

Class Notes

Conditional Mood

A. Forms

-AR/ER/IR Verbs

-ía	-íamos
-ías	-(íais)
-ía	-ían

In Spanish, the condition is a simple tense consisting of one word. It is formed according to the pattern:

future stem + conditional ending

- The conditional ending s are the same for all verbs.
- Verbs which are irregular in the future have the same irregular stem in the conditional.

B. Uses

The conditional is often used to express what *would or would not* happen if a certain condition were met.

- Con más dinero, **compraría** un billete de primera clase. With more money, **I would buy** a first class ticket.
- En tu lugar, **me abrocharía** el cinturón. In your place, **I would fasten** my seatbelt.

In such sentences, the condition is often expressed by *si* + imperfect subjunctive.

- Si estuviéramos de vacaciones, **viajaríamos**. If we were on vacation, **we would travel**.

The conditional is used to make polite requests with verbs such as *gustar*, *poder* and *deber*.

- **Me gustaría** alquilar un coche. **I would like** to rent a car.
- **¿Podría Ud.** reservarme un billete para el 10? **Could you** reserve a ticket for me for the 10th?
- **Deberías** confirmar la reservación antes de ir al aeropuerto. **You should** confirm your reservation before going to the airport.

The conditional is also used to describe future events in relation to a point of reference in the past. The usage occurs frequently in indirect speech when the declarative verb (such as *decir*, *declarar*, *anunciar*, *responder*) is in a past tense. Compare the use of tenses in the sentences below and note how Spanish and English usage is similar.

- **Se anuncia** que el avión **llegará** con retraso. **They are announcing** that the plane **will arrive** late.
- **Se anunció** que el avión **llegaría** con retraso. **They announced** that the plane **would arrive** late.

After a declarative verb, future events are expressed according to the following sequence of tenses:

DECLARATIVE VERB**FUTURE EVENT**

Present	→	Future
Past (preterite, imperfect, etc.)	→	Conditional

The conditional is used to wonder or express a guess about the past. This is called the conditional of probability.

- ¿Qué hora **sería**?
- **Serían** las seis y media.
- ¿Dónde **estaría** Catalina?
- **Estaría** en la oficina de información.

I wonder what time it **was**?

It was probably half past six.

I wonder where Catalina **was**.

She was probably at the information office.