SPANISH VERBS – CERRAR CONJUGATIONS

En un abrir y cerrar de ojos: Conjugation of the verb Cerrar

Learning Spanish is a path that is rarely linear, you go back and forth learning adjectives, common phrases, the culture, finding a good teacher, even getting to online tutorials and realizing what you really need. Most Spanish learners go through that whole process, and there is nothing you can do better than looking for information and certainly having a teacher that suits your needs.

In case you have already learned the verb “abrir” you can associate it directly to the verb “cerrar” (as in the phrase “En un abrir y cerrar de ojos”, in English “In the blink of an eye”) because they are antonyms and one cannot exist without the other; doing exercises associating words is a good trick to achieve learning two words at the same time.

Learning verb conjugations is one of those characteristics that distinguish you from other students. When you are trying to have a conversation in Spanish, what usually makes the conversation fluent is first of all to have enough vocabulary and to know how to conjugate verbs that are common. Cerrar, as you can guess, is one of those necessary, everyday verbs, from closing the car door to closing a deal in business. Let’s close this introduction so you can start having more and more fluent conversations in Spanish.

Verbals of the verb Cerrar

There are a couple of details you will need to know, the first is that **Cerrar**will not always be presented as a conjugated verb. Those times you see it in any of the following three ways will be in the mood of verbals, that is to say that you will not need to conjugate it since it will no longer be a verb, let’s see a couple of examples to make it easier to understand.

	Verbal	Common use	Example	English
Infinitive	cerrar (close)	Non conjugated / Noun	Cerrar tratos es su parte favorita de los negocios.	Closing deals is his favorite part of doing business.

	Verbal	Common use	Example	English
Gerund	cerrando (closing)	Verbal periphrasis	Ahorita estoy cerrando, puede venir después.	I am closing now, you can come later.
Participle	cerrado (closed)	Adjective	El local de pizza está cerrado a esta hora.	The pizza place is closed at this time.

Cerrar Conjugation: Indicative Mood

The second thing you need to know is that Cerrar is an irregular verb which means that you will see it change every time you change the tense and the person who uses it. In order to conjugate irregular verbs it is necessary to apply a lot of memory, but you will notice that they have similarities, however, you have to pay attention tothe changes in each tense and person to make it more familiar.

Let's start with the indicative mood, one of the simplest and most common moods.

Simple Tenses of the Indicative Mood

Subject	Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Conditional	Future
	(close)	(closed)	(closed)	(would close)	(will close)
yo	cierro	cerré	cerraba	cerraría	cerraré
tú	cierras	cerraste	cerrabas	cerrarías	cerrarás
él/ella / usted	cierra	cerró	cerraba	cerraría	cerrará
nosotros	cerramos	cerramos	cerrábamos	cerraríamos	cerraremos
ellos/ ella/ usted es	cierran	cerraron	cerraban	cerrarían	cerrarán

Examples

Yo **cierro** la tienda de mi papá todos los días – I close my dad's store every day.

Nosotros **cerramos** el partido del viernes – We **closed** Friday's game

Compound Tenses of the Indicative Mood

Subject	Preterite Perfect	Past Perfect (Pluperfect)	Conditional Perfect	Future Perfect
yo	he cerrado	había cerrado	habría cerrado	habré cerrado
tú	has cerrado	habías cerrado	habrías cerrado	habrás cerrado
él/ella/usted	había cerrado	había cerrado	habría cerrado	habrá cerrado
nosotros	habíamos cerrado	habíamos cerrado	habríamos cerrado	habremos cerrado
ellos/ellas/ustedes	habían cerrado	habían cerrado	habrían cerrado	habrán cerrado

Cerrar Conjugation: Subjunctive Mood

This mood has a specific use, and it is that when we find ourselves wishing, longing for something or making a hypothesis about a situation, this is the type of conjugation we should use.

Simple Tenses of the Subjunctive Mood

Subject	Present	Imperfect	Imperfect 2	Future
yo	cierre	cerrara	cerrase	cerrare
tú	cierres	cerraras	cerrases	cerrares
él/ella/usted	cierre	cerrara	cerrase	cerrare
nosotros	cerremos	cerráramos	cerrásemos	cerráremos
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	cierren	cerraran	cerrasen	cerraren

Example:

Que yo **cerrare** la puerta, no haría ninguna diferencia – If **I will** close the door, it would

make no difference.

Ojalá **cerraran** ya la oficina, quiero irme a casa – I wish they **would close** the office already, I want to go home.

Compound Tenses of the Subjunctive Mood

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

Cerrar Conjugation: Imperative Mood

This is the last mood we are going to find to make conjugations, the mood of people who love to be in charge.With these conjugations, orders and commands are expressed. can see, the first person is not included and that makes it easier to memorize the changes of each person.

Subject	Affirmative	Negative
	(close/let's close)	(don't close/let's not close)
tú	cierra	no cierres
nosotros	cerremos	no cerremos
ustedes	cierren	no cierren
usted	cierre	no cierre

Examples:

¡No cierres la sesión! No recuerdo cuál era mi contraseña. – **Don't (close** the session) log out! I don't remember what my password was.

Cerremos los ojos e imaginemos una playa tranquila – **Let's close** our eyes and imagine a calm beach.

Let's get to practice!

1. No ___ tu mente ante las posibilidades – Do not close your mind to the possibilities

2. Nosotros habríamos ___ el partido ganando, pero perdimos – We would have closed the game by winning, but we lost.

3. Confío en que ustedes ___ de forma exitosa el negocio – I am confident that you will successfully close the deal.

4. Por favor, ___ la llave cuando te estés cepillando los dientes – Please (close) turn off the faucet when you are brushing your teeth.

5. Todos queremos ___ este debate ya – We all want to close this debate now.

The closure

1. cierres

2. cerrado

3. cerrarán

4. cierra

5. cerrar

Fun Fact:

In Spanish the word zipper is used in two contexts, the first is as a verb along with all the conjugations you learned today, and the second is as a noun to name the zipper of garments and accessories. It is normal to hear the expression "Súbete el cierre" (Zip it up) and as strange as it sounds, it makes sense.