



# Absolute essentials for GCSE Spanish - Y11

Translate them  
from memory -  
then use a  
dictionary and  
learn those!

? qué?

? cuándo?

? dónde?

? por qué?

? quién?

? cómo?

? cuántos?

☺ guay

☺ inolvidable

☺ fascinante

☺ maravilloso

☺ saludable

☺ mejor

☺ peor

☹ desilusionante

☹ aburrido

\*\* hubiera preferido..

\*\* si tuviera más dinero, quisiera..

\*\* si pudiera, iría...

\*\* ojalá que pueda ir...

suelo ir

acabo de ver

de hecho

aunque

además

sin embargo

no obstante

*pienso que*

*en mi opinión*

*creo que*

soy

es

son

tengo

me gusta

me encanta

odio

hoy

ayer

normalmente

el año pasado

el año próximo



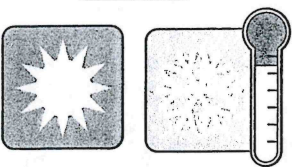
Look at this sentence in English and its Spanish translation. Try to see how the translation was made.

Last summer, I went to Benidorm and it was sunny.

*El verano pasado, fui a Benidorm e hizo sol.*

Remember that before words beginning with 'l' and 'll' (when the sound is 'ee') the word for 'and' is e.  
e.g. *Hablo español e italiano.*  
*Padre e hijo.*

Remember that many weather expressions in Spanish are formed using the verb *hacer*. Make sure you look back at irregular tense verb formation on pp. 38 and 52.



**1 Correct these translations.**

1 Next winter, I will go to Sweden but it will be cold!

*El pasado invierno, ir a Suecia, pero ¡hacerá frío!*

2 Last April, I went to Wales and it was very windy.

*El pasado abril, fue a Gales y hizo mucho viento.*

**2 Translate these sentences into Spanish. The first four have been partially translated to help you.**

1 I live in Leeds in the north of England.

*Vivo en Leeds*

2 During her holidays, she likes to swim in the sea.

*Durante sus vacaciones,*

3 I prefer living in the countryside because it is peaceful.

*Prefero vivir en el campo porque*

4 We hate holidays in England because it's always bad weather.

*Odiamos las vacaciones en Inglaterra porque*

5 Next year we're going to go to the south of France with our grandparents.

6 Every day my friend and I go to the park in our town.

7 I would like to visit Italy because my mother is Italian.

8 You can go shopping in the *Gran Vía* in Madrid.

9 They went to Barcelona and they saw a match at the Camp Nou stadium.

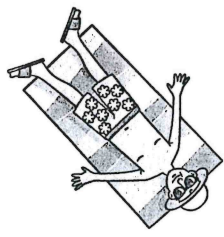
10 When I visited Mallorca I lost my sunglasses on the beach.

**1 Read this passage about Argentinian holidays and complete the partial translation below.**

En Argentina vamos de vacaciones de verano en diciembre y enero. A mis amigos y yo nos gusta hacer deportes acuáticos. Suelo ir a la playa con mi hermana y nadamos en el mar. ¡Qué divertido!

Remember to look closely at which tense is used at the start to ensure that you put the translation in the correct tense.

Think carefully when translating *gustar* – look at the pronoun before it so that you know who the subject of the verb is.



In Argentina \_\_\_\_\_ on our \_\_\_\_\_ holiday in December and January. My friends and I \_\_\_\_\_ to do \_\_\_\_\_ with my sister and I \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ in the sea. What \_\_\_\_\_!

**!** Remember that in Spanish you need to look at the end of the verb to decide which person and tense is being used.

**2 Read this text about Pablo's holiday. Complete the translation by matching up the sentence halves.**

El año pasado fui a Bilbao con mis padres. Visitamos a unos amigos que viven allí. Alquilamos un piso en el centro de la ciudad. Es más barato que quedarse en un hotel. Lo pasé fenomenal.

- We rented
- Last year I went to Bilbao
- We visited
- I had
- It's cheaper than

- some friends who live there.
- a flat in the centre of town.
- staying in a hotel.
- with my parents.
- a fantastic time.

**3 Translate these passages into English.**

1 Vivo en un pueblo industrial en el sur de Perú. Hay mucho tráfico y pocos espacios verdes. Siempre está sucio, pero lo bueno es que mis amigos viven aquí. Me gustaría vivir en el campo en el futuro.

2 Valencia es una ciudad que está situada al lado del mar. Hay muchas actividades para los turistas y a los visitantes les gusta probar platos típicos españoles. Siempre hace más calor en verano que en invierno.

**4 Read this text about the Spanish festival of La Tomatina. A student used an online translator to translate it. Can you correct the errors?**

Creo que es muy importante conocer otras culturas cuando se va de vacaciones. El año pasado asistí a una fiesta que se llama La Tomatina donde había una gran batalla de tomates. Solo llevábamos pantalones cortos o trajes de baño. Tiramos un montón de tomates en una hora. Desafortunadamente, había muchos chubascos y no se despejó hasta la noche.

Remember to leave the names of festivals or Spanish cities in the original Spanish. They almost never change – Sevilla, which changes to 'Seville', is the exception!



..... I think it's very important to meet 1 ..... other cultures when going on .....  
 ..... vacation 2 ..... Last year I attended a festival called La Tomatina where there .....  
 ..... was a grand 3 ..... tomato battle. We only wear 4 ..... shorts or bathing .....  
 ..... suits. We throw 5 ..... a lot of tomatoes in an hour. Unfortunately, there were a .....  
 ..... lot of showers and took 6 ..... until the evening. ....

**!** Beware of online translating tools. Always use an online dictionary or app to check meaning.

**5 Translate these passages into English.**

1 Si te gusta la vida tranquila y las vistas preciosas, Formentera es el lugar ideal para vivir. Solo se puede llegar a la isla en barco desde Ibiza. Esta inaccesibilidad la convierte en un lugar para escapar del estrés. No hay hora punta en la isla porque casi todos los vehículos están prohibidos.

2 La mejor manera de conocer Madrid es explorar en Segway. Visité la ciudad hace dos años y exploré la historia, los edificios y los monumentos madrileños. Había recorridos de dos o cuatro horas con guías expertos que hablaban al menos dos idiomas. Es importante que traigas tu cámara para sacar fotos. El viaje fue inolvidable gracias a estas experiencias.

3 Si tengo la oportunidad en el futuro, iré a la isla más grande del Caribe, Cuba. Por la mañana, escucharía a los músicos que tocan salsa en las plazas o las calles estrechas, o conduciría los coches estadounidenses de los años cincuenta. Por la tarde, tomaría el sol en las playas blancas de Varadero.



Frases muy importantes! Add to the boxes in Spanish or even better, both Spanish and English

SIX key phrases for describing a photo

At least SIX ways of saying 'I think/I believe /in my opinion'

10 positive adjectives to finish the phrase ' I like .... because it's.....';  
*Not just good, interesting, fun....*

10 negative adjectives to finish the phrase ' I like .... because it's.....'  
*Not just bad, boring....*

TEN more advanced connectives  
 e.g. while, on the other hand,  
 however (*Not and, but, also*)

TEN time phrases e.g. every day,  
 never, in the morning

Ⓒ At GCSE, it is very important to demonstrate that you can use a range of tenses, as it adds complexity and variety to your spoken and written work.

Use the **preterite** to say what someone **did**. It is used for completed actions in the past:

*Comió una pizza.*

**He ate a pizza.**

Use the **present tense** to say what **usually happens**, what things **are like** and what is **happening now**:

*Normalmente juego al rugby.*

**Normally I play rugby.**

*La novela es interesante.*

**The novel is interesting.**

Use the **near future tense** to say what **is going to happen**:

*Vas a trabajar duro.*

**You are going to work hard.**

Spotting time phrases can often help you identify whether someone is referring to the past, present or future. Using them will add context and detail to your spoken and written work.

Here are some common time phrases:

past	present	future
ayer	normalmente	mañana
yesterday	normally	tomorrow
anteayer/antes de ayer	en general/generalmente	pasado mañana
the day before yesterday	in general/generally	the day after tomorrow
anoche	en este momento	esta noche
last night	at the moment	tonight
la semana pasada	ahora	la semana que viene
last week	now	next week
el mes pasado	hoy en día	el mes que viene
last month	nowadays	next month
el año pasado	actualmente	el año que viene
last year	currently/nowadays	next year

Note that **hoy (today)** could be used with all three tenses, so understanding context is important.

*Normalmente los sábados hago natación. Hoy jugué al golf. También por la noche suelo salir con mis amigos. Sin embargo hoy voy a visitar a mi abuela.*

Normally on Saturday I go swimming but today I played golf. Also in the evening I tend to go out with my friends, however today I am going to visit my grandmother.

In this passage, these connectives indicate a change from what normally happens or tends to happen to what happened on a particular occasion.

To remind yourself how to form the tenses, see pp. 50–55 for the preterite, pp. 36–41 for the present tense and pp. 60–61 for the near future tense.

## 1 Which tenses are used in these sentences: preterite (P), present (PR) or near future (NF)?

- Mañana voy a visitar a mis amigos. \_\_\_\_\_
- Anoche fuimos al cine. \_\_\_\_\_
- Generalmente leen una hora al día. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mi hermano es molesto. \_\_\_\_\_
- El fin de semana pasado hice equitación. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Find the verbs in the passage and highlight them using a different colour for each tense.

Normalmente salgo de casa a las siete pero hoy me desperté tarde y salí a las ocho. El día escolar es muy largo y aburrido pero mañana voy a ir de excursión con mi clase de geografía. ¡Va a ser genial!

- pret.  
 pres.  
 near fut.

## 3 Look at Leandro's diary and complete his description of his half term holiday by putting the verbs in brackets into the correct person and tense.

Normalmente \_\_\_\_\_ (ir) al insti durante la semana, pero ahora I \_\_\_\_\_ (estar) de vacaciones! Anteayer fui al parque y \_\_\_\_\_ (jugar) al fútbol con Javier. Ayer mi hermano y yo \_\_\_\_\_ (visitar) a nuestros padres y cenamos con ellos. Esta noche \_\_\_\_\_ (ir) a un concierto en el estadio. I \_\_\_\_\_ (ser) guay! Mañana \_\_\_\_\_ (ver) la nueva película de James Bond con mi novia, Ana. Pasado mañana es su cumpleaños y \_\_\_\_\_ (comprar) un regalo especial para ella. Este fin de semana \_\_\_\_\_ (hacer) los deberes. ¡Qué rollo!

lunes  
- fútbol  
martes  
- padres con hermano  
miércoles  
- ¡concierto!  
jueves  
- cine, James Bond  
viernes  
- cumpleaños de Ana  
sábado/domingo  
- deberes

Look at the time phrases to help you decide which tense to use.

## 4 Translate these sentences into English.

- Ayer llovió y hoy hay tormenta pero mañana va a hacer sol.
- Normalmente cenamos en casa pero esta noche vamos a ir a un restaurante.
- Anoche salí con mis amigos así que hoy tengo que cuidar a mi hermano.

Think carefully about which tense you need to use. Look back at the relevant grammar pages to remind you how to form each tense.

## 5 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

- Yesterday I went horse riding but today I am going to go swimming.
- Now she studies geography but next year she is going to study history.
- We are going to visit my brother in France because at the moment he lives in Paris.

## 6 Translate this passage into Spanish.

Sunday was my birthday but I opened my presents today because my dad arrived home this morning. He works hard and is very generous. Tonight we are going to go to the cinema and it is going to be lots of fun.

You need the definite article here.

a + el → ? you need the word for 'very' here.

..... ●

..... ●

..... ●

..... ●

..... ●

..... ●

Now find the preterite verbs in the text. There are six. Remember, in the he/she form, these end with -ó. What do they mean in the context?

