

Piece #8
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LESSON FOCUS: THE PAST PARTICIPLE AND THE PERFECT TENSES

About English

English teachers often talk about the *participles* of the verb. Each verb in English has two different participles: a *progressive participle*, which ends in *ing*, and a *past participle*, which often ends in *ed*. These participles are used to construct different tenses in English.

Examples:

Walk – walking, walked

Type – typing, typed

The *past participle* has many irregular variants, the most common of which end in *t* or *n*.

Examples:

Ride – riding, ridden

Buy – buying, bought

About Spanish

Spanish, like English, has a past participle form for each verb. Most of these participles are formed with regular *ado/ido* and less regular *ito/cho/* endings:

Examples:

Infinitive/Past Participle

hablar/hablado to speak/spoken

escribir/escrito to write/written

hacer/hecho to do/done

dar/dado to give/ given

comer/comido to eat/ eaten

USES OF THE PAST PARTICIPLE

ADJECTIVES

About English

English uses the past participle to form adjectives.

Examples:

A tired man, a given interpretation, a predetermined judgment.

About Spanish

Spanish also uses the past participle to form adjectives. In the case of Spanish, the adjective changes to agree with the gender and number of the noun.

Examples:

una persona conocida (a known person); un libro escrito en ingles (a book written in English); unos papeles destruidos (some destroyed papers).

THE PERFECT TENSES

About English

English has a number of tenses called the perfects. These are formed with a form of the verb *have* and the past participle of the verb.

Examples:

I *have seen* him many times over the past few years. He *has given up* cigarettes. He *had* never really *enjoyed* the smell of tobacco.

About Spanish

Spanish has something called the perfect tenses. Spanish forms these tenses with a form of the verb *haber* and the past participle of the verb. See p. 1963 in the dictionary for more on the forms of haber.

The lovely thing about these tenses in translating is that they are used in almost the exact same way in Spanish!

The present perfect: use the present of *haber* and the past participle: he dicho/ ha hablado/ hemos salido (I have said/ he has spoken/ we have left).

The past perfect: use the imperfect of *haber* and the past participle: habia dicho/ habias hablado/ habiamos salido (I had said/ you had spoken/ we had left).

THE PARTICIPLE WITH FORMS OF BE

About English

English uses the past participle after forms of BE. Sometimes these are adjectives; sometimes they form part of the passive.

Example:

The horse *was taken* out to the pasture.

About Spanish

Spanish uses the past participle after forms of the two verbs BE: *ser* and *estar*. When a participle comes after a form of *estar*, it is an adjective. When it comes after *ser*, it is a passive.

Examples:

Ella está desconocida (She is unknown).

Ella fue matada por su esposo (She was killed by her husband).

Exercise: In the following, focus on the participles that are underlined. If the participle is an adjective, determine the noun that it modifies. If it is part of a verb phrase (e.g. a perfect tense or a passive or an adjective after the verb BE), translate the verb and the subject.