision: **Tú elgirías entre tu madre y tu esposa** (you would choose between your mom and your wife).

Subject	Compounded perfect preterit (Present perfect)	Pluperfect (past perfect)	Perfect future	Perfect Conditional
Yo (I)	He elegido	Había elegido	Habré elegido	Habría elegido
Tú (you)	Has elegido	Habías elegido	Habrás elegido	Habrías elegido
Él (he) / **ella** (she) / **usted (you: formal)**	Ha elegido	Había elegido	Habrá elegido	Habría elegido
Nosotros (we)	Hemos elegido	Habíamos elegido	Habremos elegido	Habríamos elegido
Ustedes (you: plural) / **ellos** (they: masculine) / **ellas** (they: feminine)	Han elegido	Habían elegido	Habrán elegido	Habrían elegido

Let’s see some of the most used perfect tenses of the Indicative Mood

We build compounded tenses using the verb **‘’HABER’’** (HAVE) and the past participle of the main verb, in this case **elegir -> elegido**.

We use the compounded perfect preterit to express that we have taken a decision since a determinate time. For example: **ella ha elegido el postre desde 2019** (she has chosen the desert since 2019).

We use the pluperfect to express that we took a decision before an action developed in the past: **Antes de encontrarnos, ya habíamos elegido este lugar** (before we met, we had already chosen this place).

We use the perfect future to express that we will have probably decided after a certain time. For example; **habremos elegido varios colores en unos minutos** (we will have chosen several colors in a few minutes). However, this tense is more commonly used to talk about situations that most likely could have happened or to make suppositions. For example: **supongo que habrán elegido mi propuesta** (I guess you will have chosen my proposal).

We use perfect conditional to talk about the consequence of an action that could have happened: **Si hubiéramos sabido, habríamos elegido la segunda opción** (if we had known, we would have chosen the second option).

As you already know, in Spanish we also have two other verbal modes: the Subjunctive and the Imperative Mood

Let’s see the common forms of the Subjunctive Mood: