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Estructuras

3. The pluperfect subjunctive and the conditional perfect

El pluscuamperfecto del subjuntivo



Ojalá hubiera tenido una...Polaroid®.

- The pluperfect subjunctive is formed with the imperfect subjunctive of the auxiliary verb **haber** + the past participle.

	IMPERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE
yo	hubiera	
tú	hubieras	tomado
él/ella, Ud.	hubiera	comido
nosotros/as	hubiéramos	vivido
vosotros/as	hubierais	
ellos/as, Uds.	hubieran	

- The pluperfect subjunctive is used in dependent clauses under the same conditions as the present perfect subjunctive. However, the pluperfect subjunctive is used to refer to an event prior to another past event. Compare the following sentences to the time line.

PRESENT

PAST ————— | ————— | ————— | ————— | ————— © FUTURE

1. vestir desear
2. estar sentir

Deseaba que su novio se **hubiera vestido** mejor para la fiesta.

She wished that her boyfriend had dressed better for the party.

Sentíamos que el desfile de modas **hubiera estado** tan malo.

We were sorry that the fashion show had turned out to be so bad.

El condicional perfecto



- The conditional perfect is formed with the conditional of the auxiliary verb **haber** + past participle.

	CONDITIONAL	PAST PARTICIPLE
yo	habría	
tú	habrías	tomado
él/ella, Ud.	habría	comido
nosotros/as	habríamos	vivido
vosotros/as	habríais	
ellos/as, Uds.	habrían	

- The conditional perfect is used to express an action which would or should have occurred but did not.

Me **habría puesto** el esmoquin, pero no lo encontré.

I would have put on the tuxedo, but I didn't find it.

Habríamos trabajado hasta las ocho, pero no nos lo pidieron.

We would have worked until eight, but they didn't ask us to.

- The conditional perfect and pluperfect subjunctive are used in **si** clauses that express contrary-to-fact information that occurred before another point in the past. In the following example, the point in the past is probably the day of the concert or ticketed event. Before then, the problem wasn't explained and the speaker did not look for other tickets.

Si me **hubieras explicado** el problema con las entradas, **habría buscado** otras.

If you had explained the problem with the tickets to me, I would have looked for others.

- The pluperfect subjunctive can also be used with **ojalá** to express a contrary-to-fact situation that has already happened.

Ojalá hubieras conocido al cantante después del concierto. *I wish you had met the singer after the concert.*

Ojalá no hubieran cancelado el baile. *I wish they hadn't cancelled the dance.*