

PRETERITE: PART I – REGULAR VERBS

To conjugate regular **-AR** verbs in the preterite, drop the **-AR** & add the appropriate ending:

yo **é**
 tú **aste**
 él, ella, Ud. **ó**
 nosotros **amos**
 vosotros **asteis**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **aron**

To conjugate regular **-ER** and **-IR** verbs in the preterite, drop the **-ER/-IR** & add the appropriate ending:

yo **í**
 tú **iste**
 él, ella, Ud. **ió**
 nosotros **imos**
 vosotros **isteis**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **ieron**

Here are all three regular preterite verb forms together:

HABLAR	COMER	VIVIR
hablé	comí	viví
hablaste	comiste	viviste
habló	comió	vivió
hablamos	comimos	vivimos
hablasteis	comisteis	vivisteis
hablaron	comieron	vivieron

Note: Nosotros forms for **-AR** and **-IR** verbs are the same in the preterite and present tenses.

The general rule for using preterite: **The preterite tense is used for past actions that are seen as completed.** More specific rules for preterite usage are:

* The preterite is used for actions that happened a specific number of times (including once).

Ayer escribí tres cartas. *Yesterday I wrote three letters.*

* The preterite is used for actions that interrupt.

Estudiaba cuando me dormí. *I was studying when I fell asleep.* (notice *estudiaba* is imperfect)

* The preterite is used for actions that occurred for a specific amount of time.

Habló con su madre por cinco minutos. *She talked to her mom for five minutes.*

* The preterite is used for action-oriented events.

Hubo un terremoto en Misuri. *There was an earthquake in Missouri.*

PRETERITE PART I: PRACTICE

A. Write the correct preterite tense conjugation for these example verbs.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. él <i>hablar</i> _____ | 4. vosotros <i>correr</i> _____ |
| 2. ellos <i>estudiar</i> _____ | 5. él yo <i>abrir</i> _____ |
| 3. yo <i>comer</i> _____ | 6. tú <i>vivir</i> _____ |

B. Translate the sentences to English.

- Los niños cortaron el papel. _____
- Tú vendistes tu carro. _____
- ¿Vosotros asististeis a Ray-Pec? _____

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

- I washed the dishes. Yo _____ (lavar) los platos.
- He drank some juice. Él _____ (beber) jugo.
- They decided to go to Spain. Ellos _____ (decidir) ir a España.

PRETERITE: PART II – IRREGULAR VERBS

Here are four important verbs in the preterite tense: **SER**, **IR**, **DAR** and **VER**. These four verbs are irregular; you must memorize them:

SER	IR	DAR	VER
fui	fui	di	vi
fuiste	fuiste	diste	viste
fue	fue	dio	vio
fuimos	fuimos	dimos	vimos
fuisteis	fuisteis	disteis	visteis
fueron	fueron	dieron	vieron

*****Note:** This is not a typo; SER and IR do have identical conjugations in the preterite!***

To review some of the rules for using the preterite:

- * For actions that happened a specific number of times (including once)
- * For actions that interrupt.
- * For actions that occurred for a specific amount of time.
- * For action-oriented events.

PRETERITE PART II: PRACTICE

A. Write the correct preterite tense conjugation for the irregular verbs **SER**, **IR**, **DAR** and **VER**.

1. yo *ser* _____
2. tú *ir* _____
3. él *dar* _____
4. ustedes *ser* _____
5. ellos *ir* _____
6. ellas *ver* _____

B. Translate the sentences to English.

7. El chico fue a Costa Rica. _____
8. Yo le di un carro a mi hijo. _____
9. Nosotros vimos a Ke\$ha en el centro commercial. _____
10. El señor Gómez fue actor por dos años. _____

C. Translate the underlined phrases to Spanish (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

11. I was a carpenter for three years. Yo _____ (ser) carpintero por tres años.
12. Once, I saw an elephant. Una vez, yo _____ (ver) un elefante.
13. He went to the store on Monday. Él _____ (ir) a la tienda el lunes.
14. Yesterday they gave me money. Ayer ellos me _____ (dar) dinero.

PRETERITE: PART III – STEM-CHANGING VERBS

-AR and **-ER** verbs that change their stem in the present tense **do not** change in the preterite. They are conjugated just like other regular preterite verbs.

Present	Preterite	Present	Preterite
ENTENDER	ENTENDER	CERRAR	CERRAR
entiendo	entendí	cierro	cerré
entiendes	entendiste	cierras	cerraste
entiende	entendió	cierra	cerró
entendemos	entendimos	cerramos	cerramos
entendéis	entendisteis	cerráis	cerrasteis
entienden	entendieron	cierran	cerraron

-IR verbs that change their stem in the present tense **do** change in the preterite, but in a different way. They change **e→i** and **o→u** in the third person, singular and plural (*él, ella, Ud., ellos, ellas, Uds.*).

