Grammar Exam Study Guide

***Traducciones de “to be”***

Here you will select the most appropriate translation of *to be,* choosing one of these verbs: *ser, estar, tener, haber, hacer.* Read through the paragraph(s) carefully to understand the context for each choice.

***Pronombres***

You will insert the correct object pronouns into a sentence skeleton that already includes subject, verb, and other essential components. These pronouns may be direct or indirect object pronouns, reflexive or reciprocal pronouns, short or long form possessives, or a pronoun that is the object of a preposition. That means that you will want to review structures like:

* Verbs like *gustar*
* Use of *se me / se le / se te / se nos*, etc. to indicate unplanned occurrences
* Short form (*mi, tu, su, nuestro*, etc.) and long form possessives (*el mío/la mía, los míos/las mías*, etc.)
* Which verbs are used reflexively
* The use of indirect object pronouns in places where we do not necessarily have them in English (to indicate the person or persons affected by an action or a situation)
* Placement of single and double object pronouns with single or compound verbs

The instructions and format of these section will be as follows. Here we include some sample items with answers.

**Falta uno o dos pronombres en cada frase. Considere con mucho cuidado las IDEAS subrayadas y escriba el/los pronombres(s) más apropiados en el lugar correcto.**

1. My sister bought them for them (las entradas / a mis amigos).

mi hermana compró

Your answer would be:

Mi hermana **SE LAS** compró.

1. [We didn’t but] THEY disliked the film. **PLACEMENT MAY VARY**

les disgustó la película

Here possible answers include:

**A ELLOS** les disgustó la película. OR Les disgustó la película **A ELLOS**.

# *Pretérito o imperfecto*

You will conjugate the infinitive given after each blank according to the subject of each verb. Read the entire story carefully before deciding which verb form to write, since the choice of preterite or imperfect is determined by context. Remember that certain verbs have a different meaning in English in preterite as opposed to in imperfect. You will want to review thoroughly all irregular preterite forms as you prepare for this part of the exam.

***Mandatos***

You will write the command form for the infinitive in parentheses after a sentence in English, according to the subject provided (*tú/Ud./Uds./nosotros*). Some of these sentences require an object pronoun (“it”). If so, use the pronoun *lo*. You should review all regular and irregular command forms, remembering that affirmative and negative *tú* commands take different forms. You will also want to review where to place the object pronoun with an affirmative or negative command, since you will be graded on the verb form, the placement of the object pronoun, and whether the command form needs an accent mark if the pronoun is attached to it.

***Subjuntivo, indicativo o infinitivo***

This section covers all uses of the subjunctive, including noun, adjective, or adverb clauses or, in a few cases, independent clauses. You will fill in the blank with the appropriate present or past indicative OR present or past subjunctive form, OR with the infinitive. Since the section is written in paragraphs, you will want to read the entire selection carefully to determine whether the situation requires the subjunctive, whether you need to conjugate the verb, the subject of each verb you conjugate, and whether you need a present or past tense verb form.

***Preposiciones***

Prepositions included in this section are: *a, de, en, con, para, por*. You should review all of the uses of these prepositions, including contrasting uses of *por* and *para*, as well as verbs that must be followed by a certain preposition. Remember that some verbs that are followed by prepositions in English are not accompanied by a preposition in Spanish, while others are followed by a different preposition in Spanish than in English.

***De todo un poco***

This section includes the following:

* Lexical contrasts such as *saber* vs. *conocer; tomar* vs. *hacer;* *tiempo* vs. *vez* vs. *hora;* *largo* vs. *grande;* *pedir* vs. *preguntar*
* Relative pronouns *que / quien(es) / lo que*
* Interrogative pronouns *qué* or *cuál*
* Comparative words such as *de* vs. *que* vs. *como* or *mayor* vs. *mejor*

***Repaso general de las formas verbales***

One of the sections of the exam is a verb chart. On that section each verb will be counted either all right or all wrong, including accents. In addition to your knowledge and understanding of *regular* verbs, be sure to master the verbs on this page. Don’t forget verbs may be also composed of a prefix and an irregular stem (i.e. suponer, mantener).

# Irregular verbs

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| andar | caber | caer |
| conducir | dar | decir |
| estar | haber | hacer |
| ir | oír | poder |
| poner | querer | saber |
| salir | ser | tener |
| traer | venir | ver |

# Stem-changing and Spelling Change Verbs

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| buscar | comenzar | conocer |
| construir | contar | creer |
| cruzar | destruir | dormir |
| empezar | entender | enviar |
| jugar | llegar | oler |
| pedir | pensar | perder |
| producir | proteger | reír |
| seguir | sentar | sentir |
| tocar | valer | volver |

# Irregular past participle

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| abrir | cubrir | decir |
| escribir | freír | hacer |
| morir | poner | resolver |
| romper | ver | volver |