

Need-to-Know Spanish Verbs

- 50 Conjugation Tables
- 150 Exercises
- Audio Tracks



hablar

to speak, talk
regular -ar verb

- hablar (acerca) de algo – to talk about something
- hablar con alguien – to speak/talk with someone
- hablar a alguien – to speak/talk to someone
- hablar un idioma – to chat • decir – to say
- (synonyms) charlar – to listen • callar – to shut up
- (antonyms) escuchar – to address someone as 'tú' • ¡Ni hablar! – No way!

A. Identify the form of the verb hablar. Then translate the sentences.

- Juan habla inglés muy bien.
- Cuando se vean ella le va a hablar a él sobre su futuro.
- A pesar de que Diviana hablara con un acento extraño, todos entendían lo que decía.
- Aunque ella hablaba en voz baja, se notaba enfadada.
- ¿Cuándo hablaste por última vez con tu madre?

B. Circle the correct form of the verb hablar. Then translate the sentences.

- Te recomiendo que hables/hablas con tu madre acerca de lo que sucedió.
- Mi madre siempre me hablo/habla en español.
- Cuando fuimos novios también hablabamos/hablabamos de nuestras ditas supererías.
- ¿Cuándo hablaraste/hablarás con tu jefe?
- A ella siempre le han gustado los idiomas, y ahora hablase habla con alemán.

C. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of hablar.

- Siempre _____ de ti cuando estoy con mis amigos.
I always talk about you when I'm with my friends.
- Mañana, María _____ con su amiga por teléfono.
Tomorrow, María will talk to her friend on the phone.
- ¿Por qué no _____ conmigo?
Why do you not talk to me?
- ¡No _____ más! Yo también quiero _____ ese tema en persona.
Don't talk anymore! I want to talk, too.
- Preferiría que _____ ese tema en persona.
I'd rather we talk about it in person.

INDICATIVE

PRESENT

hablo	hablamos
hablas (hablás)	habláis
habla	hablan

IMPERFECT

hablaba	hablábamos
hablabas	hablabais
hablaba	hablaban

PRETERITE

hablé	hablamos
hablaste	hablasteis
habló	hablaron

FUTURE

hablaré	hablaremos
hablarás	hablaréis
hablará	hablarán

CONDITIONAL

hablaría	hablaríamos
hablarías	hablaríais
hablaría	hablarían

SPEAK

PARTICIPLES

PRESENT

hablando

PAST

hablado

SUBJUNCTIVE

PRESENT

hable	hablemos
hables (hablés)	habléis
hable	hablen

IMPERFECT 1

hablara	habláramos
hablaras	hablarais
hablara	hablaran

IMPERFECT 2

hablase	hablásemos
hablases	habláseis
hablase	hablasen

IMPERATIVE

AFFIRMATIVE

hablemos
habla (hablá) — hablad
hable — hablen

NEGATIVE

no hablemos
no hables — no habléis
no hable — no hablen

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Need-to-Know Spanish Verbs

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Sample

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Introduction

Spanish conjugation tables can be quite dry and boring, but they don't have to be!

Need-to-Know Spanish Verbs presents them in a fun and colorful way, using a layout inspired by mind maps. With these 'mind map' tables, you can see at a glance all the different ways to conjugate a verb in Spanish. They're easy to follow and understand, and they'll help you memorize the conjugations more quickly and efficiently.

Inside, you'll find tables for the fifty most common, essential verbs used in Spanish today. Each table is followed by a guide to the verb's meaning and usage and also exercises to help you master the conjugations and use them correctly in context. Both the conjugation tables and the exercises appear on the **free accompanying audio tracks**.

The exercises are aimed at elementary and intermediate learners who have some previous knowledge of Spanish grammar and how to use various verb tenses. But even beginning learners will find the tables and accompanying audio useful to gain a solid foundation in Spanish by memorizing common verb forms needed in everyday communication.

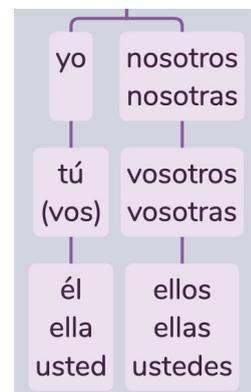
How to Use This Book

Need-to-Know Spanish Verbs is essentially two books in one. First, it is a reference showing the conjugated forms of verbs, their definitions, and their usage. Additionally, it is an exercise book for improving your skills in Spanish and expanding your knowledge.

You can approach the materials in a way that best suits your learning style, needs, and level. For example, you may choose first to study a table (while listening to its audio track and repeating what you hear) and then tackle the exercises immediately or the next day (to test your long-term retention). Or you may wish to try the exercises without first looking at the tables to test yourself and see how much you actually know already. You could then refer back to the table on the previous page to double-check conjugated forms before confirming the correct form in the answer key at the back of the book.

The Tables

The tables are divided into four gray boxes with labels for the three moods (indicative, subjunctive, imperative) and participles. Inside the gray boxes are color-coded sub-categories (tense, etc.). The conjugated forms for each tense are arranged in the traditional layout for conjugation tables—two columns with three rows. The left column is singular, while the right column is plural. The first row is first person (I, we), the second is second person (you), and the third is third person (he, she, it, they), representing the conjugated forms for the personal pronouns of Spanish as shown on the right. Notice that the voseo form (used in certain regions of Latin America) appears in parentheses when it differs



from the tú form (specifically in the present indicative, present subjunctive, and affirmative imperative). And although the Spanish in the exercises and the accent on the audio is Mexican, the vosotros/as forms (used in Spain) are also given in the tables.

The imperative mood is sub-categorized as ‘affirmative’ and ‘negative’ since the second-person informal forms (for tú and vosotros/as) are different in the affirmative and negative. The order of the tables is nosotros/as (Let’s ___) in the first row; tú and vosotros/as in the second row; and usted and ustedes in the third row.

The participles have various uses, but their main use is to follow an auxiliary to form a compound tense. In this use, neither the present nor past participles agree in gender or number with its subject—the form invariably ends in -o. The present participle follows a conjugated form of estar to express a continuous aspect (estar hablando – to be speaking), while the past participle follows a form of haber to express a perfect aspect (haber hablado – to have spoken).

The Exercises

Each table is followed by a page of exercises. (In the print version of this book, the exercises appear on the back side of each sheet of paper intentionally, so that the table is out of sight while you attempt the exercises.)

There are three exercises (A, B, and C), each consisting of five sentences. Since vos and vosotros/as forms are regional, they do not appear in the exercises.

In exercise A, you should identify the key verb and think about its conjugation. Which mood and tense is it? Is it regular or irregular? Study its use in the sentence and try your best to understand the meaning of the sentence and translate (either on paper or in your head) into English. You may find words in the sentence that you don’t know and can’t translate. That’s fine! When you check the translations in the answer key, you have an opportunity to learn some new vocabulary. Keep in mind that there is more than one way to translate any given sentence, so your translation may be a bit different, but that’s okay as long as the meaning is the same.

In exercise B, each sentence is presented with two forms of the key verb. Only one works in the sentence. The other is either a non-existent, incorrect conjugation, or a conjugation that doesn’t fit logically into the sentence (wrong person or tense). Again, try to translate or understand the complete sentence as best you can, and then check in the answer key.

In exercise C, a blank replaces the key verb. You need to come up with the correct conjugated form that matches the meaning shown by the English translation that follows.

In the audio tracks for the exercises, the correct forms of all sentences are read out, so you can also play the audio sentence by sentence to check your answers.

The Audio

You can stream or download the free accompanying audio tracks at www.lingualism.com/nksv1.

