

Spanish MLU Criteria¹

MLU is called either LME (longitud media del enunciado) or PLE (promedio de longitud del enunciado).

Other works cited:

Aguado (1988), Herrera & Pandolfi (1984), Linares (1981), Sentis (1979), Toronto (1976). Many of the examples come from these works.

Some researchers base MLU in only 100 utterances, or take out the first page of the transcript or the first 15 utterances. We use all utterances available except those in 1, 5, 9, 12, 14, 15, and 19.

Types of Utterances

1. All unclear utterances should be omitted. (= Sentis) That includes:
 - Totally unclear utterances: *XXX* (code as Unclear/Fragment under SpeechAct)
 - Partially unclear utterances: *XX el gato* ('XX the cat'), *Necesito que XX* ('(I) need that XX'). (code as Unclear/Fragment under SpeechAct)

2. When you understand a sentence except for one word (that may be a nonsense word, underlined below), code the rest of the utterance and count unclear word as 1 word, 1 morpheme, and X number of syllables. (= Sentis)

For example:

- *¿Está lloviendo na?* '(it) is raining na?' → *na* = 1 syllable, 1 morpheme, 1 word (Total for utterance = 6 syllables (es-tá-llo-vien-do-na), 5 morphemes (est-á-llov-iendo-na), 3 words

¹ Prepared by María Blume

(está-lloviendo-na).

- ¿*Está lloviendo napa?* ‘(it) is raining napa?’ → *napa* = 2 syllables, 1 morpheme, 1 word
(Total for utterance = 7 syllables (es-tá-llo-vien-do-na-pa), 5 morphemes (est-á-llov-iendo-napa), 3 words (está-lloviendo-napa)).
- ¿*Está lloviendo na pa?* ‘(it) is raining na pa?’ → *Unclear*. Don’t count at all because there is more than one unintelligible word.

NOTE: We used to use the symbol X to count each unintelligible syllable. This symbol shouldn’t be used any more. Either you can tell what the syllables sound like or you code as “XX”

3. Clear utterances with an Unclear Speech Act—where the context does not allow one to disambiguate—are counted for MLU purposes. They should be coded as Ambiguous under Speech Act.

- Example: *Come* (which could be either ‘he eats’ (3rd sg present) or ‘eat’ (2nd sg imperative))

4. Counts fragments when they are caused by a break-off. They count as 1 utterance.

- Child: yo quiero> tengo que limpiar (‘I want> have to clean’.)

Just count the correction, that is count only the morphemes, syllables, etc of *tengo*. In the case where there is repetition of a part:

- Child: yo quiero>yo tengo que limpiar (‘I want> I have to clean’.)

Then we code the utterance as if it were *yo tengo que limpiar*. We just count one subject.

5. Do not count fragments when they are caused by an interruption from another speaker (note the different symbols):

- Child: yo quiero^ ('I want>)
- Adult: ven acá ('come here')

6. Do count the following fragments (subordinate clauses) since they are OK in adult Spanish and very frequent (\neq Aguado):

- Adult: ¿Qué le dice la mamá?, 'What does the mother say to him/her?'
- Child: que venga a comer, lit: that come-Subjunctive to eat, 'to come to eat'.
- Child: que no vaya, lit: that not go-Subjunctive, "not to go".
- Adult: ¿Qué quiere saber el niño?, 'What does the child want to know?'
- Child: dónde va, 'where (it) goes'
- Child: cómo hacerlo, 'how to do it'

7. The following constructions are very frequent in Spanish and should be counted as two clauses. They are used in isolation, they don't need a context. (\neq Aguado)

- Child: es que no quiero, '(it) is that (I do) not want' (*es* main clause, *que no quiero* subordinate clause)
- Child: es que se llama María, '(it) is that (she) herself-call María' (*es* main clause, *que se llama María* subordinate clause)

8. There are also several sentences that start with a conjunction, or an adverbial conjunction.

This shouldn't be considered fragments either since they are very frequent in adult Spanish. (\neq

Aguado)

- Child: y María va a comer, 'and María is going to eat'
- Child: pero Juan no quiere jugar, 'but Juan (does) not want to play'
- Child: porque yo tengo uno, 'because I have one'

9. Do not count fragments of words, when interlocutor gave a clue to the child, as in:

- Adult: ¿Esto qué es? (What is this?)
- Adult: Es un po... (This is a chi...?)
- Child: llo (cken)

10. Count all exact and non-exact imitations of the interlocutor's utterance (Other-Rep), and all exact and non-exact self imitations (Self-rep). (\neq Sentis.)

11. Count words repeated for emphasis. (= Sentis; \neq Herrera and Pandolfi). Herrera and Pandolfi counted just the first of the repeated words or utterances,

- *no, no, no.* (we wouldn't count these, since we don't count *no* at all)
- *mía, tía, eso, ahí, ahí* (*mía* = *mira*, 'look, aunt, that, there, there'. H&P counted just the first *ahí*, we count both)
- *no queo, no queo* (*queo* = *quiero*, '(I do) not want, (I do) not want'. I would count these as 2 different utterances)

12. Do not count singing, recitation or memorized expressions, repetitions of number series, fragments of stories (where the child is repeating what an adult said or where it is clearly memorized). (= Sentis, Herrera and Pandolfi)

13. Stuttering: Count the word once in the most complete form for morphemes, syllables and words. (= Sentis)

Types of words:

14. Do not count fillers as “um, oh”. (= Sentis)

15. Do not count *no* ‘no’, *sí* ‘yes’, *hola* ‘hi’, etc. (\neq Sentis, Herrera and Pandolfi.) H&P counted expressions with transparent meaning (affirmation, question, agreement, approval, doubt, rejection). Examples:

- Adult: ¿Quieres más galletas?, ‘(Do you) want more cookies?’
Child: ¿Ah? (question).
- Adult: Pásame el auto rojo, ‘Hand me the red car’
Child: Mh. (affirmation).
- Adult: Mira, qué lindo es, ‘look how beautiful (it) is’
Child: ¡Oh! (admiration/surprise).

We do not count any of those.

16. Proper names are counted as one morpheme, 1 word, X number of syllables. (= Sentis)

- Ana María → (compound first name), 5 syllables, 1 morpheme, 1 word.
- Juan Pérez → (first name and last name), 3 syllables, 1 morpheme, 1 word.

17. Count all compound words as you would for an adult. (≠ Sentis)

- For example: *teléfono* ‘telephone’ → 4 syllables (te-lé-fo-no), 2 morphemes (telé-fono), 1 word.
- *televisión* ‘television’ → 4 syllables (te-le-vi-sión), 2 morphemes (tele-visión), 1 word.
- *cumpleaños*: ‘birthday’ → 4 syllables (cum-ple-a-ños), 2 morphemes (cumple-años), 1 word.
- *subibaja*: ‘see-saw’ → 4 syllables (su-bi-ba-ja), 2 morphemes (subi-baja), 1 word.

18. Consider the contractions *del* ‘of the’ (de el), *al* ‘to the’ (*a el*) as having two roots and thus count as two morphemes.

19. Onomatopoeias: Do not count except when they are a motherese word. (= Herrera and Pandolfi)

- Adult: Haz andar el autito, ‘Make the car move’
Child: ¡Brr...brr...pum! (car sound). This isn’t coded.
- Adult: ¿Qué es eso?, ‘What’s that?’
Child: E’ un guau, ‘(it) is a doggie’ (e= es, guau = guau guau = motherese word for dog.). This is coded. Guau = 1 syllable, 1 morpheme, 1 word. Guau guau = 2 syllables, 1 morpheme, 1 word.

Herrera and Pandolfi also counted this as a motherese form:

- Adult: ¿Cómo hace el perrito? ‘How does the doggie go?’

Child: Guau They think *guau* here stands for the verb *ladra* ‘it barks’. I disagree. The child is just imitating a sound, as in *the train goes chuchu*, where *chuchu* is not any clear verb. I would not count this case.

