



Caminé al mercado, compré unos plátanos, y regresé a casa. I walked to the market, bought some bananas, and returned home. The imperfect tense (pretérito indefinido) are both Spanish past tenses with different functions. The imperfect tense (pretérito indefinido) are both Spanish past tenses with different functions. progress at a specific moment in the past. The preterite expresses one-off actions and sequential events in the interactive exercises. Conjugate the imperfect tense by removing the infinitive endings (-ar/-er/-ir) and adding the following endings for -er and -ir verbs are the same. Check out our page dedicated to the Spanish imperfect to learn about this tense's conjugation in detail. To conjugate the preterite tense in Spanish imperfect to learn about this tense's conjugation in detail. following endings to the stem: Note that the endings for -er and -ir verbs are the same. Go to our page all about the preterite tense in Spanish grammar to learn more about its conjugation. As the imperfect and the preterite are both past tenses, it's not always clear when to use which one. In addition to the specific signal words that trigger each tense (see below), a rough comparison to English past tenses can also be helpful: the imperfect is comparable to the simple past in English (did, went, talked ...) Take a look at the example sentence below: Example: Yo dormía plácidamente en el sofá cuando mi gato saltó de pronto sobre la estantería. translation: I was sleeping soundly on the sofa when my cat suddenly jumped onto the bookshelf. Note: these are not 1-1 comparisons and won't be applicable to every sentence you come across, but they are a good starting point. The imperfect tense expresses: an action that was in progress at a specific point in the past Example: Yo dormía plácidamente en el sofá como cada tarde.I was sleeping soundly on the sofa like every evening. simultaneously occurring past actions Example: El gato se relamía las patas tranquilamente y nos observaba. The cat was quietly licking its pores and watching us. an action that was already in progress when another action (expressed in the preterite) occurred Example: Yo dormía plácidamente en el sofá cuando mi gato saltó de pronto sobre la estantería. I was sleeping soundly on the sofa when my cat suddenly jumped onto the bookshelf. a repeated past action or habit with no clear start and end (= used to) Example: Mi abuela ponía flores nuevas cada domingo en este jarrón. My grandma used to put fresh flowers in this vase every Sunday. the circumstances or feelings related to a situation in the past Example: Yo estaba muy preocupada porque sabía que era su jarrón favorito. I was really worried because I knew it was her favourite vase. The preterite tense expresses: one-off past actions Example: Ayer se rompió el jarrón favorito de mi abuela Margarita.Yesterday my grandma Margarita's favourite vase broke. a sequence of past actions Example: Sin pensarlo, busqué la escoba, recogí todos los trozos y los tiré a la basura.Without thinking, I reached for the broom, collected all the pieces and threw them in the bin. actions that occurred in the middle of another action that was already in progress (expressed in the imperfect) Example: Yo dormía plácidamente en el sofá cuando mi gato saltó de pronto sobre la estantería y empujó el jarrón con la cola. I was sleeping soundly on the sofa when my cat suddenly jumped onto the bookshelf and broke the vase with his tail. Signal words can help us choose between similar tenses like the imperfect and the preterite: Signal words for the imperfect: siemprealways todos los ... (días, sábados)every ... (day, Saturday, etc.) cuando era jovenwhen I was young cada vez que ...every time/whenever mientraswhile poco a pocostep by step Signal words for the preterite: ayeryesterday el año pasadolast year la semana pasadalast week en ... 2010 in ... 2010 de repentesuddenly The verbs conocer and saber have different meanings depending on whether they appear in the preterite or the imperfect. Improve your Spanish with Lingolia. Each grammar topic comes with one free exercise where you can review the basics, as well as many more Lingolia Plus exercises where you can practise according to your level. Check your understanding by hovering over the info bubbles for simple explanations and handy tips. Imperfect or Pretérito indefinido - terminación en -ar (cantar) A2 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - terminación en -ar (cantar) A2 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - terminación en -ar (volver) A2 Pretérito indefinido - terminación en -ar (cantar) A2 imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - conjugación verbos regulares (1) A2 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito imperfecto v Pretérito indefinido - conjugación verbos regulares (2) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acción puntuales y recurrentes (verbos regulares) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acción puntuales y recurrentes (verbos regulares) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acción puntuales y recurrentes (verbos regulares) B1 regulares e irregulares) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acciones simultáneas y sucesivas (verbos regulares e irregulares e irregulares 1) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acciones simultáneas y sucesivas (verbos regulares e irregulares e irregulares 1) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acciones simultáneas y sucesivas (verbos regulares e irregulares e i irregulares 2) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acciones en curso/puntuales (verbos regulares) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acciones en curso/puntuales (verbos regulares 2) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acciones en curso/puntuales (verbos regulares 2) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - acciones en curso/puntuales (verbos regulares 2) B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito indefinido - Texto: La nueva pizzería B1 Pretérito imperfecto vs. Pretérito Texto: Un trabajo nuevo B2 Gapfill Multiple choice Drag-and-drop Mixed Understanding how the preterite and imperfect tenses differ is essential to becoming a proficient Spanish learners. In the following sections, we'll explore the key distinctions between these tenses and provide strategies to help you determine the appropriate usage of each, ensuring you can confidently choose the right tense for any situation. The preterite and imperfect provide different perspectives on past actions. The preterite and imperfect provide different perspectives on past actions. highlights its ongoing nature. This concept, known as aspect, is also clear in English, as seen in the difference between "I drive" and "I am driving" in the past. When deciding which tense to use, whether in homework, class activities, or everyday conversation, consider the nature of the action you're describing. You may find practice with the following chart helpful when trying to choose between the two: In our imperfect lesson, we use the example below to compare the two tenses. Reflect on each verb used and guide yourself through the flowchart. Do you understand why the speaker chose the imperfect lesson, we use the example below to compare the two: In our imperfect lesson, we use the example below to compare the two tenses. This illustrates how we use different tenses to convey the nature of actions in the past. The alien's landing, described in the preterite, signifies a completed action - the end of its journey. In contrast, "eating a burrito" is in the imperfect tense, highlighting an ongoing action that was interrupted by the alien's landing, described in the preterite, signifies a completed action - the end of its journey. between preterite and imperfect tenses helps us indicate whether an action was completed or ongoing, aiding in crafting a clear narrative. As you advance in Spanish, you'll learn to make these distinctions naturally, shaping your stories with precision. Some learners appreciate a broad overview that highlights the speaker's choice and emphasis, as we've shown above. However, others may find it more helpful to have specific rules of thumb to compare and contrast the two tenses. Narrating a completed one-time event, making the preterite tense the appropriate choice. Conversely, the cat sleeping in the sun is an ongoing action, thus the imperfect tense is used to convey this continuous aspect. Narrating a specific moment, justifying the use of the preterite tense. On the right, the action described is habitual or repeated without a specified frequency, making the imperfect tense the appropriate choice to convey this ongoing or repeated nature. Narrating multiple simultaneous ongoing actions of the man closing his book and then lighting the fire are sequential, one-time events; therefore, the preterite tense is appropriate. Conversely, the actions of reading and being warmed by the fire occur simultaneously and are ongoing, necessitating the use of the preterite tense to indicate this change. On the right, the girl's happiness is continuous, with no change in her emotional state, thus the imperfect tense is used to describe her ongoing emotion. Duration without a clear endpoint. This specificity calls for the use of the preterite tense. On the right, the mention of traveling through Europe lacks a definitive timeline or conclusion, making the imperfect tense more suitable to convey the indefinite or ongoing nature of the travel. or imperfect tense. This distinction is a fundamental aspect of Spanish grammar and plays a crucial role in how the past is expressed. Grasping these differences is essential for selecting the appropriate tense and accurately conveying your message in past narratives. Poder: succeeded vs. could / used to be able toIn the preterite form, poder indicates and accurately conveying your message in past narratives. specific instance of achieving or succeeding in an action. This contrasts with its imperfect form, which refers to a general ability or possibility in the past, without a specific event in focus. Querer: tried vs. wanted The preterite tense of querer implies an attempt or effort, focusing on the action rather than the desire. On the other hand, the imperfect form expresses a past desire or intention, emphasizing the feeling or intention over the specific action. Saber: found out vs. used to knowSaber in the preterite is used for a specific moment of learning or realization. In contrast, the imperfect form suggests a continuous state of knowledge or awareness over time without pinpointing when this knowledge was acquired. Conocer: met vs. knewIn its preterite form, conocer describes a first-time encounter. The imperfect tense indicates an ongoing acquaintance or familiarity, suggesting a prior and continuous relationship. Mastering the nuances of these verbs in the preterite form, conocer describes a first-time encounter. The imperfect tense indicates an ongoing acquaintance or familiarity, suggesting a prior and continuous relationship. It is preterite form, conocer describes a first-time