Present	Preterite	Present	Preterite
PREFERIR	PREFERIR	DORMIR	DORMIR
prefiero	preferí	duermo	dormí
prefieres	preferiste	duermes	dormiste
prefiere	prefirió	duerme	durmió
preferimos	preferimos	dormimos	dormimos
preferís	preferisteis	dormís	dormisteis
prefieren	prefirieron	duermen	durmieron

PRETERITE PART III: PRACTICE

A. Fill in the missing letters to form the correct preterite conjugation (REMEMBER –AR and –ER verbs don't stem-change in the preterite, the only changes are e→i and o→u, and only third person subjects change).

1. él *dormir* d____rmió
2. Uds. *almorzar* alm____rizaron
3. yo *pedir* p____dí
4. ella *encontrar* enc____ntró
5. ellas *morir* m____rieron
6. él *advertir* adv____rtió
7. ellos *probar* pr____baron
8. ellas *preferir* pref____rieron
9. tú *recordar* rec____rdaste
10. Uds. *pedir* p____dieron

B. Translate the sentences to English.

11. Las chicas convirtieron a chicos. _____
12. Uds. corrigieron los errores en el español. _____
13. Paco prefirió el libro. _____

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

14. I ordered a steak. Yo _____ (pedir) un bistec.
15. The baby slept for 8 hours! ¡El bebé _____ (dormir) por ocho horas!
16. The students repeated the word. Los estudiantes _____ (repetir) la palabra.
17. Did the old lady die? ¿ _____ (morir) la mujer vieja?

PRETERITE: PART IV – SPELLING CHANGE VERBS

In order to preserve the sound of the infinitive, several verbs change spelling in the preterite tense.

The following changes occur in the *yo* form only: Here are three examples:

Verbs that end in **-GAR** change **g** to **gu**

yo jugué (jugar)

Verbs that end in **-CAR** change **c** to **qu**

yo busqué (buscar)

Verbs that end in **-ZAR** change **z** to **c**

yo almorcé (almorzar)

For verbs that end in **-AER**, **-EER**, **-OÍR**, and **-OER**, the *él/ella/Ud.* ending changes to **-yó** (rather than **-ió**) and the *ellos/ellas/Uds.* ending changes to **-yeron** (rather than **-ieron**). The remaining endings get a written accent over the *í*.

CREER	CAER	OÍR
creí	caí	oí
creíste	caíste	oíste
creyó	cayó	oyó
creímos	caímos	oímos
creísteis	caísteis	oísteis
creyeron	cayeron	oyeron

Verbs that end **-UIR** change the same way, but the written accent over the *í* only occurs in the *yo* form.

CONTRIBUIR

contribuí	contribuimos
contribuiste	contribuisteis
contribuyó	contribuyeron

PRETERITE PART IV: PRACTICE

A. Fill in the missing letters to form the correct preterite conjugation.

- yo* *almorzar* **almor**____é
- yo* *atacar* **ata**____é
- yo* *buscar* **bus**____é
- yo* *comenzar* **comen**____é
- yo* *cruzar* **cru**____é
- yo* *jugar* **ju**____é
- yo* *llegar* **lle**____é
- yo* *pagar* **pa**____é
- yo* *tocar* **to**____é

B. Translate the sentences into English.

- Yo dediqué el libro a mi madre. _____
- Las chicas incluyeron a los amigos. _____
- Yo pegué el triángulo rojo en el papel. _____
- Ud. destruyó la manzana. _____

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

- Did you read the book? ¿_____ (leer) el libro?
- I played soccer for five years. Yo _____ (jugar) al fútbol por cinco años.
- My teachers influenced me. Mis maestros me _____ (influir).
- We heard the rumor at school. Nosotros _____ (oír) el rumor en la escuela.

PRETERITE: PART V – IRREGULAR STEM VERBS #1

A number of verbs that are irregular in the preterite follow a particular pattern. While their stems change, they all take the following endings:

yo **e**
 tú **iste**
 él, ella, Ud. **o**
 nosotros **imos**
 vosotros **isteis**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **ieron**

Here are the verbs, along with their corresponding stem changes:

Infinitive	Stem Change	Infinitive	Stem Change
ANDAR	anduv-	PONER	pus-
ESTAR	estuv-	SABER	sup-
TENER	tuv-	HACER	hic-
HABER	hub-	QUERER	quis-
PODER	pud-	VENIR	vin-

Here are two examples of how this pattern is applied:

ESTAR (estuv-)	SABER (sup-)
estuve	supe
estuviste	supiste
estuvo	supo
estuvimos	supimos
estuvisteis	supisteis
estuvieron	supieron

Note: The one exception is the *él/ella/Ud.* form of **hacer**. The **c** changes to **z** to form **hizo**.