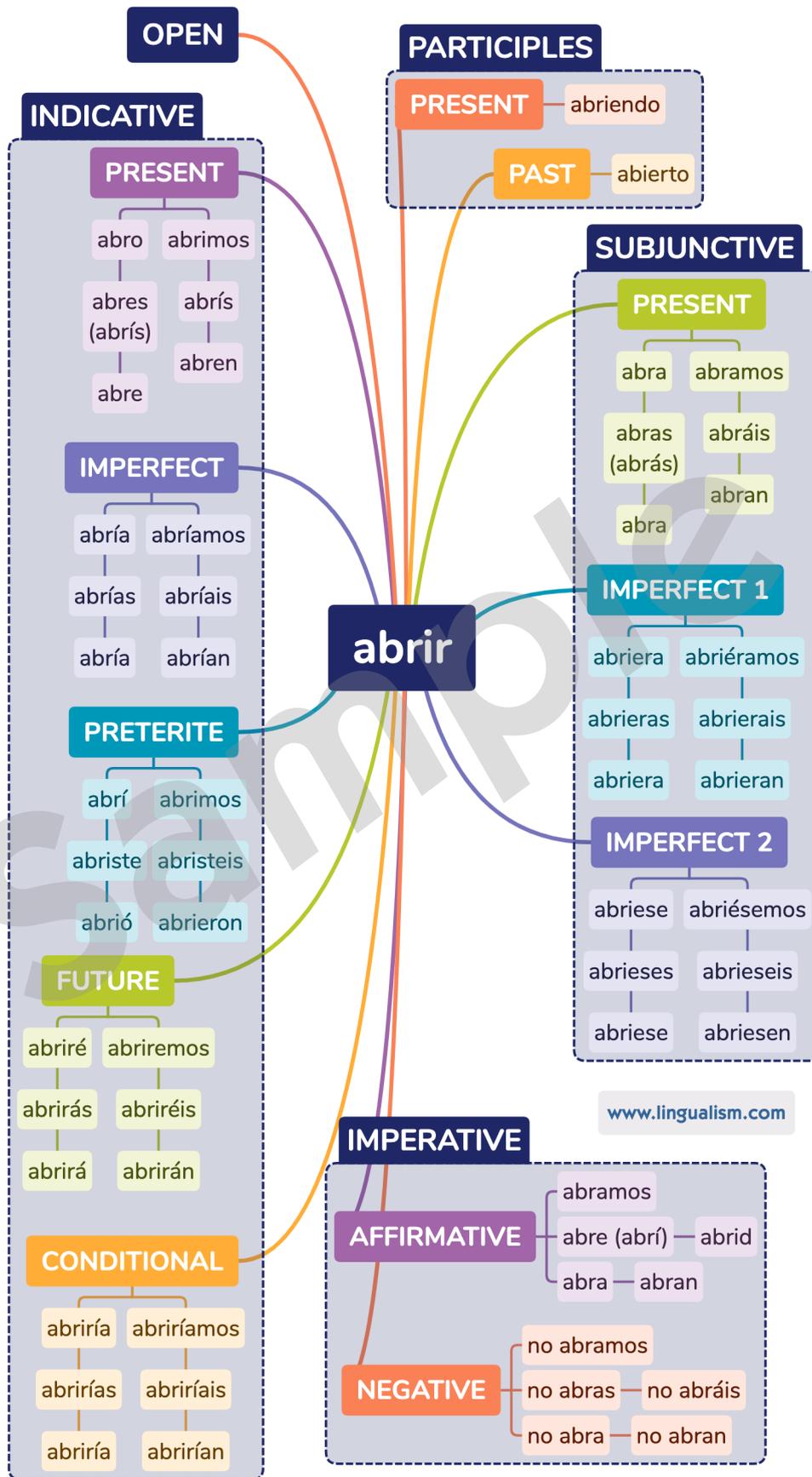
Each of the fifty key verbs has two tracks:

- the conjugation table
- the answers to the exercises



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abrir

to open; to turn on

regular -ir verb

- abrir algo – to open something
- abrirse – (intransitive) to open (up); (leave) to take off
- (antonym) cerrar – to close
- (related words and idioms) • ¡Abre, soy yo! – Open the door. It's me! • ¡Me abro! –I'm (taking) off! • abrir camino a – to pioneer, pave the way for • abrir fuego – to open fire • abrimiento – opening • reabrir – to reopen • en un abrir y cerrar de ojos – in the blink of an eye • abrebotellas – bottle opener • abrelatas – can opener

