SPANISH VERB – ENTENDER

¿Es tan difícil de entender?

The verb ''entender'' (to understand) is used to express that we have a certain level of comprehension of something. In the English language, this would mean understanding. For example; yo entendí el ejercicio de química *(I understood the chemistry exercise)*.

Let's learn together!

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

- ''You'' is only one pronoun which has different meanings; however, in Spanish we have 3 important pronouns: tu, 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. If not, you will have miscommunication problems in your writing

Let's read together the following examples:

- Yo entiendo lo que dices.
- Tú nunca entendiste.
- Ella entendió los ejercicios de química.
- Nosotros entenderemos el tema.
- Ellos entenderían la propuesta.

Some phrases in the Indicative Mood

Do you recognize these tenses?

Subject	Present	Past perfect	Past imperfect	Future simple	Conditional
Yo (I)	Entiendo	Entendí	Entendía	Entenderé	Entendería

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Subject	Present	Past perfect	Past imperfect	Future simple	Conditional
Tu (you)	Entiendes	Entendiste	Entendías	Entenderás	Entenderías
Él (he)/ella (she) /usted	Entiende	Entendió	Entendía	Entenderá	Entendería
Nosotros (you)	Entendemos	Entendimos	Entendíamos	Entenderemos	Entenderíamos
Ustedes (you: plural)/ellos (They: mas.) /ellas (They: fem.)	Entienden	Entendieron	Entendían	Entenderán	Entenderían

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

We use present tense to talk about a usual understanding. For example: ''yo entiendo lo que dices" *(I understand what you say)*.

We use past perfect to talk mainly about an understanding in a precise time in the past. For example: ¿entendiste lo que dijo el profesor? *(did you understand what the teacher said?)*.

We use the past imperfect to talk about past understandings for which we don't know certainly if they were real or not and when they finished . For example: entendíamos su primera propuesta *(we understood your first proposal)*.

We use future simple to talk about probable future understandings: pronto me entenderás *(you will understand me soon)*.

We use the simple conditional tense to express that an understanding would probably occur: él lo entendería *(he would understand it)*.

Subject	Past perfect compound(Present perfect)	Pluperfect (past perfect)	Perfect future	Perfect Conditional
Yo (I)	He entendido	Había entendido	Habré entendido	Habría entendido
Tu (you)	Has entendido	Habías entendido	Habrás entendido	Habrías entendido

Subject	Past perfect compound(Present perfect)	Pluperfect (past perfect)	Perfect future	Perfect Conditional
Él (he)/ella (she) /usted	Ha entendido	Había entendido	Habrá entendido	habría entendido
Nosotros (you)	Hemos entendido	Habíamos entendido	Habremos entendido	habríamos entendido
Ustedes (you: plural)/ellos (They: mas.) /ellas (They: fem.)	Han entendido	Habían entendido	Habrán entendido	Habrían entendido

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 entender: entendido.

We use the past perfect compound to refer to an understanding that has occured since determinate time. For example; él ha entendido los temas desde que entró *(he has understood the topics since he got into)*.

We use the pluperfect to talk about an understanding that had taken place before an action developed in the past: yo lo había entendido en la primera explicación *(I had understood it at the first explanation)*.

We use the perfect future to talk about an understanding that will take place after a certain time. For example: después de escucharme, lo habrás entendido *(after listening to me, you will understand it)*. However, this tense is more commonly used to talk about situations that probably could have happened or to make suppositions. For example: supongo que habrás entendido la propuesta *(I guess you have understood the proposal)*.

We use perfect conditional to talk about the consequence of an action that could have

happened: si me hubieras contado, lo habría entendido *(if you had told me, I would have understood it)*.

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

Subject	Present	Past Imperfect	pluperfect	Past Perfect
Yo (I)	Entienda	Entendiera	Hubiera entendido	haya entendido
Tu (you)	Entiendas	Entendieras	Hubieras entendido	hayas entendido
Él (he)/ella (she) /usted	Entienda	Entendiera	Hubiera entendido	haya entendido
Nosotros (you)	Entendamos	Entendiéramos	Hubiéramos entendido	hayamos entendido
Ustedes (you: plural)/ellos (They: mas.) /ellas (They: fem.)	Entiendan	Entendieran	Hubieran entendido	haya entendido

Subjunctive is usually used to express wishes, wants and hopes. And it is usually introduced by the words like: que, ojalá, espero (que), si..., cuando.

The present form is used to express we hope an understanding will occur in the present time or near future: Espero que me entienda.s *(I hope you understand me.)*.

The past imperfect form is used to express our wish that an understanding could probably take place: Ojalá los políticos entendieran la importancia del cambio climático. *(If only politicians understood the importance of climate change.)*

The pluperfect is used to talk about an understanding that could probably have taken place if a certain situation had happened: Si le hubieras contado, él hubiera entendido. *(If*

you had told him, he would have understood.).

The past perfect form is used to introduce the consequence when an understanding has taken place: Cuando lo hayan entendido, díganme. *(When you have understood it, tell me.)*.

Let's review a bit the Imperative Mood

We usually use the imperative mode to give some pieces of advice or mainly to give orders. Don't forget this mode does not have tenses.

Subject	Imperative
Tu (you)	Entiende
Usted (you)	Entienda
Nosotros (you)	Entendamos
Ustedes (you: plural)	Entiendan

Let's view some examples:

¡Entiéndeme! (Understand me!)

Entiéndalo de una vez por todas. (Understand it once and for all.)

Por favor, entendamos que no es posible. (Let's understand that it is not possible.)

Entiendan mi posición, por favor. (Please, understand my position.)

Spanish Verb Entender – Quiz/Worksheet

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1. (tu) _____me, por favor. (imperative mode)
2. Yo _____ tu postura (indicative mode: presente simple)
3. Ella _____ el ejercicio de español (indicative mode: past perfect)
4. Ustedes _____ cuando estaban más jóvenes (indicative mode: past imperfect)
5. Ojalá (tú) me _____ (subjuntive mode: past imperfect)
6. Algún día (ustedes) lo _____ (indicative mode: future simple)
7. Si me explicaras mejor, lo _____ (indicative mode: conditional)
8. Cuando (nosotros) _____, te lo diremos (subjuntive mode: present)
9. Si me hubieras contado, claro que te ____ _____ (indicative: perfect conditional)
10. (yo) Ya lo _____ entendido antes que llegaras (indicative mode: pluperfect)

Answers:

1. Entiéndeme
2. Entiendo
3. Entendió
4. Entendían
5. Entendieras
6. Entenderán
7. Entendería
8. Hayamos entendido
9. Habría entendido
10. Había entendido

Note: among Spanish native speakers, the expression on today's title is used when we want to tell someone that they are behaving in a way they have already been told not to

do.