20. When the child pronounces two words as one, as in:

- Voa calle (voy a la calle), ‘(I) go to the street’
- Lato (el auto), ‘the car’
- Tán nela sala (en la), ‘(they) are in the living room’

Count them as 2 different words. (≠ Herrera and Pandolfi)

21. Prepositions: All prepositions have just one morpheme in Spanish. Count syllables according to the particular preposition.

Agreement: Nouns, Adjectives, and Determiners

22. Gender: Count as one morpheme the generic ending *-a* (feminine), *-o* or *-e* (masculine), and *-o* (neuter) only when the root can have different generic endings. For example:

- *gato /gata* ‘cat’ → 2 syllables (ga-to), 2 morphemes (gat-o), 1 word.
- *luz* ‘light’ → 1 syllable, 1 morpheme, 1 word.
- *señor/señora* ‘Mr., Ms.’ → 2 syllables (se-ñor), 1 morpheme (señor), 1 word; but *señora* → 3 syllables (se-ño-ra), 2 morphemes (señor-a), 1 word.
- *alto/alta* ‘tall’ → 2 syllables (al-to), 2 morphemes (alt-o), 1 word.
- *grande* ‘big’ → 2 syllables (gran-de), 1 morpheme (grande), 1 word.

- Demonstratives: *esto, este, esta, éste, ésta, eso, ese, esa, etc.* ‘this, that’ → 2 syllables (es-to, es-te, es-ta, etc.), 2 morphemes (est-o, est-e, est-a, etc.), 1 word. *aquel* ‘that’ → 2 syllables (a-quel), 1 morpheme (aquel), 1 word. *aquello, aquella* ‘that one’ → 3 syllables (a-que-llo, a-que-lla), 2 morphemes (aquell-o, aquell-a), 1 word.
- Possessives *mío, mía, tuyo, tuya, suyo, suya, nuestro, nuestra* ‘mine, yours, his, ours, etc.’ → 2 syllables (mí-o, tu-yo, su-yo, nues-tro, etc.), 2 morphemes (mí-a, tuy-a, suy-a, nuestr-a, etc.), 1 word.
- Personal: count as one morpheme *yo, tú, usted, ustedes* ‘I, you, you-formal, you-pl’ (since they are gender neutral), *él* ‘he’ (masculine but monomorphemic). The following ones have a gender morpheme: *ello, ella* ‘it, she’ → 2 syllables (e-llo, e-lla), 2 morphemes (ell-o, ell-a), 1 word. *nosotros, nosotras, vosotros, vosotras* ‘we, you-pl’ → 3 syllables (no-so-tros, vo-so-tros, etc.), 2 morphemes (nosotr-as, vosotr-as, the gender marking is only *a, s* doesn’t count as a number marking, since these forms are always plural), 1 word.
- Articles: count as one morpheme *el, un* ‘the, a’ (masculine but monomorphemic). The following ones have a gender morpheme: *lo, la* ‘the’ → 1 syllable (lo, la), 2 morphemes (l-o, l-a), 1 word; *uno, una* ‘a’ → 2 syllables (u-no, u-na), 2 morphemes (un-o, un-a), 1 word.

Note: we do count the masculine termination -o in animals such as *hipopótamo* (‘hippo’), where *hipopótama* (the feminine form) is possible but not frequent

- 23. Number:** Count as one morpheme the plural ending -s (for singular ending in vowel)

or *-es* (for singular ending in consonant). Singulars are not given points because the child is not adding morphemes to them. For example:

- *gatas* ‘cats’ → 2 syllables (ga-tas), 3 morphemes (gat-a-s), 1 word.
- *flores* ‘flowers’ → 2 syllables (flo-res), 2 morphemes (flor-es), 1 word.
- *altos* ‘tall-pl’ → 2 syllables (al-tos), 3 morphemes (alt-o-s), 1 word.
- *azules* ‘blue-pl’ → 3 syllables (a-zu-les), 2 morphemes (azul-es), 1 word.
- Demonstratives and possessives Count as plural the *-s* marking.
- Personal pronouns The only ones that have plural markings are *ellos, ellas* ‘they’ → 2 syllables (e-llos, e-llas), 3 morphemes (ell-o-s, ell-a-s), 1 word; and *ustedes* ‘you-pl’ → 3 syllables (us-te-des), 2 morphemes (usted-es), 1 word.
- Articles: count as three morphemes *los, las, unos, unas*. *los, las* ‘the-pl’ → 1 syllable (los, las), 3 morphemes (l-o-s, l-a-s), 1 word; *unos, unas* ‘some’ → 2 syllables (u-nos, u-nas), 3 morphemes (un-o-s, un-a-s), 1 word.

24. Count interrogative words/relative pronouns *qué, quién, cuál, que, quien* ‘what, who, which, that, who’ → 1 syllable, 1 morpheme, 1 word, *dónde* ‘where’ → 2 syllables, 1 morpheme, 1 word, etc. as one morpheme, except when:

- they are inflected in which case count inflection as another morpheme: *quiénes, cuáles* ‘who-pl, which-pl’ → 2 syllables, 2 morphemes, 2 words
- They are accompanied by an article: *el que* ‘the one that’ → 2 syllables, 2 morphemes, 2 words, *las cuales* ‘the ones that’ → 3 syllables, 5 morphemes (l-a-s cual-es), 2 words
- *por qué* ‘why’ → 2 syllables, 1 morpheme, 2 words.

Inflection and Agreement: Verbs

In general, in Spanish, inflectional features (tense, aspect, mood, voice), and agreement morphemes (person, number, gender) are realized by a single morpheme.

25. Regular verbs. In all this section, I follow Alcina Franch and Blecua's division (see specially pp. 763-765).

NON-FINITE FORMS

- **Infinitives** 3 morphemes

cantar 'to sing' → 2 syllables (can-tar), 3 morphemes (cant-a-r), 1 word.

estudiar 'to study' → 3 syllables (es-tu-diar), 3 morphemes (estudi-a-r), 1 word.

comer 'to eat' → 2 syllables (co-mer), 3 morphemes (com-e-r), 1 word.

conocer 'to know' → 3 syllables (co-no-cer), 3 morphemes (conoc-e-r), 1 word.

dormir 'to sleep' → 2 syllables (dor-mir), 3 morphemes (dorm-i-r), 1 word.

descubrir 'to discover' → 3 syllables (des-cu-brir), 3 morphemes (descubr-i-r), 1 word.

- **Gerunds** 3 morphemes

cantando 'singing' → 3 syllables (can-tan-do), 2 morphemes (cant-a-ndo), 1 word.

estudiando 'studying' → 4 syllables (es-tu-dian-do), 3 morphemes (estudi-a-ndo), 1 word.

comiendo 'eating' → 3 syllables (co-mien-do), 3 morphemes (com-ie-ndo), 1 word.

conociendo 'knowing' → 4 syllables (co-no-cien-do), 3 morphemes (conoc-ie-ndo), 1 word.

durmiendo 'sleeping' → 3 syllables (dur-mien-do), 3 morphemes (durm-ie-ndo), 1 word.

descubriendo 'discovering' → 4 syllables (des-cu-brien-do), 3 morphemes (descubr-ie-ndo), 1

word.

- **Past Participles** 3 morphemes

cantado ‘sung’ → 3 syllables (can-ta-do), 3 morphemes (cant-a-do), 1 word.

estudiado ‘studied’ → 4 syllables (es-tu-dia-do), 3 morphemes (estudi-a-do), 1 word.

comido ‘eaten’ → 3 syllables (co-mi-do), 3 morphemes (com-i-do), 1 word.

conocido ‘known’ → 4 syllables (co-no-ci-do), 3 morphemes (conoc-i-do), 1 word.

dormido ‘slept’ → 3 syllables (dor-mi-do), 3 morphemes (dorm-i-do), 1 word.

insistido ‘insisted’ → 4 syllables (in-sis-ti-do), 3 morphemes (insist-i-do), 1 word.