..... ●

..... ●

..... ●

..... ●

..... ●

..... ●

..... ●

Looking at the style of a passage by analysing the language this passage sets the scene by describing what was happening. To do this, in Spanish the imperfect tense is used. Highlight all of the imperfect tense verbs in the passage. (ending -aba/-ía usually)

Now go back to each of these verbs and say what the author was describing:

**1** COMPREHENSION

*La hora violeta by Montserrat Roig*

«Judit y Patricia estaban en el jardín, sentadas junto al estanque. Era a finales del mes de octubre. Se estaba levantando un viento que anunciaba una tormenta. Luis jugaba a la guerra con unos soldaditos. Natalia dormía en su cuna.

- Deberíamos entrar – dijo – me parece que va a llover.

De pronto apareció Kati con la cara blanca. Parecía un fantasma. Kati miró a Judit y dijo

- Patrick ha muerto. Su cuerpo ha desaparecido en el río Ebro.

Patricia empezó a llorar. Luego cogió a los niños y se los llevó adentro. Kati temblaba...»

(La hora violeta by Montserrat Roig, p. 169, Plaza y Janes, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 1993)

Topic: description/weather  
Grammar: preterite and imperfect

Introduction – Higher Level

Higher Level

**THIS WILL BE CHALLENGING - HAVE A GO !!**

**1** The present subjunctive is a form of the verb which we don't often use in English, but which Spanish speakers use frequently. The subjunctive has certain 'triggers' in Spanish after which it must be used. One of the key times that the present subjunctive must be used is:

- After *cuando* when talking about the future.  
*Cuando termine este curso, buscaré un trabajo.* When I finish this course, I will look for a job.

Spanish speakers instinctively know when to use the subjunctive, but as we don't often use it in English, it can be a challenge to master. Therefore, using it correctly in your GCSE will really impress the examiner and add complexity to your speaking and writing.

To form the present subjunctive, take the first person singular ('I' form) of the present tense, remove the final -o and add the following endings:

	ganar (to earn/win)	comer (to eat)	vivir (to live)
(yo)	gane	coma	viva
(tú)	ganes	comas	vivas
(él/ella/usted)	gane	coma	viva
(nosotros/nosotras)	ganemos	comamos	vivamos
(vosotros/vosotras)	ganéis	comáis	viváis
(ellos/ellas/ustedes)	ganen	coman	vivan

If the first person singular (yo) is irregular in the present tense, the subjunctive will take the same form. For example: *tengo* → *tenga*, *hago* → *haga*.

Some verbs are completely irregular in the subjunctive:

- Ir* (to go) → *vaya, vayas, vaya ...*
- ser* (to be) → *sea, seas, sea ...*
- dar* (to give) → *dé, des, dé ...*
- hay* (there is/are) → *haya*

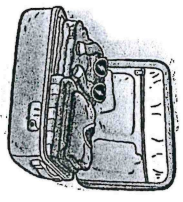
**1** Tick the sentences that would include the present subjunctive if translated into Spanish.

- When I finish school, I will take a gap year.
- When we go shopping, I always find a bargain!
- When you arrive, we will start the film.
- When I heard him sing, I almost cried!

**2** There is one mistake in each sentence. Underline the mistake and write the correction above.

Example: Cuando tengo treinta años, me casaré.

- Compararé un coche cuando gano bastante dinero.
- Cuando los alumnos terminan sus estudios, irán a Mallorca.
- Cuando voy de vacaciones, practicaré mi español.



**3** Complete the following translations by choosing the correct infinitive from the box and then putting it in the present subjunctive.

casarse	pasar	ganar	aprobar	ser	perder
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- When I am older... Cuando \_\_\_\_\_ mayor...
- When I get married... Cuando \_\_\_\_\_ el partido...
- When we win the match... Cuando \_\_\_\_\_ mis exámenes...
- When I pass my exams...

Remember to use the correct reflexive pronoun before the verb.

Stem-changing!

**1** Another important time that the present subjunctive must be used is:

- After points of view which use the structure *es + adjective + que ...*  
*Es importante que ... / Es esencial que ... / Es necesario que ...*  
*Es importante que ahorremos energía.* It's important that we save energy.

In more general statements when *que* is not used, we use the infinitive instead of the present subjunctive. *Es necesario hacer ejercicio para perder peso.* It is necessary to do exercise in order to lose weight.

