

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_

## PRETERITE

## IMPERFECT

Time: Eran las 5 horas.  
( It was 5 o'clock.)

Era el 10 de abril.  
( It was April 10th.)

Weather: Hacía mal tiempo.  
( The weather was bad.)

Location: Yo iba por la Avenida Claire  
(I was going by Clairemont Avenue)

Age: El muchacho tenía 15 años.  
( The boy was 15 years old.)

Physical appearance: Era una muchacha  
( She was a tall girl.)

Emotional state: Estaba nerviosa.  
( She was nervous.)

Attitudes: No tenía ganas de estudiar.  
(He, she didn't feel like studying)

1. Definite past time

ayer ( yesterday)

la semana pasada ( last week)

en 1988

En aquél sábado (On that Saturday)

De 1979 a 1986 ( From    to    )2. "One-shot" actions

una vez ( once)

dos veces, etc... (Twice)

*de repente - suddenly*3. Narration of completed acts.

The robber entered the bank, took  
the money and fled.

1. Indefinite past time

no time indicated

antes ( before )

en aquél tiempo ( at that time )

2. Repeated, habitual actions

siempre ( always )

todos los días ( every day )

a veces ( at times )

de vez en cuando (From time to time)

generalmente ( usually )

a menudo ( often )

Frecuentemente ( frequently )

3. DescriptionIt was a dark, cold day.The kids were playing.

The Imperfect tells what was going on and the preterite tells what happened to interrupt.

Ella leía cuando su mamá entró en la sala.

She was reading when her mom entered the living room .;

Todos estaban tristes hasta cuando llegaste.

Everybody was sad until you arrived.

Llovía mucho y de repente el sol apareció.

It was raining a lot and suddenly the sun appeared.

The Imperfect tells what was going on while something else was going on.

El papá miraba la televisión mientras la mamá leía la revista.

The dad was watching television while the mom was reading a magazine.

Neveaba mientras estábamos en el teatro.

It was snowing while we were in the theatre.

### Preterito

	<u>-ar</u>	<u>-er/-ir</u>
Yo	<u>é</u>	<u>í</u>
tú	<u>aste</u>	<u>iste</u>
Ud.	<u>ó</u>	<u>ió</u>
vosotros	<u>amos</u>	<u>imos</u>
vosotros	<u>asteis</u>	<u>isteis</u>
lds.	<u>aron</u>	<u>ieron</u>

### Imperfecto

<u>-ar</u>	<u>-er/-ir</u>
<u>aba</u>	<u>ía</u>
<u>abas</u>	<u>ías</u>
<u>aba</u>	<u>ía</u>
<u>ábamos</u>	<u>íamos</u>
<u>abais</u>	<u>íais</u>
<u>aban</u>	<u>ían</u>

<p><b>IMPERFECT</b> is used to describe:</p>	<p>The <b>PRETERITE</b> is used to describe:</p>
<p>1. <i>habitual</i> actions and actions that were repeated an <i>undetermined</i> number of times</p>	<p>1. <i>simple</i> or <i>isolated</i> actions and actions that were repeated a <i>specific</i> number of times</p>
<p>Cuando era estudiante, no <b>tenía</b> coche.  Los veranos, <b>íbamos</b> al campo. Cuando Ana y Paco <b>eran</b> novios, se <b>escribían</b> todos los días.</p>	<p><b>Compré</b> mi primer coche después de graduarme. El verano pasado <b>fui</b>mos a la Costa del Sol. Se <b>escribieron</b> todos los días por dos años.</p>
<p>2. <i>progressive</i> actions that were going on for an <i>indefinite</i> period of time</p>	<p>2. actions that occurred during or at a <i>specific</i> time</p>
<p>Ayer, a las 4, <b>jugaba</b> al tenis. ¿Qué <b>hacían</b> los vecinos durante el robo de su apartamento? ¿<b>Dormían</b>!</p>	<p><b>Jugué</b> al tenis desde las 3 y media hasta las 5. ¿Qué <b>hicieron</b> los vecinos cuando vieron al ladrón? ¿<b>Llamaron</b> a la policía!</p>
<p>3. the <i>background</i> and <i>circumstances</i> of a main action, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>time</i> and <i>weather</i></li> <li>• <i>age</i>; <i>outward</i> or <i>physical appearance</i></li> <li>• <i>feelings</i>, <i>beliefs</i>, <i>emotional states</i></li> <li>• other <i>external circumstances</i> and <i>actions in progress</i></li> </ul>	<p>3. <i>main</i> actions and events</p>
<p><b>Eran</b> las dos de la tarde y <b>hacía</b> calor. <b>Tenía</b> dolor de cabeza y me sentía cansado. Cuando <b>tenía</b> 21 años, Elena <b>era</b> muy idealista y <b>quería</b> ayudar a los demás. <b>Había</b> neblina. La visibilidad <b>era</b> muy mala. El <b>hombre tenía</b> unos 30 años. <b>Era</b> alto y esbelto. <b>Llevaba</b> sombrero y gafas de sol.</p>	<p><b>Fuimos</b> a la piscina. <b>Fui</b> a mi cuarto y me acosté.  <b>Se alistó</b> (<i>She joined</i>) en el Cuerpo de Paz. El conductor del coche <b>no vio</b> el obstáculo en la carretera <b>Bajo</b> del coche, <b>entró</b> al banco y sacó una pistola.</p>

## 5. PRETERITE OF IRREGULAR VERBS

The verbs listed below are irregular in the preterite. They have the following endings with no accent marks.