Note: irregular participles should be counted as one morpheme:

roto ‘broken’ → 2 syllables (ro-to), 1 morpheme, 1 word.

hecho ‘done’ → 2 syllables (he-cho), 1 morpheme, 1 word.

descubierto ‘discovered’ → 4 syllables (des-cu-bier-to), 1 morpheme, 1 word.

Note: when participles are used as adjectives, or as part of the passive voice, they take gender and number markings as well:

los planetas fueron descubiertos ‘the planets were discovered’

las arañas son estudiadas por el profesor ‘spiders are studied by the professor’

FINITE FORMS

Throughout this section tv = thematic vowel, infl = inflection, agr = agreement

Indicative

- **Present** (verb + thematic vowel + agreement)

como→2 syllables (co-mo), 2 morphemes (com-o), 1 word. [no tv, infl instead of agr]

comes→2 syllables (co-mes), 3 morphemes (com-e-s), 1 word.

come→2 syllables (co-me), 2 morphemes (com-e), 1 word.

comemos→3 syllables (co-me-mos), 3 morphemes (com-e-mos), 1 word.

coméis→2 syllables (co-méis), 3 morphemes (com-é-is), 1 word.

comen→2 syllables (co-men), 3 morphemes (com-e-n), 1 word.

Preterit (verb + thematic vowel+ inflection +agreement)

comí→2 syllables (co-mí), 2 morphemes (com-í), 1 word. [no tv & agr]

comiste→3 syllables (co-mis-te), 3 morphemes (com-i-ste), 1 word. [no agr]

comió→2 syllables (co-mió), 3 morphemes (com-i-ó), 1 word. [no agr]

comimos→3 syllables (co-mi-mos), 3 morphemes (com-i-mos), 1 word. [no infl]

comisteis→3 syllables (co-mis-teis), 4 morphemes (com-i-ste-is), 1 word.

comieron→3 syllables (co-mie-ron), 2 morphemes (com-ie-ro-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

comía→3 syllables (co-mí-a), 3 morphemes (com-í-a), 1 word. [no agr]

comías→3 syllables (co-mí-as), 4 morphemes (com-í-a-s), 1 word.

comía→3 syllables (co-mí-a), 3 morphemes (com-í-a), 1 word. [no agr]

comíamos→4 syllables (co-mí-a-mos), 4 morphemes (com-í-a-mos), 1 word.

comíais→3 syllables (co-mí-ais), 4 morphemes (com-í-a-is), 1 word.

comían→3 syllables (co-mí-an), 4 morphemes (com-í-a-n), 1 word.

cantaba→3 syllables (can-ta-ba), 3 morphemes (cant-a-ba), 1 word. [no agr]

cantabas→3 syllables (can-ta-bas), 4 morphemes (cant-a-ba-s), 1 word.

cantaba→3 syllables (can-ta-ba), 3 morphemes (cant-a-ba), 1 word. [no agr]

cantábamos→4 syllables (can-tá-ba-mos), 4 morphemes (cant-á-ba-mos), 1 word.

cantabais→3 syllables (can-ta-bais), 4 morphemes (cant-a-ba-is), 1 word.

cantaban→3 syllables (can-ta-ban), 4 morphemes (cant-a-ba-n), 1 word.

- **Future**

comeré→3 syllables (co-me-ré), 3 morphemes (com-e-ré), 1 word. [no agr]

comerás→3 syllables (co-me-rás), 4 morphemes (com-e-rá-s), 1 word.

comerá→3 syllables (co-me-rá), 3 morphemes (com-e-rá), 1 word. [no agr]

comeremos→4 syllables (co-me-re-mos), 4 morphemes (com-e-re-mos), 1 word.

comeréis→3 syllables (co-me-réis), 4 morphemes (com-e-ré-is), 1 word.

comerán→3 syllables (co-me-rán), 4 morphemes (com-e-rá-n), 1 word.

Conditional (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

comería→4 syllables (co-me-rí-a), 3 morphemes (com-e-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

comerías→4 syllables (co-me-rí-as), 4 morphemes (com-e-ría-s), 1 word.

comería→4 syllables (co-me-rí-a), 3 morphemes (com-e-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

comeríamos→5 syllables (co-me-rí-a-mos), 4 morphemes (com-e-ría-mos), 1 word.

comeríais→4 syllables (co-me-rí-ais), 4 morphemes (com-e-ría-is), 1 word.

comerían→4 syllables (co-me-rí-an), 4 morphemes (com-e-ría-n), 1 word.

Imperative

2nd singular (Peninsular and Latin American, verb + thematic vowel)

come→2 syllables (co-me), 2 morphemes (com-e), 1 word. [no agr]

2nd plural (Peninsular, verb + thematic vowel + agreement)

comed→2 syllables (co-med), 3 morphemes (com-e-d), 1 word.

2nd plural (Latin American. This is the same form as Present Subjunctive, verb + inflection + agreement)

coman→2 syllables (co-man), 3 morphemes (com-a-n), 1 word.

Subjunctive

- **Present** (verb + inflection + agreement)

coma→2 syllables (co-ma), 2 morphemes (com-a), 1 word. [no agr]

comas→2 syllables (co-mas), 3 morphemes (com-a-s), 1 word.

coma→2 syllables (co-ma), 2 morphemes (com-a), 1 word. [no agr]

comamos→3 syllables (co-ma-mos), 3 morphemes (com-a-mos), 1 word.

comáis→2 syllables (co-máis), 3 morphemes (com-á-is), 1 word.

coman→2 syllables (co-man), 3 morphemes (com-a-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

comiera→3 syllables (co-mie-ra), 3 morphemes (com-ie-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

comieras→3 syllables (co-mie-ras), 4 morphemes (com-ie-ra-s), 1 word.

comiera→3 syllables (co-mie-ra), 3 morphemes (com-ie-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

comiéramos→4 syllables (co-mié-ra-mos), 4 morphemes (com-ié-ra-mos), 1 word.

comierais→3 syllables (co-mie-ra-is), 4 morphemes (com-ie-ra-is), 1 word.

comieran→3 syllables (co-mie-ran), 4 morphemes (com-ie-ra-n), 1 word.

This second form is infrequent in speech.

comiese→3 syllables (co-mie-se), 3 morphemes (com-ie-se), 1 word. [no agr]

comieses→3 syllables (co-mie-ses), 4 morphemes (com-ie-se-s), 1 word.

comiese→3 syllables (co-mie-se), 3 morphemes (com-ie-se), 1 word. [no agr]

comiésemos→4 syllables (co-mié-se-mos), 4 morphemes (com-ié-se-mos), 1 word.

comieseis→3 syllables (co-mie-se-is), 4 morphemes (com-ie-se-is), 1 word.

comiesen→3 syllables (co-mie-sen), 4 morphemes (com-ie-se-n), 1 word.

- **Future** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement). I think this form does not exist in speech anymore

comiere→3 syllables (co-mie-re), 3 morphemes (com-ie-re), 1 word. [no agr]

comieres→3 syllables (co-mie-res), 4 morphemes (com-ie-re-s), 1 word.

comiere→3 syllables (co-mie-re), 3 morphemes (com-ie-re), 1 word. [no agr]

comiéremos→4 syllables (co-mié-re-mos), 4 morphemes (com-ié-re-mos), 1 word.

comiereis→3 syllables (co-mie-reis), 4 morphemes (com-ie-re-is), 1 word.

comieren→3 syllables (co-mie-ren), 4 morphemes (com-ie-re-n), 1 word.

26. Count irregular forms of the verb as one morpheme only if there is no clear inflectional morpheme. For example:

NON-FINITE FORMS

- **Infinitive**

-ser ‘to be’→1 syllable, 3 morphemes (s-e-r), 1 word

-estar ‘to be’→2 syllables (es-tar), 3 morphemes (est-a-r), 1 word.

-ir ‘to go’→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (i-r), 1 word.