PRETERITE PART V: PRACTICE

A. Fill in the missing endings to form the correct preterite conjugation.

- tú *estar* **estuv**_____
- él *tener* **tuv**_____
- nosotros *saber* **sup**_____
- vosotros *haber* **hub**_____
- ellos *poder* **pud**_____
- yo *hacer* **hic**_____

B. Fill in the missing stem to form the correct preterite conjugation.

- el chico *poner* _____**o**
- las chicas *saber* _____**ieron**
- yo *hacer* _____**e**
- nosotros *querer* _____**imos**
- tú *venir* _____**iste**
- vosotros *estar* _____**isteis**

C. Translate to English.

- Tú tuviste un accidente de auto. _____
- Yo anduve al parque. _____
- Ellos pusieron la mesa. _____
- Vosotros vinisteis a la fiesta. _____

D. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

- I learned "aloha" in Hawaii. Yo _____ (saber) «aloha» en Hawai.
- The boy was sick for two days. El chico _____ (estar) enfermo por dos días.
- There was a tornado in Missouri. _____ (haber) un tornado en Misuri.

PRETERITE: PART VI – IRREGULAR STEM VERBS #2

Some irregular verbs follow a pattern in their irregularity. Verbs that end **-UCIR** or **-AER** have the same irregular end to their stem. **DECIR** also follows the pattern.

Infinitive -UCIR	Stem Change -uj-	Infinitive -AER	Stem Change -aj-	Infinitive DECIR	Stem Change dij-
TRADUCIR	traduj-	TRAER	traj-		
PRODUCIR	produj-	DISTRAER	distraj-		
CONDUCIR	conduj-	MALTRAER	maltraj-		

They use the same endings as the other irregular stem verbs (see PRETERITE: PART V), with the exception of the *ellos/ellas/Uds.* form, which loses the *i*.

<i>yo</i>	e
<i>tú</i>	iste
<i>él, ella, Ud.</i>	o
<i>nosotros</i>	imos
<i>vosotros</i>	isteis
<i>ellos, ellas, Uds.</i>	eron ←(NOT <i>ieron</i>)

PRETERITE PART VI: PRACTICE

A. Fill in the missing letters to form the correct preterite conjugation.

- tú traducir* **tradu**_____
- él traer* **tra**_____
- nosotros traer* **tra**_____
- vosotros decir* **di**_____
- ellos decir* **di**_____
- yo producir* **produ**_____
- ellos producir* **produ**_____
- tú conducir* **condu**_____
- ella distraer* **distra**_____
- Ud. maltraer* **maltra**_____

B. Translate the sentences to English.

- Nosotros produjimos la comida. _____
- Ellos maltrajeron los prisioneros. _____
- La chico dijo: «¡Te quiero!» _____
- Yo traje Coca-cola a la fiesta. _____
- Tú condujiste la motocicleta. _____

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

- I said "hello" to him. Yo le _____ (decir) «hola» a él.
- We drove the car one time. Nosotros _____ (conducir) el carro una vez.
- The girl distracted the boy. La chica le _____ (distraer) al chico.
- You all brought your homework. Vosotros _____ (traer) la tarea.
- The students translated the story. Los estudiantes _____ (traducir) el cuento.

PRETERITE REVIEW

The general rule for preterite is: **The preterite is used for past actions that are seen as completed.**

To review some of the specific rules for using the preterite:

- * For actions that happened a specific number of times (including once)
- * For actions that interrupt.
- * For actions that occurred for a specific amount of time.
- * For action-oriented events.

While there are regular verbs and regular verb endings in the preterite tense, there are also many irregular verbs, irregular stems, spelling changes, and exceptions to the rules that you must become familiar with. Many of the most commonly used verbs are irregular.