(For other uses and examples of the present subjunctive, see pp. 234–235 in the Student Book.)

**1** Highlight either the verb in the infinitive or the present subjunctive to complete these sentences.

- Es muy importante viajar / viaje al extranjero una vez en la vida.
- Es esencial que no beber / bebas demasiado alcohol.
- No es necesario casarse / se casen antes de tener hijos hoy en día.
- Es triste que tantos jóvenes no tener / tengan acceso a la educación.

**2** Underline the verbs in the present subjunctive in this passage.

« Cuando sea mayor, estudiaré idiomas en la universidad, y por eso es esencial que mejore mi nivel de español. Me gustaría tomarme un año sabático en Honduras. No es justo que haya tantos jóvenes sin techo en ese país, así que cuando llegue, buscaré un trabajo como voluntario en un orfanato. »

Watch out for verbs that have to change their spelling to retain the correct pronunciation. Can you spot the example here?

**3** Complete the sentences using one of the verbs provided and your own words. Then translate the sentences into English.

tener	hacer	comer	ganar	hay	vivir
-------	-------	-------	-------	-----	-------

- Para perder peso, es esencial que tú \_\_\_\_\_
- Me iré de casa cuando \_\_\_\_\_
- Es terrible que \_\_\_\_\_ en el mundo.

Use this pronoun to help you decide which person of the present subjunctive to use.

**4** Translate this passage into Spanish.

I would like to work as a volunteer when I am older. It's not fair that there is so much poverty in our city. Also, I am worried about unemployment and environmental problems. It's essential that we look after the planet and create job opportunities.

Remember that the indefinite article isn't used with occupations in Spanish.

Remember to include the correct definite articles.

A subjunctive 'trigger' can affect more than one verb in a sentence.



- Feria .....
- Emoción .....
- Movimiento .....
- Muchas personas .....
- Vestidas de colores .....
- Mucha gente .....
- Bailaban .....
- Cantaban .....
- Caramelos .....
- Luces .....

Here are a few. What do they mean in English?

.....

.....

Which words in the text do you think tell us about the fair?

## 1 PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

**GLOSSARY**

\*La ermita = the little chapel

Feria = this is a special time for Spanish villages when the fair is set up in the fields around the village and everyone goes there to eat, drink and dance. It is a real Spanish tradition and Alina remembers it fondly.

**Practice – Higher Level**

In this passage, Alina remembers a day at the fair with her father.

**Higher Level**

*Las ataduras by Carmen Martín Gaité*

«Recordaba ahora la primera vez que había ido con su padre a Orense, un domingo de verano, que había feria. Recordaba, como la primera emoción de su vida, la de descubrir el río Miño de cerca, en plena tarde, con un movimiento de muchas personas vestidas de colores, merendando. Cerca del río estaba la ermita\* y un poco más abajo, el campo con la feria. Estuvieron allí y su padre bebió y habló con mucha gente. Bailaban y cantaban, vendían caramelos, sombreros y otras cosas. Luego, al volver, se veían lejos las montañas y los pueblos y las casas de Orense con sus ventanas abiertas, algunas con luces, otras cerradas.»

*(Las ataduras by Carmen Martín Gaité, p. 77 Easy readers, Ediciones Destino 1960)*

Topic: describing a scene

Now you have worked on and analysed the vocabulary, you have created a clearer picture of the scene.

- Veían .....
- Vendían .....
- Cantaban .....
- Bailaban .....
- Había .....
- Bebía .....
- Merendando .....
- Recordaba .....

e.g. Estuvieron = estar

Now look at the verbs. These tell us what was happening. Look at the stem of the verb and try to work out what the infinitive would be for each.

- The houses .....
- The villages .....
- The hills .....
- The field .....
- A bit further down .....
- The little chapel .....
- Close up .....
- The river .....

Find the phrases that mean:

Pick out all the expressions that tell us where things were happening. These help us set the scene.

- Later .....
- Mid afternoon .....
- A Sunday in summer .....
- The first time .....

Find the phrases that mean:

Pick out all the time phrases from the text. These give us the time setting of the story.