-haber ‘to be-existential²’→2 syllables (ha-ber), 3 morphemes (hab-e-r), 1 word.

- **Gerund**

-siendo ‘being’→2 syllables (sien-do), 3 morphemes (s-ie-ndo), 1 word

-estando ‘being’→3 syllables (es-tan-do), 3 morphemes (est-a-ndo), 1 word.

-yendo ‘going’→2 syllables (yen-do), 2 morphemes (ye-ndo), 1 word.

-habiendo ‘to be-existential’→3 syllables (ha-bien-do), 3 morphemes (hab-ie-ndo), 1 word.

- **Past Participle**

² When used as an auxiliary, *haber* is better translated as ‘to have’.

-sido ‘been’→2 syllables (si-do), 3 morphemes (s-i-do), 1 word

-estado ‘been’→3 syllables (es-ta-do), 3 morphemes (est-a-do), 1 word.

-ido ‘gone’→2 syllables (i-do), 2 morphemes (i-do), 1 word.

-habido ‘to be-existential’→3 syllables (ha-bien-do), 3 morphemes (hab-ie-ndo), 1 word.

FINITE FORMS

Throughout this section tv = thematic vowel, infl = inflection, agr= agreement

Verb *ser* ‘to be’

Indicative

- **Present** (verb + agreement)

soy→1 syllable, 1 morpheme, 1 word.

eres→2 syllables (e-res), 2 morphemes (ere-s), 1 word.

es→1 syllable, 1 morpheme, 1 word.

somos→2 syllables (so-mos), 2 morphemes (so-mos), 1 word.

sois→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (so-is), 1 word.

son→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (so-n), 1 word.

- **Preterit** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

fui →1 syllable, 2 morphemes (fu-i), 1 word. [no infl & no agr]

fuiste→2 syllables (fuis-te), 3 morphemes (fu-i-ste), 1 word. [no agr]

fue→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (fu-e), 1 word. [no tv & no agr]

fuimos→2 syllables (fui-mos), 3 morphemes (fu-i-mos), 1 word. [no infl]

fuisteis→2 syllables (fuis-teis), 4 morphemes (fu-i-ste-is), 1 word.

fueron→2 syllables (fue-ron), 4 morphemes (fu-e-ro-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + inflection + agreement)

era →2 syllables (e-ra), 2 morphemes (er-a), 1 word. [no agr]

eras→2 syllables (e-ras), 3 morphemes (er-a-s), 1 word.

era→2 syllables (e-ra), 2 morphemes (er-a), 1 word. [no agr]

éramos→3 syllables (é-ra-mos), 3 morphemes (ér-a-mos), 1 word.

erais→2 syllables (e-raís), 3 morphemes (er-a-is), 1 word.

eran→2 syllables (e-ran), 3 morphemes (er-a-n), 1 word.

- **Future** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

seré→2 syllables (se-ré), 3 morphemes (s-e-ré), 1 word. [no agr]

serás→2 syllables (se-rás), 4 morphemes (s-e-rá-s), 1 word.

será→2 syllables (se-rá), 3 morphemes (s-e-rá), 1 word. [no agr]

seremos→3 syllables (se-re-mos), 4 morphemes (s-e-re-mos), 1 word.

seréis→2 syllables (se-réis), 4 morphemes (s-e-ré-is), 1 word.

serán→2 syllables (se-rán), 4 morphemes (s-e-rá-n), 1 word.

Conditional (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

sería→3 syllables (se-rí-a), 3 morphemes (s-e-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

serías→3 syllables (se-rí-as), 4 morphemes (s-e-ría-s), 1 word.

sería→3 syllables (se-rí-a), 3 morphemes (s-e-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

seríamos→4 syllables (se-rí-a-mos), 4 morphemes (s-e-ría-mos), 1 word.

seríais→3 syllables (se-rí-ais), 4 morphemes (s-e-ría-is), 1 word.

serían→3 syllables (se-rí-an), 4 morphemes (s-e-ría-n), 1 word.

Imperative

2nd singular (Peninsular and Latin American, verb + thematic vowel)

sé→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (s-é), 1 word. [no agr]

2nd plural (Peninsular, verb + thematic vowel + agreement)

sed→1 syllable, 3 morphemes (s-e-d), 1 word.

2nd plural (Latin American. This is the same form as Present Subjunctive, verb + inflection + agreement)

sean→2 syllables (se-an), 4 morphemes (s-e-a-n), 1 word.

Subjunctive

- **Present** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

sea→2 syllables (se-a), 3 morphemes (s-e-a), 1 word. [no agr]

seas→2 syllables (se-as), 4 morphemes (s-e-a-s), 1 word.

sea→2 syllables (se-a), 3 morphemes (s-e-a), 1 word. [no agr]

seamos→3 syllables (se-a-mos), 4 morphemes (s-e-a-mos), 1 word.

seáis→2 syllables (se-áis), 4 morphemes (s-e-á-is), 1 word.

sean→2 syllables (se-an), 4 morphemes (s-e-a-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

fuera→2 syllables (fue-ra), 3 morphemes (fu-e-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

fueras→2 syllables (fue-ras), 4 morphemes (fu-e-ra-s), 1 word.

fuera→2 syllables (fue-ra), 3 morphemes (fu-e-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

fuéramos→3 syllables (fué-ra-mos), 4 morphemes (fu-é-ra-mos), 1 word.

fuerais→2 syllables (fue-ra-is), 4 morphemes (fu-e-ra-is), 1 word.

fueran→2 syllables (fue-ran), 4 morphemes (fu-e-ra-n), 1 word.

This second form is infrequent in speech.

fuese→2 syllables (fue-se), 3 morphemes (fu-e-se), 1 word. [no agr]

fueses→2 syllables (fue-ses), 4 morphemes (fu-e-se-s), 1 word.

fuese→2 syllables (fue-se), 3 morphemes (fu-e-se), 1 word. [no agr]

fuésemos→3 syllables (fué-se-mos), 4 morphemes (fu-é-se-mos), 1 word.

fueseis→2 syllables (fue-se-is), 4 morphemes (fu-e-se-is), 1 word.

fuesen→2 syllables (fue-sen), 4 morphemes (fu-e-se-n), 1 word.

- **Future** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement). I think this form does not exist in speech anymore.

fuere→2 syllables (fue-re), 3 morphemes (fu-e-re), 1 word. [no agr]

fueres→2 syllables (fue-res), 4 morphemes (fu-e-re-s), 1 word.

fuere→2 syllables (fue-re), 3 morphemes (fu-e-re), 1 word. [no agr]

fuéremos→3 syllables (fué-re-mos), 4 morphemes (fu-é-re-mos), 1 word.

fuereis→2 syllables (fue-reis), 4 morphemes (fu-e-re-is), 1 word.

fueren→2 syllables (fue-ren), 4 morphemes (fu-e-re-n), 1 word.

Verb *estar* ‘to be’

Indicative

- **Present** (verb + thematic vowel + agreement)

estoy→2 syllables (es-toy), 1 morpheme, 1 word.

estás→ 2 syllables (es-tás), 3 morphemes (est-á-s), 1 word.

está→ 2 syllables (es-tá), 2 morphemes (est-á), 1 word. [no agr]

estamos→3 syllables (es-ta-mos), 3 morphemes (est-a-mos), 1 word.

estáis→2 syllables (es-táis), 3 morphemes (est-á-is), 1 word.

están→2 syllables (es-tán), 3 morphemes (est-á-n), 1 word.

