SPANISH VERB JUGAR CONJUGATION – THE MOST PLAYFUL OF ALL

It is inevitable to read the word play and not think of children, childhood or fun. And there is nothing better than learning by playing, or simply playing for fun. When you are learning a new language there are words that are like Thanos, inevitable, and **Jugar** is one of those verbs that, at first, can make us run to ask our teacher the typical "How do you say…" phrase. Whether you're playing with words, toys or someone's heart, you're going to have to know how the verb changes when you'll use it. Let's go, let's conjugate!

Meaning of Jugar

In Spanish, ***Jugar*** means to play. That same verb we associate with going to the park, visiting your cousins or classmates, it is also the verb we use to talk about the new edition of Resident Evil (video games) or to talk about the Mets vs Yankees game (and sports in general).

As a typical English to Spanish learning thing, you probably associate "to play" also with the art of using a musical instrument, but no, in Spanish when talking about instruments, the verb "tocar" is the verb you will have to use. In Spanish, ***tocamos*** *instrumentos* (play an instrument) and ***jugamos*** *a las escondidas* (play hide and seek).

What Type of Verb is Jugar?

Jugar is an irregular verb, that is to say that it is a chameleon verb: (almost) every time you are going to conjugate it, it will have a different form, so you will have to play the memory game to get familiar with its use in everyday sentences.

Here we love that you can learn in a simpler way, and if there is any way to make you have advantages in Spanish is with certain hacks or patterns that this language has. With **Jugar**, for example, when you try to conjugate it, you will be able to notice two important changes, the first one is with the suffixes:

The suffix *jug–* sometimes changes to *jueg–*

The second hack has more to do with spelling, and basically has to do with that rule that

says:

If the e comes after the g it is changed to gu

This means that you should not write juege, but **juegue**.

Verbals of Jugar

In case you've never heard what a verbal is, they are those words that look like verbs but sometimes change their function as a verb, becoming nouns and even adverbs. In Spanish, the verbals of the verb **Jugar** are the gerund, the participle and the infinitive. Please keep in mind that they are nothing if they are not accompanied by another conjugated verb!

	Verbal	Common use	Example	English
Infinitive	Jugar (to play)	Non conjugated / Noun	Quiero poder ir a jugar con mis primos.	I want to be able to go and play with my cousins.
Gerund	Jugando (playing)	Adverb/ Periphrasis	Estábamos jugando, pero empezó a llover.	We were playing but it started to rain.
Participle	Jugado (played)	Adjective	Si hubiésemos jugado la habríamos pasado mejor que viendo tv.	If we had played, we would have had a better time than watching TV.

Spanish Verb Jugar Conjugation

Jugar is a pleasant word, the variations (because it is an irregular verb), are not complicated or too many, which helps a lot when you need to learn by heart. The changes are in the present tense and there are just a few of them.

Jugar Conjugation: Indicative Mood

The verb *Jugar* has two forms in the indicative mood: simple and compound. The first part of this juego (game) is to learn the times by heart. So, here is a thorough list with the times and how they change with each subject to whom the sentences are addressed.

Simple Tenses of the Indicative Mood

Subject	Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Conditional	Future
	(play)	(played)	(played)	(would play)	(will play)
yo	juego	jugué	jugaba	jugaría	jugaré
tú	juegas	jugaste	jugabas	jugarías	jugarás
él/ella/usted	juega	jugó	jugaba	jugaría	jugará
nosotros	jugamos	jugamos	jugábamos	jugaríamos	jugaremos
ellos/ellas/ustedes	juegan	jugaron	jugaban	jugarían	jugarán

Examples:

- Yo **juego** en el equipo más grande de mi pueblo – I play for the biggest team in my town.
- Ustedes **jugarían** unas tres veces por semana, si ganan – You would play about three times a week if you win.

Compound Tenses of the Indicative Mood

Subject	Present Perfect	Preterite Perfect	Past Perfect (Pluperfect)	Conditional Perfect	Future Perfect
	(have/has played)	(had played)	(had played)	(would have played)	(will have played)
yo	he jugado	hube jugado	había jugado	habría jugado	habré jugado
tú	has jugado	hubiste jugado	habías jugado	habrías jugado	habrás jugado
él/ella/usted	ha jugado	hubo jugado	había jugado	habría jugado	habrá jugado
nosotros	hemos jugado	hubimos jugado	habíamos jugado	habríamos jugado	habremos jugado
ellos/ellas/ustedes	han jugado	hubieron jugado	habían jugado	habrían jugado	habrán jugado

Examples:

- Nosotros **hubiésemos jugado** con los niños de nuestros amigos hasta el cansancio – We would have played with our friends' children to exhaustion.
- Ellos **habrán jugado** aproximadamente 30 horas cuando terminen el modo normal de GTA IV – They will have played approximately 30 hours when they finish the normal mode of GTA IV.