encounter. not only ensures precision in conveying past events but also enriches your understanding of the language's subtleties. Remember, the choice of tense can significantly alter the meaning of a verb, highlighting the importance of context and intention in your Spanish conversations. Click on the following links to review VerbMaster's in-depth lessons on the preterite tense and the imperfect tense! A while ago, we ran a survey among Spanish learners to see what topics were the hardest to learn in Spanish. Past tenses ranked #3. For most people, the struggle with past tenses ranked #4. For most people, tenses ranked #4 past. But, since they're used to express different information, you must know when to use each of these tenses. So, in this article, you'll find all the key information to grasp the difference between preterite and imperfect in Spanish and learning when to use each tense. The topics we'll cover include: In addition to examples, I'll make sure to add everyday situations where you must use each one of these tenses What Is the Difference Between Preterite and Imperfect are past tenses, but they express different aspects of the past. The imperfect are past tenses, but they express different aspects of the past. preterite is specific and definite. It expresses when an action occurred or the number of occurrences. Okay, that's the sum of it. Now, let's break this down into further detail. The preterite in Spanish focuses on: Actions that were completed in the past. Past events that occurred at a specific moment in the past. Sequences of completed past actions. This tense is closed and specific. In other words, it's clear that such actions are over. Additionally, most of the time, we know when they are completed. On the other hand, the imperfect tense focuses on two main things: past actions that occurred repeatedly (over extended periods of time) and providing background information about the past. So, the imperfect is commonly used to: Describe people, places, or circumstances in the pastTalk about past habits and routinesTell time Say people's ageDescribe past actions that occurred simultaneously To see these rules in action, compare and contrast the difference between these example phrases using the preterite and imperfect tenses. Preterite ExamplesImperfect ExamplesAyer fuimos a visitar a mis abuelos. Yesterday, we went to visit my grandparents. Cada sábado íbamos a visitar a mis papás. Each Saturday we went to visit my parents. Fuimos a esquiar. We went skiing. Solíamos ir mucho al cine. We used to go to the movies a lot. Cristóbal Colón descubrió América en 1492. Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492.Sus barcos eran La Niña, La Pinta y La Santa María. Tip: Use this analogy. If preterite and imperfect were used in a movie, the preterite tense will focus on telling you exactly what happened and when. For instance, you'd use this tense to say that Christoper Columbus discovered America in 1492. On the other hand, the imperfect would help you provide background information about that action. In this case, it would help you describe how the trip was, among other details. In Spanish, you need both tenses to provide a complete picture of the past. Check this passage of Ricitos de Oro. Example of preterite vs imperfect Let's use some examples to see the difference between these tenses. Do NOT rely too much on translation because these tenses are usually translated the same. Instead, check how the remaining information affects the meaning of the sentences: Preterite Bruno cantó en el cumpleaños de Sara.Bruno sang at Sara's birthday party. Imperfect Bruno cantaba en el bar todos los domingos. Bruno sang at the pub every Sunday. In example #1, the singing occurred once at a specific time (Sara's birthday). Bruno was probably singing happy birthday to you. action for Bruno. It wasn't a one-time occurrence on a specific date or event. That's why it's imperfect. Preterite and Imperfect Conjugated. Here are the charts with the regular verb endings for these tenses: Imperfect tense Subject-AR Verbs-ER / IR VerbsYo-abaiaTú-abas-iasÉl / Ella / Usted-aba-iaNosotros-abamos-iamosVosotros-abais-iateisEllos / Ella / Ustedes-aban-ian Preterite tense Subject-AR Verbs-ER / IR VerbsYo-é-íTú-aste-isteÉl / Ella / Usted-o-ióNosotros-abais-iateis-isteisEllos / Ellas / Ustedes-aron-ieron Here is a graphic showing the examples for the verbs cantar, beber, and vivir conjugated to the preterite and imperfect tenses. When it comes to conjugations, the imperfect tense is easy to learn because it only has three irregular verbs. If you want to dig deeper into it with this section I wrote about preterite conjugations. Trigger Words for Preterite and Imperfect Time markers are expressions that help you communicate when something happens. Time markers are commonly known as 'trigger words' because they trigger a tense, in this case, either imperfect or preterite. Keep in mind that trigger words are not mandatory, but when you hear, read, write or say one of them, they'll help you identify the tense in which to conjugate the verb. Below there are two lists with trigger words: Ayer - YesterdayAntier - The day before yesterdayYa - AlreadyEl año pasado - Last yearEl mes pasado - Last monthLa semana pasada - Last weekEl [día de la semana] pasado - Last [day of the week]Hace - AgoEn + [año] - In + [year]Esta semana - This morning Esta mañana - This morning Esta maña Almost alwaysCada año - Every yearDe vez en cuando - From time to time En ese entonces - Back thenEn ese tiempo - Back thenEn ese tiempo - Back thenEn ese tiempo - Back