SPANISH VERB – COMPETIR

¿Compites conmigo y crees que ganarás?

Conjugation of the Spanish verb Competir

Learning Spanish can be challenging, especially because of the many variations that exist, the differences in vocabulary of each region, and the colloquialism that may play an important role as well. That's why reading articles about the uses of specific words in context can be very helpful.

Today we are going to talk about a verb that is both irregular and special, given that it can replace a couple of words in English. Allow me to introduce you to the Spanish Verb Competir and its Conjugations.

If you've ever been to any kind of competition, watched a race, or a dancing contest, it is likely that the Spanish translation would have been: competencia de..., competir en..., which are words that are related to competir. Por ejemplo:

Ayer competimos en un concurso de Salsa y ganamos. (Yesterday we competed in a Salsa contest and won.)

La competencia de anoche estuvo reñida. (Last night's competition was close.)

Competir as a noun

Competencia or competición are two derivative words from the verb that are normally found, and they may replace words such as race, tournament, contest, although we also have words in Spanish for each one of them. But the good thing about **competencia** is that it is very general, so we use it in sentences with several meanings, such as:

Boca y River se encuentran en una competencia feroz por obtener la copa. **(competition)**

Juan es la competencia de Antonio por el amor de Ana. **(rival)**

Necesitamos evaluar si Juan tiene la competencia para este trabajo **(competence/skills)**

Theree are more uses as a noun or as an adjective **(competente)**. Today we will focus

mainly on the use of the verb, although it is important to keep in mind that we can find it in different contexts as a noun or adjective.

As a verb it can be also used around these concepts:

Martín está compitiendo en una carrera de matemáticas. (competition)

Mónica siempre compite conmigo y quiere ser más linda. (rival)

And there is an interesting phrase a bit harder to analyze but frequently used in Spanish:

No te compete lo que haga de mi vida. A ti qué te compete.

Al maestro no le compete decirte qué es lo que tienes que comer, debes ir a un médico para eso.

This colloquial expression denotes the idea of "it's none of your business" or not the person's place to state a certain judgment, same as the English version, both business and compete are used not literally but to refer to a different concept.

Another of the irregular ones in the family

Competir is an irregular verb and they are called this way given that the verb can change its root or ending. In this case, competir follows the same pattern as pedir and it changes the ending, which means that it does not follow the same ending rule as a regular verb.

For example: vivir (to live) is a regular -ir verb.

Vivo en una casa grande (yo, simple present)

Compito en una pista grande (also yo, simple present)

However the ending instead of changing to "o", vivir>vivo; competir>competo, changes to competir>compito

Verbals of competir

Verbals are the forms of infinitive, gerund, and participle of the verbs that need another verb to make sense. As stated earlier, the verb may behave as a noun or adjective, or will simply form a more complex verb like the continuous form. Let's have a look.

	Verbal	Common use	Example	English
Infinitive	competir (to compete)	Non conjugated / Noun	Quiero competir en las olimpiadas de matemáticas.	I want to compete in the math Olympics.
Gerund	compitiendo (competing)	Periphrasis	Juan estuvo compitiendo todo el fin de semana en el torneo de fútbol.	Juan was competing in the football tournament the whole weekend.
Participle	competido (competed)	Adjective	He competido por dos horas.	I competed for two hours.

To Conjugate? Of course!

I know Spanish has tons of conjugations. Having a list handy is always helpful, but don't worry. Once you start using these words, it gets easier!

Competir Conjugation: Indicative Mood

Indicative mood is the mood we use to express concrete and objective actions in the past, future or present.

Simple Tenses of the Indicative Mood

Subject	Present	Preterite	Pret. Imperfect	Conditional	Future
	(compete)	(competed)	(competed)	(would compete)	(will compete)
yo	Compito	Competí	Competía	Competiría	Competiré
tú	Compites	Competiste	Competías	Competirías	Competirás
él/ella/ usted	Compite	Compitió	Competía	Competiría	Competirá
nosotros	Competimos	Competimos	Competíamos	Competiríamos	Competiremos
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	Compiten	Compitieron	Competían	Competirían	Competirán

Examples:

Competimos en el concurso de belleza. (We competed on the beauty contest).

Martín compite esta semana en la escuela. (Martin competes this week at school).

Compound Tenses of the Indicative Mood

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

Examples:

Ustedes **habrían competido** el fin de semana pasado, pero llovió (You would have competed last weekend, but it rained).

He competido en varios torneos de Judo. (I have competed in several Judo tournaments).

Competir Conjugation: Subjunctive Mood

When thinking about forming the subjunctive mood in Spanish, we could add a “que” to the beginning of the sentenceto form it, although is not always necessary to add the que, for example: **que yo compita en la carrera no quiere decir que tú no compitieras.**

Simple Tenses of the Subjunctive Mood

Subject	Present Perfect	Preterite Perfect	Past Perfect (Pluperfect)	Conditional Perfect	Future Perfect
	(have/has competed)	(had competed)	(had competed)	(would have competed)	(will have competed)

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

Examples:

Ojalá **compitiera** en el mundial de fútbol. (I wish I could compete in the soccer world cup).

Compound Tenses of the Subjunctive Mood

Subject	Present	Imperfect	Imperfect 2	Future
yo	Compita	Compitiera	Compitiese	Compitiere
tú	Compitas	Compitieras	Compitieses	Compitieres
él/ella/usted	Compita	Compitiera	Compitiese	Compitiere
nosotros	Compitamos	Compitiéramos	Compitiésemos	Compitiéremos
ellos/ellas/ustedes	Compitan	Compitieran	Compitiesen	Compitieren

Examples:

Ojalá **hubiera competido** en el torneo de baile. (I wish I had competed in the dance tournament).

Competir Conjugation: Imperative Mood

This mood is used to give orders, requests, or instructions.

Imperative Mood's Conjugations

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

Examples:

No compitan en el próximo torneo. Van a perder. (Don't compete in the following tournament. You will lose).

Subject	Affirmative	Negative
	(compete/let's compete)	(don't compete/ let's not compete)
tú	Compite	no compitas
nosotros	Compitamos	no compitamos
ustedes	Compitan	no compitan

Let's get to practice!

Practice makes the master

1. Natalia_____(preterite) contra Juliana pero empataron.

2. Mis hijos_____(future simple) el fin de semana que viene en un torneo de ajedrez.

3.Juan_____(conditional perfect) en la carrera, pero decidió no presentarse.

4. _____(imperative/you pl) ahora que son jóvenes.

5. Ojalá que Messi_____(present subjuctive) contra el Barcelona.

6. Cuando tenía cinco años_____(preterite imperfect, I) en los torneos de la escuela.

7. ¿Quieres_____(infinitive) en el próximo encuentro?

8. Estaba_____(gerund) cuando me llamaste.

The answers

1. Compitió

2. Competirán

3. Habría competido

4. Compitan

5. Compita

6. Competía

7. Competir

8. Compitiendo