PRETERITE REVIEW PRACTICE

A. Conjugate the verbs for the subjects given. Pay attention to irregulars, stem-changers, and spelling changers.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. yo <i>hablar</i> _____ | 11. yo <i>buscar</i> _____ |
| 2. tú <i>comer</i> _____ | 12. tú <i>investigar</i> _____ |
| 3. él <i>vivir</i> _____ | 13. Paco <i>almorzar</i> _____ |
| 4. nosotros <i>dar</i> _____ | 14. nosotros <i>andar</i> _____ |
| 5. vosotros <i>ver</i> _____ | 15. vosotros <i>estar</i> _____ |
| 6. ellos <i>ser</i> _____ | 16. la chica <i>hacer</i> _____ |
| 7. Ud. <i>ir</i> _____ | 17. yo <i>tener</i> _____ |
| 8. Uds. <i>pedir</i> _____ | 18. tú <i>decir</i> _____ |
| 9. ella <i>dormir</i> _____ | 19. Uds. <i>traer</i> _____ |
| 10. los niños <i>caer</i> _____ | 20. Paco y Pepe <i>conducir</i> _____ |

B. Translate the sentences using verbs in the preterite tense. Think about which preterite rule would apply to each sentence.

21. You visited the museum once. _____
22. I was running (*Corría*) when I fell. _____
23. My mom and I saw *Titanic* five times. _____
24. The girls lived in Spain for 4 months. _____
25. The party started at 7:00pm. _____
26. Isabel woke up, washed herself, got dressed, and left her house. (All Reflexive Verbs!!!)
- _____

IMPERFECT: PART I – REGULAR VERBS

To conjugate regular **-AR** verbs in the imperfect, drop the **-AR** and add the appropriate ending:

yo **aba**
 tú **abas**
 él, ella, Ud. **aba**
 nosotros **ábamos**
 vosotros **ábais**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **aban**

To conjugate regular **-ER & -IR** verbs in the imperfect, drop the **-ER/-IR** and add the appropriate ending:

yo **ía**
 tú **ías**
 él, ella, Ud. **ía**
 nosotros **íamos**
 vosotros **íais**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **ían**

Here are all three regular imperfect verb forms together:

HABLAR	COMER	VIVIR
hablaba	comía	vivía
hablabas	comías	vivías
hablaba	comía	vivía
hablábamos	comíamos	vivíamos
hablabais	comíais	vivíais
hablaban	comían	vivían

Note: The yo & él/ella/Ud. forms have the same endings, so the subject will be written more often to avoid confusion.

The general rule for using the imperfect: **The imperfect is used for past actions that are not seen as completed.** More specific rules for using the imperfect tense are:

- * The imperfect is used for actions that were repeated habitually (“always/used to ___”).
Las señoras siempre hablaban por las mañanas. *The ladies always used to chat in the mornings.*
- * The imperfect is used for ongoing actions (“was/were ___ing”).
Yo leía cuando mi papá entró. *I was reading when my dad entered.* (note that *entered* is preterite)
- * The imperfect is used for time & dates.
Era el siete de diciembre del mil novecientos cuarenta y uno. *It was December 7, 1941.*
- * The imperfect is used for most descriptions: age, physical appearance, personality, emotions, conditions, physical sensations, weather, etc.
Hacía frío en el invierno. *It was cold in the winter.*

IMPERFECT PART I: PRACTICE

A. Write the correct imperfect tense conjugation for these verbs.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. él hablar _____ | 4. Uds. correr _____ |
| 2. yo trabajar _____ | 5. tú vivir _____ |
| 3. ella y yo comer _____ | 6. vosotros abrir _____ |

B. Translate the sentences to English.

7. Nosotros viajábamos a California. _____
8. Tú asistías a Truman State University. _____
9. Ellos vendían pantalones verdes. _____
10. Yo hablaba español. _____

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

11. *I was washing the dishes.* Yo _____ (lavar) los platos.
 12. *He would run in the park.* Él _____ (correr) en el parque.
 13. *I used to live in Raymore.* Yo _____ (vivir) en Raymore.
 14. *They used to visit England every year.* Ellos _____ (visitar) a Inglaterra cada año.

IMPERFECT: PART II – IRREGULAR VERBS

Good news! There are only three irregular verbs in the imperfect. You must simply memorize them.

SER	IR	VER
era	iba	veía
eras	ibas	veías
era	iba	veía
éramos	íbamos	veíamos
erais	ibais	veíais
eran	iban	veían

To review some of the rules for using the imperfect:

- * For actions that were repeated habitually (“always/used to ___”).
- * For ongoing actions (“were/was ___ing”).
- * For time & dates.
- * For most descriptions: age, physical appearance, personality, emotions, conditions, physical sensations, weather, etc.