- **Preterit** (verb +thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

estuve→3 syllables (es-tu-ve), 2 morphemes (estuv-e), 1 word. [no infl & agr]

estuviste→4 syllables (es-tu-vis-te), 3 morphemes (estuv-i-ste), 1 word. [no agr]

estuvo→3 syllables (es-tu-vo), 2 morphemes (estuv-o), 1 word. [no tv & no agr]

estuvimos→4 syllables (es-tu-vi-mos), 3 morphemes (estuv-i-mos), 1 word. [no infl]

estuvisteis→4 syllables (es-tu-vis-teis), 4 morphemes (estuv-i-ste-is), 1 word.

estuvieron→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-ron), 4 morphemes (estuv-i-e-ro-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + thematic vowel+ inflection + agreement)

estaba→3 syllables (es-ta-ba), 3 morphemes (est-a-ba), 1 word. [no agr]

estabas→3 syllables (es-ta-bas), 4 morphemes (est-a-ba-s), 1 word.

estaba→3 syllables (es-ta-ba), 3 morphemes (est-a-ba), 1 word. [no agr]

estábamos→4 syllables (es-tá-ba-mos), 4 morphemes (est-á-ba-mos), 1 word.

estabais→3 syllables (es-ta-bais), 4 morphemes (est-a-ba-is), 1 word.

estaban→3 syllables (es-ta-ban), 4 morphemes (est-a-ba-n), 1 word.

- **Future** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

estaré→3 syllables (es-ta-ré), 3 morphemes (est-a-ré), 1 word. [no agr]

estarás→3 syllables (es-ta-rás), 4 morphemes (est-a-rá-s), 1 word.

estará→3 syllables (es-ta-rá), 3 morphemes (est-a-rá), 1 word. [no agr]

estaremos→4 syllables (es-ta-re-mos), 4 morphemes (est-a-re-mos), 1 word.

estaréis→3 syllables (es-ta-réis), 4 morphemes (est-a-ré-is), 1 word.

estarán→3 syllables (es-ta-rán), 4 morphemes (est-a-rá-n), 1 word.

Conditional (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

estaría→4 syllables (es-ta-rí-a), 3 morphemes (est-a-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

estarías→4 syllables (es-ta-rí-as), 4 morphemes (est-a-ría-s), 1 word.

estaría→4 syllables (es-ta-rí-a), 3 morphemes (est-a-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

estaríamos→4 syllables (es-ta-rí-a-mos), 4 morphemes (est-a-ría-mos), 1 word.

estaríais→4 syllables (es-ta-rí-ais), 4 morphemes (est-a-ría-is), 1 word.

estarían→4 syllables (es-ta-rí-an), 4 morphemes (est-a-ría-n), 1 word.

Imperative

2nd singular (Peninsular and Latin American, verb + thematic vowel)

está→2 syllables (es-tá), 2 morphemes (est-á), 1 word. [no agr]

2nd plural (Peninsular, verb + thematic vowel + agreement)

estad→2 syllables (es-tad), 3 morphemes (est-a-d), 1 word.

2nd plural (Latin American. This is the same form as Present Subjunctive, verb + inflection + agreement)

estén→2 syllables (es-tén), 3 morphemes (est-é-n), 1 word.

Subjunctive

- **Present** (verb + inflection + agreement)

esté→2 syllables (es-té), 2 morphemes (est-é), 1 word. [no agr]

estés→2 syllables (es-tés), 3 morphemes (est-é-s), 1 word.

esté→2 syllables (es-té), 2 morphemes (est-é), 1 word. [no agr]

estemos→3 syllables (es-te-mos), 3 morphemes (est-e-mos), 1 word.

estéis→2 syllables (es-téis), 3 morphemes (est-é-is), 1 word.

estén→2 syllables (es-tén), 3 morphemes (est-é-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

estuviera→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-ra), 3 morphemes (estuv-ie-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

estuvieras→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-ras), 4 morphemes (estuv-ie-ra-s), 1 word.

estuviera→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-ra), 3 morphemes (estuv-ie-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

estuviéramos→5 syllables (es-tu-vié-ra-mos), 4 morphemes (estuv-ié-ra-mos), 1 word.

estuvieras→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-ra-is), 4 morphemes (estuv-ie-ra-is), 1 word.

estuvieran→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-ran), 4 morphemes (estuv-ie-ra-n), 1 word.

This second form is infrequent in speech.

estuviese→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-se), 3 morphemes (estuv-ie-se), 1 word. [no agr]

estuvieses→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-ses), 4 morphemes (estuv-ie-se-s), 1 word.

estuviese→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-se), 3 morphemes (estuv-ie-se), 1 word. [no agr]

estuviésemos→5 syllables (es-tu-vié-se-mos), 4 morphemes (estuv-ié-se-mos), 1 word.

estuvieses→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-seis), 4 morphemes (estuv-ie-se-is), 1 word.

estuviesen→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-sen), 4 morphemes (estuv-ie-se-n), 1 word.

- **Future** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement). I think this form does not exist in speech anymore.

estuviere→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-re), 3 morphemes (estuv-ie-re), 1 word. [no agr]

estuvieres→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-res), 4 morphemes (estuv-ie-re-s), 1 word.

estuviere→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-re), 3 morphemes (estuv-ie-re), 1 word. [no agr]

estuviéremos→5 syllables (es-tu-vié-re-mos), 4 morphemes (estuv-ié-re-mos), 1 word.

estuvieres→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-reis), 4 morphemes (estuv-ie-re-is), 1 word.

estuvieren→4 syllables (es-tu-vie-ren), 4 morphemes (estuv-ie-re-n), 1 word.

Verb *ir* ‘to go’:

Indicative

- **Present** (verb + agreement)

voy→1 syllable, 1 morpheme, 1 word.

vas→ 1 syllable, 2 morphemes (va-s), 1 word.

va→ 1 syllable, 1 morpheme, 1 word.

vamos→2 syllables (va-mos), 2 morphemes (va-mos), 1 word.

vais→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (va-is), 1 word.

van→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (va-n), 1 word.

- **Preterit** (verb +thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

fui →1 syllable, 2 morphemes (fu-i), 1 word. [no infl & no agr]

fuiste→2 syllables (fuis-te), 3 morphemes (fu-i-ste), 1 word. [no agr]

fue→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (fu-e), 1 word. [no tv & no agr]

fuimos→2 syllables (fui-mos), 3 morphemes (fu-i-mos), 1 word. [no infl]

fuisteis→2 syllables (fuis-teis), 4 morphemes (fu-i-ste-is), 1 word.

fueron→2 syllables (fue-ron), 4 morphemes (fu-e-ro-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + inflection + agreement)

iba→2 syllables (i-ba), 2 morphemes (ib-a), 1 word. [no agr]

ibas→2 syllables (i-bas), 3 morphemes (ib-a-s), 1 word.

iba→2 syllables (i-ba), 2 morphemes (ib-a), 1 word. [no agr]

íbamos→3 syllables (í-ba-mos), 3 morphemes (íb-a-mos), 1 word.

ibais→2 syllables (i-bais), 3 morphemes (ib-a-is), 1 word.

iban→2 syllables (i-ban), 3 morphemes (ib-a-n), 1 word.

- **Future** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

iré→2 syllables (i-ré), 2 morphemes (i-ré), 1 word. [no agr]

irás→2 syllables (i-rás), 3 morphemes (i-rá-s), 1 word.

irá→2 syllables (i-rá), 2 morphemes (i-rá), 1 word. [no agr]

iremos→3 syllables (i-re-mos), 3 morphemes (i-re-mos), 1 word.

iréis→2 syllables (i-réis), 3 morphemes (i-ré-is), 1 word.

irán→2 syllables (se-rán), 3 morphemes (i-rá-n), 1 word.

Conditional (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

iría→3 syllables (i-rí-a), 2 morphemes (i-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

irías→3 syllables (i-rí-as), 3 morphemes (i-ría-s), 1 word.

iría→3 syllables (i-rí-a), 2 morphemes (i-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

iríamos→4 syllables (i-rí-a-mos), 3 morphemes (i-ría-mos), 1 word.

iríais→3 syllables (i-rí-ais), 3 morphemes (i-ría-is), 1 word.

irían→3 syllables (i-rí-an), 3 morphemes (i-ría-n), 1 word.