A. Identify the form of the verb abrir. Then translate the sentences.

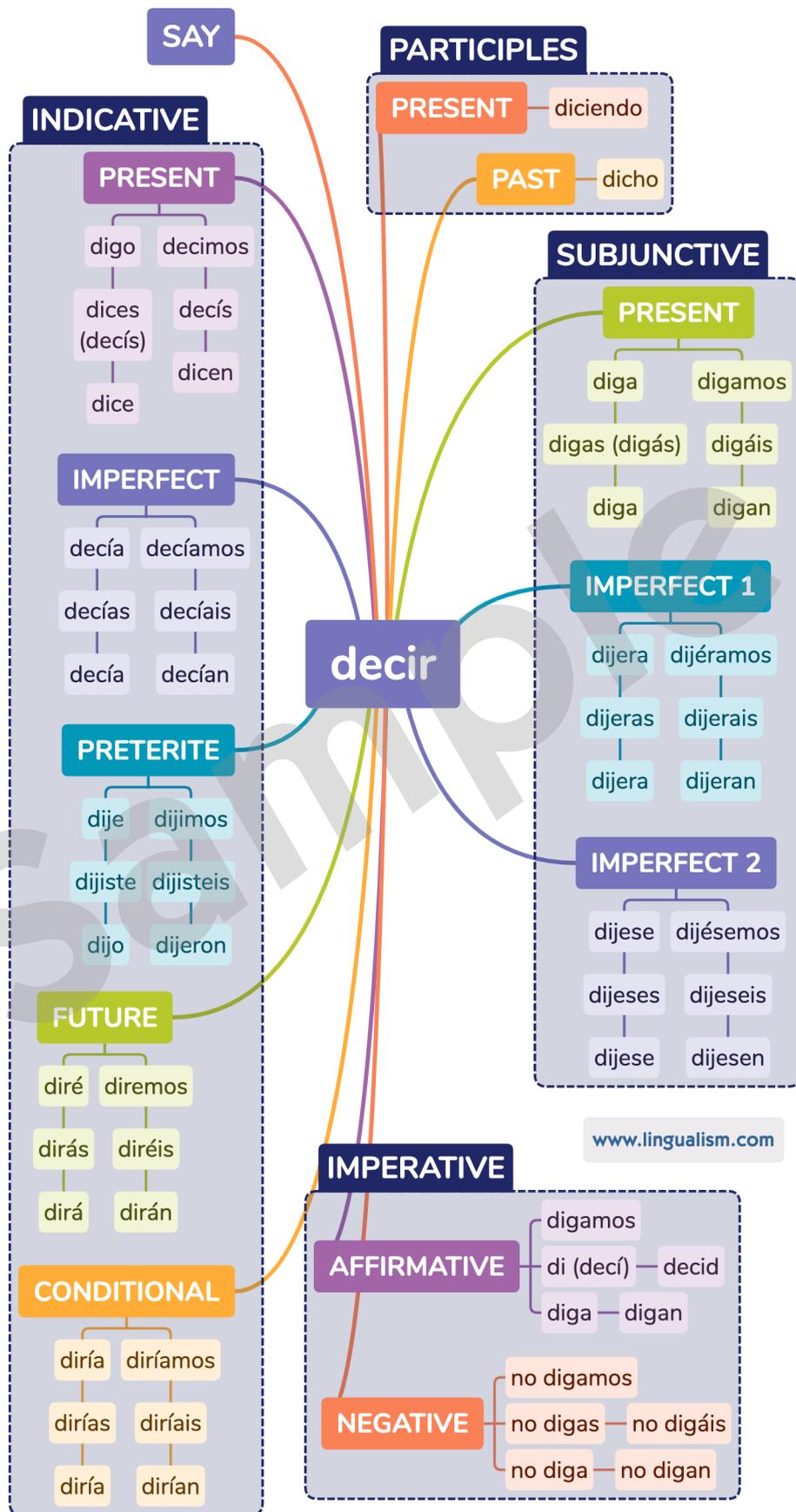
1. Ayer abrí mi regalo de cumpleaños y encontré una muñeca nueva.
2. Si no estuviera lloviendo, abriría la ventana.
3. Tus primos abrieron el restaurante a las seis de la mañana.
4. Es importante que abras con cuidado el libro antiguo.
5. Al abrir la puerta del carro, encontré una rana en mi asiento.

B. Circle the correct form of the verb abrir. Then translate the sentences.

1. ¿**Abristes/Abriste** la puerta para dejar entrar a los gatos?
2. Dudo que ella **abriera/abre** la puerta si supiera lo que hay detrás.
3. He **abierto/abrido** la ventana para que se salga el calor.
4. Luisa **abrió/abrió** la botella de vino y sirvió una copa para cada invitado.
5. Ella aún **abre/abra** la tienda todos los días, a pesar de que no tiene clientes.

C. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of abrir.