Jugar Conjugation: Subjunctive Mood

Think about what you want most currently, (I know, you wish you were playing instead of studying) making associations is a good trick to achieve memorization. The subjunctive mood is about wishes and hypotheses, so every time you think of making a sentence that has hopes or wishes, it belongs to this mood. To make sentences with this mood, you are going to use these words:

Simple Tenses of the Subjunctive Mood

Subject	Present	Imperfect	Imperfect 2	Future
yo	juegue	jugara	jugase	jugare
tú	juegues	jugaras	jugases	jugares
él/ella	juegue	jugara	jugase	jugare
nosotros	juguemos	jugáramos	jugásemos	jugáremos
ustedes	jueguen	jugaran	jugasen	jugaren
ellos/ellas	jueguen	jugaran	jugasen	jugaren

Examples:

- Sería un sueño hecho realidad que yo **jugare** en la final internacional de Fornite – It would be a dream come true for me to play in the international finals of Fornite.
- Si tú **jugaras** en modo libre te divertirías, sólo te veo golpeando el teclado cuando pierdes – If you played in free mode you would have fun, I only see you hitting the keyboard when you lose.

Compound Tenses of the Subjunctive Mood

Subject	Present Perfect	Past Perfect (Pluperfect)	Past Perfect 2 (Pluperfect 2)	Future Perfect
yo	haya jugado	hubiera jugado	hubiese jugado	hubiere jugado
tú	hayas jugado	hubieras jugado	hubieses jugado	hubieres jugado
él/ella	haya jugado	hubiera jugado	hubiese jugado	hubiere jugado
nosotros	hayamos jugado	hubiéramos jugado	hubiésemos jugado	hubiéremos jugado
ustedes	hayan jugado	hubieran jugado	hubiesen jugado	hubieren jugado
ellos/ellas	hayan jugado	hubieran jugado	hubiesen jugado	hubieren jugado

Examples:

- El Barcelona **hubiera jugado** la final de la Champion si no hubiese perdido la semana pasada – Barcelona would have played in the Champion's Cup final had they not lost last week.
- Si **hubieres jugado** tus 4 horas de entrenamiento, tendrías más habilidades – If you had played your 4 hours of training, you would have more skills.

Jugar Conjugation: Imperative Mood

Have you noticed that when you talk to yourself giving yourself orders, you become a second person? This is because in both English and Spanish, it is impossible to give an order to the first person (Yo). So, in this mood we have fewer subjects, good news, less to memorize!

Imperative Mood's Conjugations

Subject	Affirmative	Negative
	(play / let's play)	(don't play / let's not play
tú	juega	no juegues

Subject	Affirmative	Negative
nosotros	juguemos	no juguemos
ustedes	jueguen	no jueguen

Examples:

- ¡Ernesto! ¡**No juegues** con el jarrón de 200 años de tu abuela! – Ernesto! Don't play with your grandmother's 200-year-old vase!
- Ustedes tres **jueguen** en el equipo de los globos azules, y ustedes cuatro **jueguen** en el equipo de globos rojos – You three play on the blue balloon team, and you four, play on the red balloon team.

Spanish Verb Jugar – Quiz/Worksheet

Here are a couple of suggested exercises for you to practice, a way to play and learn more about the verb conjugations. The best tool is to practice it in real conversations, without thinking that you are going to make a mistake (surely you will make a mistake, but that will never be the most important thing), so let's go!

1. Ellas _____ en el equipo nacional de clavados desde que tienen 15 años de edad. They have played on the national diving team since they were 15 years old.

2. Mi mejor amigo y yo _____ en la consola de mi vecino el próximo lunes. My best friend and I will be playing on my neighbor's console next Monday.

3. Mi hermano Daniel y yo _____ todos los días a las escondidas en la casa de nuestra abuela. – My brother Daniel and I played hide-and-seek every day at our grandmother's house.

4. Sebastián _____ béisbol en su adultez si no se hubiese lesionado en su adolescencia. – Sebastian would have played baseball as an adult had he not been injured as a teenager.

5. Diana no seas odiosa, _____ con tu hermanita. – Diana, don't be hateful, play with your little sister.

6. Cuando ustedes _____ todos las pistas de carrera de Mario Kart, podrán elegir su

favorita. – When you have played all the Mario Kart racetracks, you will be able to choose your favorite one.

7. Mi amor, _____ a que tú friegas los platos hoy, ¿si? Mañana barro el piso. My love, let's play that you do the dishes today, okay? I'll sweep the floor tomorrow.

8. Luke y Nate dején de pelear vayan y _____ en el patio. – Luke and Nate stop fighting, go and play in the yard.

9. Mamá! David nunca deja que yo _____ con su Nintendo 64, ¡dice que estoy muy pequeño para jugar! – Mom! David never lets me play with his Nintendo 64, he says I'm too little to play!

10. Nosotros vamos a _____ dos partidas y ustedes _____ las dos siguientes partidas. – We will play two games and you play the next two games.

Answers

Hey, don't cheat. Don't come here without having filled in all the blanks in all the exercises.

Hey there. Welcome.

I'm Kéllyta Quijada - and I wrote this article.

Stuck on this topic? Hire me for just 1 hour to start mastering it. Pass a test, improve basic vocabulary or improve your conversational level in Spanish.

Book a 1 Hour Lesson With Me



1. han jugado

2. jugaremos

3. jugábamos

4. hubiera jugado

5. juega

6. hayan jugado

7. juguemos

8. jueguen

9. Juegue

10. jugar / jueguen