Imperative

2nd singular (Peninsular and Latin American, verb + thematic vowel)

ve→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (v-e), 1 word. [no agr]

2nd plural (Peninsular, verb + thematic vowel + agreement)

id→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (i-d), 1 word.

2nd plural (Latin American. This is the same form as Present Subjunctive, verb + inflection + agreement)

vayan→2 syllables (va-yan), 4 morphemes (vay-a-n), 1 word.

Subjunctive

- **Present** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

vaya→2 syllables (va-ya), 2 morphemes (vay-a), 1 word. [no agr]

vayas→2 syllables (va-yas), 3 morphemes (vay-a-s), 1 word.

vaya→2 syllables (va-ya), 2 morphemes (vay-a), 1 word. [no agr]

vayamos→3 syllables (va-ya-mos), 3 morphemes (vay-a-mos), 1 word.

vayáis→2 syllables (va-yáis), 3 morphemes (vay-á-is), 1 word.

vayan→2 syllables (va-yan), 3 morphemes (vay-a-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

fuera→2 syllables (fue-ra), 3 morphemes (fu-e-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

fueras→2 syllables (fue-ras), 4 morphemes (fu-e-ra-s), 1 word.

fuera→2 syllables (fue-ra), 3 morphemes (fu-e-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

fuéramos→3 syllables (fué-ra-mos), 4 morphemes (fu-é-ra-mos), 1 word.

fuerais→2 syllables (fue-ra-is), 4 morphemes (fu-e-ra-is), 1 word.

fueran→2 syllables (fue-ran), 4 morphemes (fu-e-ra-n), 1 word.

This second form is infrequent in speech.

fuese→2 syllables (fue-se), 3 morphemes (fu-e-se), 1 word. [no agr]

fueses→2 syllables (fue-ses), 4 morphemes (fu-e-se-s), 1 word.

fuese→2 syllables (fue-se), 3 morphemes (fu-e-se), 1 word. [no agr]

fuésemos→3 syllables (fué-se-mos), 4 morphemes (fu-é-se-mos), 1 word.

fueseis→2 syllables (fue-seis), 4 morphemes (fu-e-se-is), 1 word.

fuesen→2 syllables (fue-sen), 4 morphemes (fu-e-se-n), 1 word.

- **Future** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement). I think this form does not exist in speech anymore.

fuere→2 syllables (fue-re), 3 morphemes (fu-e-re), 1 word. [no agr]

fueres→2 syllables (fue-res), 4 morphemes (fu-e-re-s), 1 word.

fuere→2 syllables (fue-re), 3 morphemes (fu-e-re), 1 word. [no agr]

fuéremos→3 syllables (fué-re-mos), 4 morphemes (fu-é-re-mos), 1 word.

fuereis→2 syllables (fue-reis), 4 morphemes (fu-e-re-is), 1 word.

fueren→2 syllables (fue-ren), 4 morphemes (fu-e-re-n), 1 word.

Verb *haber* main verb = ‘to be-existencial’/ auxiliary = ‘to have’

Indicative

Note: As main verb, only the third personal singular is used. Some speakers use also third person plural.

- **Present** (verb + thematic vowel + agreement)

he→1 syllable, 2 morphemes (h-e), 1 word. [no agr]

has→ 1 syllable, 2 morphemes (ha-s), 1 word. [no tv]

ha→ 1 syllable, 1 morpheme, 1 word. [no tv + no agreement]

hemos→2 syllables (he-mos), 3 morphemes (h-e-mos), 1 word.

habéis→2 syllables (ha-béis), 3 morphemes (hab-é-is), 1 word.

han→1 syllable (han), 2 morphemes (ha-n), 1 word. [no tv]

- **Preterit** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

hube→2 syllables (hu-be), 2 morphemes (hub-e), 1 word. [no tv & agr]

hubiste→3 syllables (hu-bis-te), 3 morphemes (hub-i-ste), 1 word. [no agr]

hubo→2 syllables (hu-bo), 2 morphemes (hub-o), 1 word. [no tv & no agr]

hubimos→3 syllables (hu-bi-mos), 3 morphemes (hub-i-mos), 1 word. [no infl]

hubisteis→3 syllables (hu-bis-teis), 4 morphemes (hub-i-ste-is), 1 word.

hubieron→3 syllables (hu-bie-ron), 4 morphemes (hub-i-e-ro-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

había→3 syllables (ha-bí-a), 3 morphemes (hab-í-a), 1 word. [no agr]

habías→3 syllables (ha-bí-as), 4 morphemes (hab-í-a-s), 1 word.

había→3 syllables (ha-bí-a), 3 morphemes (hab-í-a), 1 word. [no agr]

habíamos→4 syllables (ha-bí-a-mos), 4 morphemes (hab-í-a-mos), 1 word.

habíais→3 syllables (ha-bí-ais), 4 morphemes (hab-í-a-is), 1 word.

habían→3 syllables (ha-bí-an), 4 morphemes (hab-í-a-n), 1 word.

- **Future** (verb + inflection + agreement)

habré→2 syllables (ha-bré), 2 morphemes (hab-ré), 1 word. [no agr]

habrás→2 syllables (ha-brás), 3 morphemes (hab-rá-s), 1 word.

habrás→2 syllables (ha-brá), 2 morphemes (hab-rá), 1 word. [no agr]

habremos→3 syllables (ha-bre-mos), 4 morphemes (hab-re-mos), 1 word.

habréis→2 syllables (ha-bréis), 4 morphemes (hab-ré-is), 1 word.

habrán→2 syllables (ha-brán), 4 morphemes (hab-rá-n), 1 word.

Conditional (verb + inflection + agreement)

habría→4 syllables (ha-brí-a), 3 morphemes (hab-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

habrías→4 syllables (ha-brí-as), 4 morphemes (hab-ría-s), 1 word.

habría→4 syllables (ha-brí-a), 3 morphemes (hab-ría), 1 word. [no agr]

habríamos→4 syllables (ha-brí-a-mos), 4 morphemes (hab-ría-mos), 1 word.

habríaís→4 syllables (ha-brí-ais), 4 morphemes (hab-ría-is), 1 word.

habrían→4 syllables (ha-brí-an), 4 morphemes (hab-ría-n), 1 word.

Imperative

3rd singular (Peninsular and Latin American, verb + inflection)

haya→2 syllables (ha-ya), 2 morphemes (hay-á), 1 word. [no agr]

Subjunctive

- **Present** (verb + inflection + agreement)

haya→2 syllables (ha-ya), 2 morphemes (hay-a), 1 word. [no agr]

hayas→2 syllables (ha-yas), 3 morphemes (hay-a-s), 1 word.

haya→2 syllables (ha-ya), 2 morphemes (hay-a), 1 word. [no agr]

hayamos→3 syllables (ha-ya-mos), 3 morphemes (hay-a-mos), 1 word.

hayáis→2 syllables (ha-yáis), 3 morphemes (hay-á-is), 1 word.

hayan→2 syllables (ha-yan), 3 morphemes (hay-a-n), 1 word.

- **Past Imperfect** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement)

hubiera→3 syllables (hu-bie-ra), 3 morphemes (hub-ie-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

hubieras→3 syllables (hu-bie-ras), 4 morphemes (hub-ie-ra-s), 1 word.

hubiera→3 syllables (hu-bie-ra), 3 morphemes (hub-ie-ra), 1 word. [no agr]

hubiéramos→4 syllables (hu-bié-ra-mos), 4 morphemes (hub-ié-ra-mos), 1 word.

hubieras→3 syllables (hu-bie-ra-is), 4 morphemes (hub-ie-ra-is), 1 word.

hubieran→3 syllables (hu-bie-ran), 4 morphemes (hub-ie-ra-n), 1 word.

