



All about Essere

As I do with most everything I look at the division of tenses a little differently than most do. Technically speaking the correct way to categorize the various tenses would be;

Definite - Indicative, Imperative, Conditional and then subjunctive
 Indefinite - Infinitive, Participle and the gerund

For the purposes of this lesson I look first at what I call simple tenses (non subjunctive) meaning no auxiliary verb and then move on to the participle and compound tenses which are made from simple tenses and the participle. Then I handle the subjunctive the same way. The infinitive is in the title and I leave the gerund for the lessons on the progressive tenses.

For most of you these first four tenses should be almost more of a review;

| il tempo presente | | il tempo imperfetto | | il tempo futuro | | il tempo passato remoto | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------|
| sono | I am | ero | I was being | sarò | I will be | fui | I was |
| sei | you are | eri | you used to be | sarai | you will be | fosti | you were |
| è | he/she is | era | he/she used to be | sarà | he/she will be | fu | he/she was |
| siamo | we are | eravamo | we were being | saremo | we will be | fummo | we were |
| siete | you are | eravate | y'all used to be | sarete | y'all will be | foste | y'all were |
| sono | they are | erano | they were being | saranno | they will be | furono | they were |

The imperative should also be more of a review while the conditional may be new. Remember with the imperative, we don't look at it like; I, you, he/she, we, y'all and they – Instead it is listed as; You, us, y'all (informal) and then you, y'all (formal). There is no "I" with the imperative tense.

| il tempo imperativo | | il tempo condizionale | |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Sii | Be! | sarei | I would be |
| Siamo | Lets be! | saresti | you would be |
| Siate | Be! | sarebbe | he/she would be |
| Sia | Be! | saremmo | we would be |
| Siano | Be! | sareste | y'all would be |
| | | sarebbero | they would be |

participio passato - Singular; stato (M), stata (F), - Plural; stati (M), state (F)

il Tavolo Italiano

Now we'll look at the compound tenses. If you have the simple tenses that we have covered so far committed to memory along with the past participle options then these four are a breeze. Basically they amount to review and combining what we already know.

| il tempo passato prossimo | | il tempo trapassato prossimo | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| sono stato /a | I have been | ero stato /a | I had been |
| sei stato /a | you have been | eri stato /a | you had been |
| è stato /a | he/she has been | era stato /a | he/she had been |
| siamo stati /e | we have been | eravamo stati /e | we had been |
| siete stati /e | y'all have been | eravate stati | y'all had been |
| sono stati /e | they have been | erano stati /e | they had been |

Once you get it – how to construct the compound tenses then the options just keep growing. Check out these next two! Once again, if you study and memorize the simple tenses and past participles then these become very easy.

| il tempo condizionale passato | | il tempo futuro anteriore | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| sarei stato /a | I would have been | sarò stato /a | I will have been |
| saresti stato /a | you would have been | sarai stato /a | you will have been |
| sarebbe stato /a | he/she would have been | sarà stato /a | he/she will have been |
| saremmo stati /e | we would have been | saremo stati /e | we will have been |
| sareste stati /e | y'all would have been | sarete stati /e | y'all will have been |
| sarebbero stati /e | they would have been | saranno stati /e | they will have been |

Ok, now let's look at two more simple tenses in a different mood, the subjunctive. We are not going to go into all that these tenses involve and when to use them as that is an entire lesson in itself and is already available online. It is also covered in verb drills II. So here we go!

| Congiuntivo Presente | | Congiuntivo Imperfetto | |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|---|
| sia | that I am | fossi | that I would be / could be / was / to be |
| sia | that you are | fossi | that you would be / could be / was / to be |
| sia | that he/she is | fosse | that he/she would be / could be / was / to be |
| siamo | that we are | fossimo | that we would be / could be / was / to be |
| siate | that y'all are | foste | that y'all would be / could be / was / to be |
| siano | that they are | fossero | that they would be / could be / was / to be |

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Now let's look at the compound tenses in the subjunctive – how to construct the compound tenses is exactly the same. You simply use the simple tenses in the subjunctive mood and past participles that you already learned! Once again, don't get hung up on the meaning, translation or use of the subjunctive mood. We cover that in detail in a series of lessons just for that mood where we can really spend the time explaining and understanding it.

| Congiuntivo passato | | Congiuntivo trapassato | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Sia stato /a | That I was / have been | Fossi stato /a | That I had been |
| Sia stato /a | That you were / have been | Fossi stato /a | That you had been |
| Sia stato /a | That he/she was / has been | Fosse stato /a | That he/she had been |
| Siamo stati /e | That we were / have been | Fossimo stati /e | That we had been |
| Siate stati /e | That y'all were / have been | Foste stati /e | That y'all had been |
| Siano stati /e | That they were / have been | Fossero stati /e | That they had been |