*-e, -iste, -o, -imos, -isteis, -ieron*

*Note*

- A. *-ieron* becomes *-eron* if *j* immediately precedes the ending. (See *decir, conducir, producir, traducir, and traer*, below.)
- B. The compounds of *poner* (*componer, etc.*) and *tener* (*detener, mantener, obtener, etc.*) are conjugated like the base verbs, *poner* and *tener*.

andar, to walk (preterite stem *anduv-*):  
*anduve, anduviste, anduvo, anduvimos, anduvisteis, anduvieron*

caber, to fit (preterite stem *cup-*):  
*cupe, cupiste, cupo, cupimos, cupisteis, cupieron*

decir, to say, to tell (preterite stem *dij-*):  
*dije, dijiste, dijo, dijimos, dijisteis, dijeron*

estar, to be (preterite stem *estuv-*):  
*estuve, estuviste, estuvo, estuvimos, estuvisteis, estuvieron*

hacer, to do, to make (preterite stem *hic-*):  
*hice, hiciste, hizo, hicimos, hicisteis, hicieron*

*Note.* The *c* changes to *z* in the 3rd person singular of *hacer*.

poder, to be able, can (preterite stem *pud-*):  
*pude, pudiste, pudo, pudimos, pudisteis, pudieron*

poner, to put (preterite stem *pus-*):  
*puse, pusiste, puso, pusimos, pusisteis, pusieron*

producir, to produce (preterite stem *produj-*):  
*produje, produjiste, produjo, produjimos, produjisteis, produjeron*

querer, to want, to wish (preterite stem *quis-*):  
*quise, quisiste, quiso, quisimos, quisisteis, quisieron*

saber, to know (preterite stem *sup-*):  
*supe, supiste, supo, supimos, supisteis, supieron*

tener, to have (preterite stem *tuv-*):  
*tuve, tuviste, tuvo, tuvimos, tuvisteis, tuvieron*

traer, to bring (preterite stem *traj-*):  
*traje, trajiste, trajo, trajimos, trajisteis, trajeron*

venir, to come (preterite stem *vin-*):  
*vine, viniste, vino, vinimos, vinisteis, vinieron*

Ir + ser  
 fui  
 fuiste  
 fue  
 fuimos  
 fuisteis  
 fueron

### VERBS THAT ARE IRREGULAR IN THE IMPERFECT

Ser	
era	éramos
eras	erais
era	eran

Ir	
iba	íbamos
ibas	ibais
iba	iban

Ver	
veía	veíamos
veías	veíais
veía	veían

# Did You Get It? *Práctica de gramática*



**Goal:** Learn the differences between the preterite and imperfect tenses. Then use both to narrate past events.

UNIDAD 4 Lección 1  
Reinforcing and Practice

① Read the following sentences and decide whether the underlined verbs would be in the preterite (P) or imperfect (I) tense.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. In 1995 my family and I <u>moved</u> across the country.                | P | I |
| 2. When my dad <u>got</u> his new job, we <u>became</u> very rich.         | P | I |
| 3. Back then, my sister <u>used to spend</u> the summer with my aunt.      | P | I |
| 4. One summer, I <u>went</u> to Ireland with my family.                    | P | I |
| 5. My grandfather <u>used to visit</u> us every afternoon in our new home. | P | I |
| 6. Then, in 1996, my brother Joe <u>was born</u> .                         | P | I |
| 7. I <u>went</u> to the hospital to see him the next day.                  | P | I |
| 8. After that, Joe and I <u>would spend</u> every afternoon together.      | P | I |

② Choose the correct translation.

1. Ellos llegaron tarde a la fiesta.
  - a. They arrived to the party late.
  - b. They were arriving to the party late.
2. Usted iba de vacaciones a Perú.
  - a. You went on vacation to Peru.
  - b. You used to go on vacation to Peru.
3. Nosotros caminamos a la tienda con Elisa y Lupe.
  - a. We walked to the store with Elisa and Lupe.
  - b. We were walking to the store with Elisa and Lupe.
4. Yo hacía mi tarea en la tarde.
  - a. I did my homework in the afternoon.
  - b. I used to do my homework in the afternoon.
5. Empezaba a llover cuando salí de la casa.
  - a. It started to rain when I was leaving the house.
  - b. It was starting to rain when I left the house.
6. Veíamos la televisión cuando los abuelos llegaron.
  - a. We watched TV when our grandparents arrived.
  - b. We were watching TV when our grandparents arrived.