This second form is infrequent in speech

hubiese→3 syllables (hu-bie-se), 3 morphemes (hub-ie-se), 1 word. [no agr]

hubieses→3 syllables (hu-bie-ses), 4 morphemes (hub-ie-se-s), 1 word.

hubiese→3 syllables (hu-bie-se), 3 morphemes (hub-ie-se), 1 word. [no agr]

hubiésemos→4 syllables (hu-bié-se-mos), 4 morphemes (hub-ié-se-mos), 1 word.

hubieses→3 syllables (hu-bie-se-is), 4 morphemes (hub-ie-se-is), 1 word.

hubiesen→3 syllables (hu-bie-sen), 4 morphemes (hub-ie-se-n), 1 word.

- **Future** (verb + thematic vowel + inflection + agreement). I think this form does not exist in speech anymore

hubiere→3 syllables (hu-bie-re), 3 morphemes (hub-ie-re), 1 word. [no agr]

hubieres→3 syllables (hu-bie-res), 4 morphemes (hub-ie-re-s), 1 word.

hubiere→3 syllables (hu-bie-re), 3 morphemes (hub-ie-re), 1 word. [no agr]

hubiéremos→4 syllables (hu-bié-re-mos), 4 morphemes (hub-ié-re-mos), 1 word.

hubiereis→3 syllables (hu-bie-reis), 4 morphemes (hub-ie-re-is), 1 word.

hubieren→3 syllables (hu-bie-ren), 4 morphemes (hub-ie-re-n), 1 word.

27. For all forms that require auxiliaries, count the auxiliaries as indicated in 26 and the infinitives, gerunds, or participles, as indicated in 25 above. I list here the most common forms, from which others can be derived.

Indicative

- Present Progressive→estoy comiendo
- Preterit Progressive→estuve comiendo
- Past Progressive→estaba comiendo
- Present Perfect→he comido
- Past Perfect→hube comido (not used in speech)
- Pluperfect →había comido
- Future Perfect →habré comido.
- Periphrastic Future →voy a comer
- Periphrastic Past Future→iba a comer

Subjunctive

- Present Progressive→esté comiendo
- Past Progressive→estuviera comiendo
- Present Perfect→haya comido
- Pluperfect →hubiera comido
- Periphrastic Future →vaya a comer

Conditional

- Conditional Progressive→estaría comiendo
- Conditional Perfect→habría comido
- Periphrastic Conditional →iría a comer

28. The expression *a ver* ‘let’s see’ should be counted as 4 morphemes (a-v-e-r), 2 syllables, 2 words.

29. When the child gives partial forms of the verb like:

- *tá* for *está* count 2 morphemes since the [t] is part of the root, and [á] is the inflectional morpheme. 1 syllable, 1 word.
- For *taba* or *staba* both frequent forms of *estaba* count 3 morphemes (t-a-ba, st-a-ba) because [aba] is the inflection and the rest is the root, and 2 syllables, 1 word.

Note: Linares has the following system for counting verbal morphemes:

- a. When the verb is correctly used in *all* inflectional aspects, is not an infinitive, participial, or gerund, and the root can take various inflections, count it as having five morphemes (one for the root, one for the number inflection, one for the person inflection, one for the tense inflection, and one for the mood inflection).
When the verb is not conjugated, count it as having one morpheme (for the root).
- b. If the root cannot take various inflections, count it as having one morpheme (for the root).
- c. When the verb is correctly used in only some of the inflectional aspects, count it as having 2.5 morphemes (one for the root and 1.5 for whatever other inflections might be correct). If the verb has an ending like *-ar*, *-er* (infinitive), *-do* (participial), or *-ndo* (gerund), count it as having two morphemes (one for the root and one for any of these inflections).

This is due to the fact that—as mentioned above—most inflectional features are realized in Spanish by a single morpheme that indicates tense, mood, aspect, etc. But since MLU is a measure of length, I think we should count them as one morpheme and not follow Linares' recommendations.

Derivation

30. Count the diminutive infixes *-it-*, *-ic-*, and *-cit-*; and the augmentatives *-ot-*:

- *carrito* 'small car' → 3 syllables (ca-ri-to), 2 morphemes (carro-it, *o* does not count since there is no gender variation with *carro*), 1 word.
- *pececito* 'small fish' → 4 syllables (pe-ce-ci-to), 3 morphemes (pece-cit-o), 1 word.

- *casota* ‘big house’ → 3 syllables (ca-so-ta), 2 morphemes (casa-ot, *a* does not count since there is no gender variation with *casa*)
- *chiquitito* ‘small + dim’ → 4 syllables (chi-qui-ti-to), 4 morphemes (chiqu-it-it-o), 1 word.
- *preciosito* ‘beautiful + dim’ → 4 syllables (pre-cio-si-to), 3 morphemes (precios-it-o), 1 word.
- *grandota* ‘big + aug’ → 3 syllables (gran-do-ta), 3 morphemes (grand-ot-a), 1 word.

31. Superlatives: Count superlative infixes *-ísimo*.

- *carísimo* ‘very expensive’ → 4 syllables (ca-rí-si-mo), 3 morphemes (car-ísimo-o), 1 word.
- but in *paupérrimo* ‘very poor’ is a special superlative for *pobre* (‘poor’), *pauper* does not exist, so only the root and the gender inflection should be counted (\neq Linares). 4 syllables (pau-pé-rri-mo), 2 morphemes (paupérrim-o), 1 word.
- *intelligentísimo* ‘very intelligent’ does have a gender marking, even though *inteligente* doesn’t, because there is also *intelligentísima*. 7 syllables (in-te-li-gen-tí-si-mo), 3 morphemes (intelligent-ísimo-o), 1 word.

32. Adverbs: Count as one morpheme the adverbial ending *-mente*. For example:

- *fácilmente* ‘easily’ → 4 syllables (fá-cil-men-te), 2 morphemes (fácil-mente), 1 word.
- *sanamente* ‘healthily’ → 4 syllables (sa-na-men-te), 2 morphemes (sana-mente; although *sana* has the feminine morpheme *-a*, it should not be counted as a separate morpheme since adverbs can only be built from the feminine forms of the adjective, so there is no *sanamente*); 1 word.

33. Prepositional case: Count as one morpheme the prepositional ending *-sigo*, *-migo*, or *-tigo*

when added to the root *con*. For example:

- *conmigo* ‘with me’, *contigo* ‘with you’, *consigo* ‘with him/herself’ → 3 syllables (con-mi-go, con-ti-go, con-si-go), 2 morphemes (con-migo, con-tigo, con-sigo), 1 word.

34. Verb to noun. Count as one morpheme the suffix *-ción*.

- *construcción* ‘construction’ → 3 syllables (cons-truc-ción), 2 morphemes (construc-ción), 1 word.
- *devolución* ‘devolution’ → 4 syllables (de-vo-lu-ción), 2 morphemes (devolu-ción)

35. Verb to adjective (or noun). Count as one morpheme the suffix *-d*. This is the same form as the participial.

- *empleado* ‘employee/ employed’ → 4 syllables (em-ple-a-do), 4 morphemes (emple-a-d-o), 1 word.

36. Verb to adjective. Count as one morpheme the suffix *-ble*.

- *contable* ‘countable’ → 3 syllables (con-ta-ble), 3 morphemes (cont-a-ble), 1 word.
- *sumergible* ‘submersible/ water proof’ → 4 syllables (su-mer-gi-ble), 3 morphemes (sumerg-i-ble), 1 word.