1. Al rato que regreses _____ la caja y encontrarás una joya antigua.
As soon as you return you will open the box and you will find an ancient jewel.
2. Si no lloviera, ¿_____ la ventana?
If it didn't rain, would you open the window?
3. Ella _____ el libro y encontró una historia interesante.
She opened the book and found an interesting story.
4. _____ mi corazón para dejar entrar el amor.
I opened my heart to let love in.
5. ¿Por qué no puedo _____ esta maldita puerta?
Why can't I open this damn door?



decir

to say; to tell

irregular -ir verb: dig-, dij-

- o decir algo – to say something
- o decir algo a alguien – to tell someone something, say something to someone
- o decir que... – to say that...
- o decir a alguien que haga algo – to tell someone to do something
- o (synonyms) comentar – to comment • expresar – to express • informar – to inform
- o (related words and idioms) decir la verdad – to tell the truth • decir una mentira – to tell a lie • decir que sí/no – to say yes/no • ¿Cómo se dice ___? – How do you say ___? • ¿Tú qué dices? – What do you say (to that)? • a decir verdad – in fact, truth be told • bendecir – to bless • maldecir – to curse, damn • contradecir – to contradict • predecir – to predict • el dicho – saying, proverb • dicción – diction

A. Identify the form of the verb decir. Then translate the sentences.

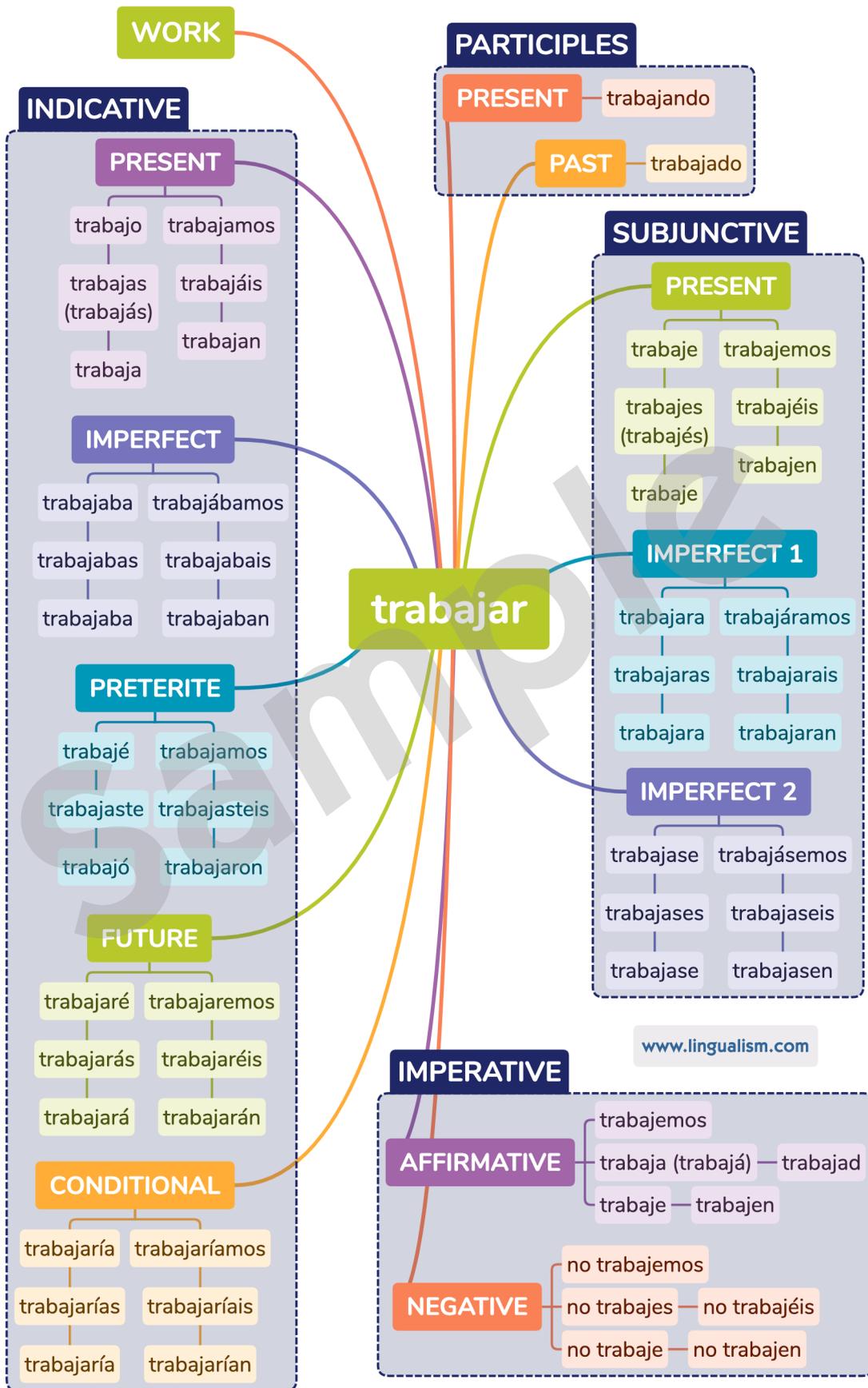
1. ¿Por qué dices eso?
2. Dijo que estaba cansado.
3. Cuando digo que te amo, mi alma se estremece.
4. No te diré dónde está el tesoro.
5. Di la verdad a tu familia.