IMPERFECT PART II: PRACTICE

A. Write the correct imperfect tense conjugation for these irregular verbs.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. el perro <i>ser</i> _____ | 4. yo <i>ser</i> _____ |
| 2. tú <i>ir</i> _____ | 5. nosotros <i>ir</i> _____ |
| 3. los chicos <i>ver</i> _____ | 6. vosotros <i>ver</i> _____ |

B. Translate the sentences to English.

7. Nosotros éramos guapos. _____
8. Eran las cinco de la tarde. _____
9. Vosotros ibais a la librería frecuentemente. _____
10. Él veía a la madre cada domingo. _____

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

11. *I was a carpenter.* Yo _____ (ser) carpintero.
 12. *Carmen went to the beach every day.* Carmen _____ (ir) a la playa cada día.
 13. *We used to see the boat sometimes.* Nosotros _____ (ver) el barco a veces.

IMPERFECT: CONJUGATION REVIEW

The general rule for imperfect is: **The imperfect is used for past actions not seen as completed.**

To review some of the rules for using the imperfect:

- * For actions that were repeated habitually (“always/used to ____”).
- * For ongoing actions (“were/was ____ing”).
- * For time & dates.
- * For most descriptions: age, physical appearance, personality, emotions, conditions, physical sensations, weather, etc.

Most verbs are regular in the imperfect, but the three irregulars are very common and must be memorized.

IMPERFECT CONJUGATION PRACTICE

A. Conjugate the verbs for the subjects given. Pay attention to irregulars.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. yo <i>hablar</i> _____ | 11. yo <i>buscar</i> _____ |
| 2. tú <i>comer</i> _____ | 12. tú <i>ver</i> _____ |
| 3. él <i>vivir</i> _____ | 13. Paco <i>ser</i> _____ |
| 4. nosotros <i>dar</i> _____ | 14. nosotros <i>andar</i> _____ |
| 5. vosotros <i>ver</i> _____ | 15. vosotros <i>estar</i> _____ |
| 6. ellos <i>ser</i> _____ | 16. la chica <i>hacer</i> _____ |
| 7. Ud. <i>ir</i> _____ | 17. yo <i>tener</i> _____ |
| 8. Uds. <i>pedir</i> _____ | 18. tú <i>ir</i> _____ |
| 9. ella <i>dormir</i> _____ | 19. Uds. <i>traer</i> _____ |
| 10. los niños <i>caer</i> _____ | 20. Paco y Pepe <i>conducir</i> _____ |

B. Translate the sentences using verbs in the imperfect tense. Think about which imperfect rule would apply to each sentence.

21. You visited the museum every summer. _____
22. I was studying when there was an earthquake. _____
23. The girls used to like Justin Bieber. _____
24. It was 8:00am on Saturday. _____
25. The teacher was very sad. _____
26. We were cold when it was snowing. _____

IMPERFECT: USAGE REVIEW

The general rule for imperfect is: **The imperfect is used for past actions not seen as completed.**

To review some of the rules for using the imperfect:

- * For actions that were repeated habitually (“always/used to ____”).
- * For ongoing actions (“were/was ____ing”).
- * For time & dates.
- * For most descriptions: age, physical appearance, personality, emotions, conditions, physical sensations, weather, etc.

One way to determine if a verb is actually the imperfect is to try substituting one of the following:

was/were ...ing

used to ...

would (meaning used to) ...

The following examples show how to use this substitution test for the imperfect:

I **worked** in the agency during the day. → I **was working** in the agency during the day.

I **visited** my grandmother every day. → I **used to visit** my grandmother every day.

Every afternoon I **took** a nap. → Every afternoon I **would take** a nap.

IMPERFECT USAGE PRACTICE

A. Try substituting *was/were ...ing, used to ..., or would ... (meaning used to ...)* for the underlined verb to determine whether the tense should be imperfect or preterite.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. He <u>wore</u> a white shirt to the party.
_____ llevó
_____ llevaba | 4. Juan <u>ran</u> ten miles.
_____ corrió
_____ corría |
| 2. He <u>wore</u> a white shirt every day.
_____ llevó
_____ llevaba | 5. Pablo <u>read</u> the paper last night.
_____ leyó
_____ leía |
| 3. I <u>prepared</u> dinner when the doorbell rang.
_____ preparé
_____ preparaba | 6. Julia <u>ran</u> most mornings.
_____ corrió
_____ corría |

B. Decide if the underlined verb should be preterite or imperfect, then write the appropriate conjugation in the space.

7. They were very tall. _____
8. I talked to the teacher. _____
9. You wanted more food. _____
10. It was cloudy. _____
11. We studied our Spanish. _____
12. He went to the store. _____
13. You were running yesterday. _____
14. Did they eat? _____