- 3 Preterite or Imperfect? Complete the e-mail by circling the appropriate verb.

Alberto:

Tengo que contarte algo importante. El fin de semana pasado, mis amigas y yo 1. (fuimos / íbamos) a una fiesta. Yo 2. (estaba / estuve) muy nerviosa porque la fiesta 3. (fue / era) en casa de mi peor enemiga, pero todo 4. (fue / iba) muy bien. 5. (Llegábamos / Llegamos) allí a las cinco de la tarde y mi enemiga 6. (llevaba / llevó) un vestido horrible. Mis amigas y yo 7. (jugábamos / jugamos) en el jardín un rato pero después 8. (empezó / empezaba) a llover. Más tarde, 9. (llegó / llegaba) el papá de mi amiga y nos 10. (regaló / regalaba) recuerdos a todos. La verdad es que 11. (fue / era) una tarde muy especial y mis amigas y yo lo 12. (pasábamos / pasamos) muy bien. Bueno, espero verte pronto.

Cristina

- 4 Preterite or Imperfect? Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb.

1. Cuando yo \_\_\_\_\_ pequeña, mi mamá tenía muchas películas en casa. (ser)
2. A mi mamá sólo le \_\_\_\_\_ ver películas de amor. (gustar)
3. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ ver historias de príncipes y princesas. (preferir)
4. Un día mi papá \_\_\_\_\_ a casa con una película de guerra. (llegar)
5. Mi hermano Julio \_\_\_\_\_ contento. (estar)
6. Él siempre \_\_\_\_\_ ver películas de acción o de guerra. (querer)
7. Esa noche, Julio, papá y yo \_\_\_\_\_ la película. (ver)

- 5 Use the words given to translate the following sentences.

1. Yesterday I ate French fries. ayer / comer / papas fritas

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Last year I went to Mexico. el año pasado / ir / a Mexico.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. When I was young, I used to ride my bicycle. cuando / ser / joven / montar en bicicleta

\_\_\_\_\_

4. They were studying when the pizza arrived. estudiar / cuando / la pizza / llegar

\_\_\_\_\_

5. When we lived in Boston, we used to go to the park every day. cuando / vivir / en Boston / ir / al parque / todos los días

\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following online activities to practice the two past tenses in Spanish.

1. Practice the imperfect at <http://www.studyspanish.com/practice/imp1.htm>  
How many correct did you get out of 20? \_\_\_\_\_  
I had no time \_\_\_\_\_
2. Practice the preterite at <http://www.studyspanish.com/verbs/lessons/pretreg.htm>  
Click generate unique quiz. How many did you get right? \_\_\_\_\_  
I had no time \_\_\_\_\_
3. Now go to <http://www.studyspanish.com/practice/pretimp1.htm> to practice them both.  
How many did you get correct out of 20? \_\_\_\_\_ I had no time.
4. Go to <http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/superhombre.php>  
Click on the answers. Continue until you have done all questions.  
I did this activity \_\_\_\_\_ I had no time \_\_\_\_\_
5. Go to <http://www.quia.com/pop/3356.html>  
How many did you get correct here? \_\_\_\_\_ I had no time \_\_\_\_\_
6. Try this one <http://www.quia.com/pop/10816.html>  
How many did you get correct out of 20? \_\_\_\_\_ No time \_\_\_\_\_
7. Go to <http://www.quia.com/rr/66588.html>  
How far did you get on the first try? \_\_\_\_\_ No time \_\_\_\_\_
8. Go to  
[http://www.123teachme.com/spanish\\_sentence\\_quiz/category/preterite\\_vs\\_imperfect\\_1](http://www.123teachme.com/spanish_sentence_quiz/category/preterite_vs_imperfect_1)  
(where the spaces are above there are underscores) Keep going until you do 20.  
What was your percentage after completing 20? \_\_\_\_\_ No time \_\_\_\_\_
9. Go to <http://www.bowdoin.edu/~eyepes/newgr/pret.htm>  
Choose number four. What was your percentage score? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Go to <http://www.drlemon.com/Grammar/pret-meaning.html>  
Write all verbs listed that have special meanings in the past tense below. You should have six of them.

11. Go to <http://www.studyspanish.com/practice/pretimp4.htm>

How many did you get correct out of 40? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Go to [http://www.spanishspanish.com/verb/practice\\_pret\\_imperf\\_web.html](http://www.spanishspanish.com/verb/practice_pret_imperf_web.html)

Try at least 20 of these. They are somewhat difficult but try.

What was your percentage after 20? \_\_\_\_\_

How long did it take you? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Now try this quiz.

<http://spanish.about.com/library/weekly/aa022299.htm>

How many did you get correct out of 20? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Go to this page

<https://conjuguemos.com/list.php?type=fillin&division=grammar&language=spanish>

Scroll down to the preterite vs. imperfect section. Pick one of the five activities.

What number did you pick? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your score? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Finally, go to <http://www.bowdoin.edu/~eyepes/newgr/pretimp2.htm>

What was your percentage score? \_\_\_\_\_