B. Circle the correct form of the verb decir. Then translate the sentences.

1. Si me **deces/dices** la verdad, te perdonaré.
2. Confío que todos **digan/dicen** que están de acuerdo conmigo.
3. ¿Qué me **dijiste/dejiste**? No entendí nada.
4. ¿Si te **dijero/dijera** que te quiero, me creerías?
5. No me gusta lo que estás **dichendo/diciendo**.

C. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of decir.

1. _____ esto, creo que deberíamos terminar.
With that said, I think we should wrap up.
2. Teníamos tanta confianza que nos _____ nuestros secretos el uno al otro.
We were so close that we told each other our secrets.
3. No _____ nada a nadie sobre lo que realmente pasó.
I won't say anything to anyone about what really happened.
4. María, ¡no _____ mentiras!
Maria, don't tell lies!
5. ¿Qué _____ tus papás si supieran la verdad?
What would your parents say if they knew the truth?



trabajar

to work

regular -ar verb

- trabajar en un lugar / una compañía – to work at/in a place/company
- trabajar de (maestro) – to work as a (teacher)
- (synonym) laborar – to labor
- (antonyms) descansar – to relax • jugar – to play
- (related words and idioms) el trabajo – work, job • el trabajador / la trabajadora – worker; hardworking

A. Identify the form of the verb trabajar. Then translate the sentences.

1. Él trabaja en una oficina y ella en una fábrica.
2. Desde que tengo memoria siempre he estado trabajando de maestro.
3. Siempre trabajo duro para conseguir lo que quiero.
4. Sé que trabajaste en una fábrica, pero la fábrica cerró y ya no podrás regresar a ella.
5. Aunque su padre insistió en que trabajara, ella quería estudiar.

B. Circle the correct form of the verb trabajar. Then translate the sentences.

1. Ayer **trabajamos/trabajemos** hasta las diez de la noche.
2. Nunca te imaginaste que **trabajaría/trabajarías** de camarera, pero aquí estás.
3. Necesitamos que **trabajamos/trabajemos** juntos para terminar este proyecto.
4. He **trabajado/trabajando** mucho esta semana.
5. Siempre **trabajó/trabajó** duro, incluso cuando nadie la estaba mirando.

C. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of trabajar.

1. Mi papá dijo que _____ demasiado.
My dad said we worked too hard.
2. Pienso que los nuevos empleados _____ duro para impresionar a sus jefes.
I think new hires will work hard to impress their bosses.
3. Nunca había entendido porqué mi madre _____ tanto, hasta que me di cuenta que lo hacía para que yo pudiera tener un mejor futuro.
I had never understood why my mother worked so hard, until I realized that she did it so that I could have a better future.
4. No puedo _____ sin mi computadora.
I can't work without my computer.
5. Si _____ un poco más duro, tendrías más éxito.
If you worked a little harder, you would be more successful.