37. Verb to noun (agentive). Count as one morpheme the suffix *-tor/-dor*.

- *escritor* ‘writer’ → 3 syllables (es-cri-tor), 2 morphemes (escri-tor)
- *escritora* ‘writer’ → 4 syllables (es-cri-to-ra), 3 morphemes (escri-tor-a)
- *organizador* ‘organizer’ → 5 syllables (or-ga-ni-za-dor), 2 morphemes (organiza-dor)

- *organizadora* ‘organizer’ → 6 syllables (or-ga-ni-za-do-ra), 3 morphemes (organiza-dor-a)

38. Verb to noun. Count as one morpheme the suffix *-miento*.

- *acercamiento* ‘rapprochement’ → 5 syllables (a-cer-ca-mien-to), 3 morphemes (acerc-a-miento)
- *surgimiento* ‘emergence’ → 4 syllables (sur-gi-mien-to), 3 morphemes (surg-i-miento)

39. Noun to adjective (or noun). Place or origin (gentilicios). Count as one morpheme the suffix *-n/-ñ*

- *latinoamericano* ‘Latin-American’ → 8 syllables (la-ti-no-a-me-ri-ca-no), 4 morphemes (latino-america-n-o), 1 word.
- *panameño* ‘Panamanian’ → 4 syllables (pa-na-me-ño), 3 morphemes (paname-ñ-o)

40. Noun to noun. Count as one morpheme the suffix *-ismo*

- *abstencionismo* ‘abstentionism’ → 5 syllables (abs-ten-cio-nis-mo), 3 morphemes (abstencion-ismo), 1 word.
- *militarismo* ‘militarism’ → 5 syllables (mi-li-ta-ris-mo), 2 morphemes (milit-ar-ismo)

41. Noun to adjective. Count as one morpheme the suffix *-ic*

- *económico* ‘economic’ → 5 syllables (e-co-nó-mi-co), 4 morphemes (eco-nóm-ic-o), 1 word.
- *arqueológica* ‘archeological’ → 6 syllables (ar-que-o-ló-gi-ca), 4 morphemes (arqueo-lóg-ic-a)

42. Adjective to noun. Count as one morpheme the suffix *-idad*.

- *amabilidad* ‘kindness’ → 5 syllables (a-ma-bi-li-dad), 4 morphemes (am-a-bil-idad), 1 word.
- *oscuridad* ‘darkness’ → 4 syllables (os-cu-ri-dad), 2 morphemes (oscur-idad)

43. Adjective to verb. Count as one morpheme the suffix *-izar*.

- *italianizar* ‘italianize’ → 5 syllables (i-ta-lia-ni-zar), 4 morphemes (am-a-bil-idad), 1 word.
- *analizar* ‘analyze’ → 4 syllables (os-cu-ri-dad), 2 morphemes (oscur-idad), 1 word.

44. Verb prefixes. Count as one morpheme the prefixes *-pre*, *-post*, *-des*, *super*

- *predecir* ‘to predict’ → 3 syllables (pre-de-cir), 4 morphemes (pre-dec-i-r), 1 word.
- *postponer* ‘to postpone’ → 3 syllables (post-po-ner), 4 morphemes (post-pon-e-r), 1 word.
- *desenchufar* ‘to unplug’ → 4 syllables (de-sen-chu-far), 4 morphemes (des-enchuf-a-r), 1 word.
- *superponer* ‘to put one on top of other’ → 4 syllables (su-per-po-ner), 4 morphemes (super-pon-e-r), 1 word.

45. Noun and adjective prefixes. Count as one morpheme the prefixes *proto-*, *seudo-*, *anti-*, *pro-*, *para-*, *mini-*, *super-*, *micro-*, *macro-*.

- *prototipo* ‘prototype’ → 4 syllables (pro-to-ti-po), 3 morphemes (proto-tip-o), 1 word.
- *seudointelectual* ‘pseudo-intellectual’ → 6 syllables (seu-do-in-te-lec-tual), 3 morphemes (seudo-intelectu-al), 1 word.
- *antimilitarista* ‘anti-militarist’ → 7 syllables (an-ti-mi-li-ta-ris-ta), 5 morphemes (anti-milit-a-r-ista), 1 word.

- *promilitarista* ‘pro-militarist’ → 6 syllables (pro-mi-li-ta-ris-ta), 5 morphemes (pro-milit-a-r-ista), 1 word.
- *paramédico* ‘paramedic’ → 5 syllables (pa-ra-mé-di-co), 3 morphemes (para-mé-dic-o), 1 word.
- *minifalda* ‘mini-skirt’ → 4 syllables (mi-ni-fal-da), 2 morphemes (mini-falda), 1 word.
- *supermercado* ‘super-market’ → 5 syllables (su-per-mer-ca-do), 2 morphemes (super-mercado), 1 word.
- *microempresa* ‘micro-company’ → 6 syllables (mi-cro-em-pre-sa), 2 morphemes (micro-empresa), 1 word.
- *macroeconomía* ‘macro-economy’ → 7 syllables (ma-cro-e-co-no-mí-a), 2 morphemes (macro-economía), 1 word.

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Appendix

Sentis (1979)

Sentis calculated

- MLU in morphemes
- Mean length of five longest responses (M.5.L.R.)
- Length complexity (L.C.)
- Number of different words (N.D.W.)

To calculate MLU, he:

- selected 100 utterances;
- counted the morphemes in each utterance;
- added the resulting number of morphemes for each utterance; and
- divided them by 100.

He followed Brown's (1973) recommendations:

- Start at second page of transcript.
- Only count complete utterances, but do count the ones that include portions where

transcription is uncertain.

- Eliminate recitation, songs and memorized expressions.
- Count all exact repetitions.
- Stuttering: Count the most complete form of the word.
- Count all instances of repetitions for emphasis.
- Do not count fillers like *oh*, *mm*.
- Do count words like *no*, *sí*, *hola*, *¡oh/*
- Count as 1 word all compound words, proper names

Sentis studied one child from age 2;01 to 2;05. There are 7 sessions for this child, but the exact ages are not clear (except for session 1 , age around 2;01; and session 7, age around 2;05). He says he recorded the child twice a month, but I don't see how that adds up to 7 sessions.

Age	Session	MLU
2;01	1	1.3
	2	1.37
	3	2.12
	4	2.72
	5	2.85
	6	2.27
2;05	7	2.38

Herrera and Pandolfi (1984)

measured MLU in words. They studied four groups of children.

Group	Age	# of children
1	2;00-2;02	8
2	2;03-2;04	9
3	2;05	11
4	2;07	12

	MLU		Age		N
	X	S	X	S	
MLU 1,00-1,50	1,30	0,13	2,4a	0,24	6
MLU 1,51-2,00	1,76	0,14	2,4a	0,21	21
MLU 2,01-2,70	2,23	0,28	2,4a	0,20	13
				Total	40

Aguado (1988)

measured MLU in words. 24 children. Age around 2;05 (I think it's 2;04;23-2;05;07). Only looked at whole sentences.

Linares (1975)

(See also full document saved under MLU in Software and Manuals in the server.)

GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. Transcribe the recording of the child's sample of utterances. Number or mark each utterance for later ease in separating them. Mark echolalic utterances with an "e," keeping in mind that semi-echolalic utterances (those that have some changes) are considered spontaneous.
2. Start the corpus selection by eliminating the first 15 spontaneous (nonecholalic) utterances.
3. Select and count the next 100 utterances that are consecutive, intelligible, and spontaneous. Include repeated utterances.
4. Count the morphemes in each utterance following these guidelines:
 - a. Count how many free morphemes appear in the utterance whether correctly inflected or not.
 - b. Count interrogative words as one morpheme, giving credit for the question morpheme, except when they are inflected in which case add another point for the inflection.
 - c. Consider the contractions *del* (*de el*), *della* (*de ella*) as having two roots and thus count as two morphemes.
 - d. Do not count fillers like *ah*, *eh*, *porque sí*, *porque no*, *ajá*.
 - e. Count compound words, proper names and ritualized reduplications as single words (for example Juan Pérez, cumpleaños, subibaja).
 - f. Do not count memorized dialogues, songs, or stereotypic responses.
 - g. Determine how many bound morphemes (inflections) appear in the utterance. According to the rules suggested below, count only correct inflections and if the child gives evidence of knowing the alternative inflections for the particular root.

5. Add the free morphemes and the bound morphemes in each of the utterances.
6. Add the morphemes in all of the 100 utterances.
7. Divide the total number of morphemes in the 100 utterances by 100.
8. The quotient is the MLU value for the child.