Answer Key

- p. 2 **A.** 1. Yesterday I opened my birthday present and found a new doll. 2. If it wasn't raining, I would open the window. 3. Your cousins opened the restaurant at six in the morning. 4. It is important that you carefully open the old book. 5. Opening the car door, I found a frog on my seat. **B.** 1. **abriste** Did you open the door to let the cats in? 2. **abriera** I doubt she would open the door if she knew what was behind it. 3. **abierto** I have opened the window to let the heat out. 4. **abrió** Luisa opened the bottle of wine and poured a glass for each guest. 5. **abre** She still opens the store every day, even though she has no customers. **C.** 1. **abrirás** 2. **abrirías** 3. **abrió** 4. **abré** 5. **abrir**
- p. 4 **A.** 1. My little brother just learned to read. 2. Let's get this over with! 3. Yesterday the bread ran out, so I'll have to buy more at the supermarket. 4. I need you to finish this project by Monday. 5. My brother is finishing his homework right now. **B.** 1. **acabo** I just finished my favorite book. 2. **acabaste** Did you finish eating all the pizza? 3. **acabado** My son had finished his homework when I got home. 4. **acabó** Did the milk run out? 5. **acabado** I can't believe our vacation is already over. **C.** 1. **acabaré** 2. **acabar** 3. **acabado** 4. **acabar** 5. **acaba**
- p. 6 **A.** 1. Every day I help my brother with his homework after school. 2. Why aren't you helping your dad fix the car? 3. Juan will help his grandmother run errands tomorrow. 4. Can you help me find my book? 5. It is important that we help others. **B.** 1. **ayudé** I helped my friend change the tire on his car. 2. **ayudaban** Luis and Martha helped their grandmother cook every night. 3. **ayuda** Help your sister! 4. **ayudar** I doubt that she would have been able to help us if she knew what had happened. 5. **ayudábamos** We always helped our neighbors when they needed a hand. **C.** 1. **ayudando** 2. **ayudemos** 3. **ayudado** 4. **ayudarte** 5. **ayudaran**
- p. 8 **A.** 1. I was looking for my Spanish book when I realized that I had it in my hand. 2. Alicia was looking for her blouse in my bedroom, but it was in the living room. 3. Juan looked for his favorite book in the library, but it was not there. 4. My mother told me that she would look for my clothes to take them to the laundry. 5. Look for happiness within you and you will find it. **B.** 1. **busqué** I searched all the stores until I found the perfect gift for my sister. 2. **buscamos** We have been looking for a new house to live in for a year. 3. **buscando** Are you looking for someone in particular? 4. **buscas** You seek adventure in everything you do. 5. **buscado** Have you looked for your keys? **C.** 1. **buscar** 2. **buscaron** 3. **buscas** 4. **buscaba** 5. **busques**
- p. 10 **A.** 1. I fell off the ladder and hit myself hard. 2. Be careful! Don't fall off the roof! 3. My girlfriend fell from the tree and hurt her leg. 4. When snow falls, everything turns white. 5. She dropped her book on the floor. **B.** 1. **cayó** Last night a branch fell on my car. 2. **caerte** Watch out! You're going to fall if you don't watch where you're stepping. 3. **cayeron** Yesterday tears fell from my eyes when I said goodbye to you. 4. **caía** My dad always told me that if I fell, he would be there to pick me up. 5. **caigas** Don't fall for that scam. **C.** 1. **caer** 2. **cayéndome** 3. **caído** 4. **caí** 5. **caía**
- p. 12 **A.** 1. He changed his name to forget his past. 2. I can't change the past, but I can change my future. 3. They changed countries every year because they were very adventurous. 4. I changed my exercise routine to improve my health. 5. We don't want anything to change. **B.** 1. **cambiaron** They changed teams when they knew they weren't going to win. 2. **cambia** Change your son's clothes! He's wet! 3. **cambiaré** I will change jobs next year. 4. **cambies** I want you to change jobs, so you have more time to study. 5. **cambiar, cambió** I wanted my life to change, but nothing changed. **C.** 1. **cambiaría** 2. **cambió** 3. **cambiamos** 4. **cambiar** 5. **cambiamos**
- p. 14 **A.** 1. Tomorrow I will start my new diet. 2. Everyone started laughing when I told the joke. 3. I would start my own business if I had more money. 4. Before we started talking, I knew it would be difficult. 5. Unfortunately, I never start my homework on time. **B.** 1. **comenzaras** If you started your day with a cup of coffee, you would feel better. 2. **comienza** The fight begins when the bell rings. 3. **comenzado** I have started running every day to keep fit. 4. **comenzó** It started to rain just as I was going to leave the house.