thenMientras - Every yearTodos los días - Every yearTodos los días - Every day Take Note: Notice how the preterite trigger words or phrases are used to describe specific points in time while the imperfect triggers are either describing recurring events or talk about the past in general terms, without further specification. Ya terminé de comer. I've already finished eating. Lily se casó el año pasado.Lily got married last year. En ese entonces, no había electricidad.Back then, there was no electricity. Mis hermanos y yo jugábamos todos los días.My brother and I played every day. Because they both refer to the past, some time markers can be suitable for preterite and imperfect. If this is the case, you must ask yourself what you want to communicate. Examples of contextual time markers that can be used for both tenses are: Ese día - That dayEse año - That yearCuando - When En + [año] - In + [year]Nunca - NeverSiempre - Always Cuando éramos niños, comíamos muchos dulces. When we were kids, we ate a lot of candies. Ya se habían ido cuando llegué. They were gone when I arrived. As the example above shows, the preterite and imperfect often work together in the same sentence. One provides some background information, and the other communicates the main action. Tricks to Determine When to Use Preterite vs Imperfect is to determine what you want to communicate when referring to the past. Is it something that happened frequently in the past or generally over a long period of time? Is it something that just happened once or at a specific time? In the table below, you'll find common situations that people talk about in the past. For each scenario, I've marked its corresponding tense. You can use this as your cheat sheet until you get comfortable with these tenses. SituationPreterite or Imperfect?Telling time in the pastImperfectSaying ageImperfectSaying what you did over the weekendPreteriteSharing a memoryPreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, or traditionsImperfectDescribing the weather on a specific datePreteriteSharing memories of past routines, activities, activities, a had a birthday)PreteriteTalking about your past habits or routinesImperfectReferring to actions that occurred a specific number of timePreteriteDescribing past feelingsImperfectDescribing how people or places used to beImperfectTalking about a sequence of completed actionsPreteriteTalking about actions that overlapped or occurred simultaneouslyImperfectProviding background or context about the pastImperfectTalking about location in the pastImperfectTalking about location in the pastImperfectProviding background or context about the trigger words are an excellent way to know when to use one tense over the other, alone they'll get you 90% of the way. Use these as contextual prompts for when to use either the preterite or imperfect tense everytime. Practice: Imperfect and Preterite Quizzes so you can practice. Instead, pay attention to other parts of the sentence and the messa

conveying. If you're new to the differences between imperfect and preterite and would like to test the waters, you can start by taking this seatence. Download the Preterite vs Imperfect Cheat sheets Download a copy of the cheat sheets for Preterite vs Imperfect in Spanish to study later! Download Cheat Sheets PDF To be honest, learning the differences between the two Spanish preterite is used when referring to actions that were completed in the past. When you use the preterite, it also implies that the action had a definite beginning and a definite end. In English, you might say a sentence like Yesterday I cleaned the house for two hours—in this sentence, the timeframe is very specific. Translating this sentence, the timeframe is very specific. Translating this sentence into Spanish, you would use the preterite tense. Another example of the preterite might be I ate five strawberries.Preterite -ar endingsFor regular -ar verbs, to form the preterite you drop the -ar and replace it with the correct preterite Verb YoCaminar camin +écaminé

TúCaminarcamin+astecaminasteEl/ella/ustedCaminarcamin+asteiscaminasteisEllas/UstedesCaminarcamin+asteiscaminasteisEllas/UstedesCaminarcamin+asteiscaminasteisEllas/UstedesCaminarcamin+asteiscaminasteisEllas/UstedesCaminarcamin+asteiscaminasteisEllas/UstedesCaminarcamin+asteiscaminasteisEllas/UstedesCaminarcamin+asteiscaminasteisEllas/UstedesCaminarcamin+asteiscaminasteisEllas/UstedesCaminarc

TúComerCom+íascomíasEl/ella/ustedComerCom+íacomíaNosotrosComerCom+íaiscomíanIrregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only the interval in the imperfect VerbsLuckily, there are only the int using it in the preterite versus the imperfect can create a slightly different meaning. Compare the translations of these sentences in the preterite versus in the imperfect. Distinguishing Between Preterite and Imperfect what you did vs W talks about things you did, and the imperfect talks about things you were doing at some point in time, or that you used to do. With some practice, this is fairly easy to remember. Consider these examples: Toqué el piano - I played the piano; or, you are saying that you were playing the piano when setting the scene for a story. Yo tocaba la guitarra (true story) Me comí la manzana - I ate the apple. The action is complete. Yo leía el libro - I read the book (and now I'm done). Yo leía el libro - I read the book (and the start and end times don't matter). What happened vs The way things were Another way to look at it is that the preterite is for talking about things that happened in the past. Using the same sentences: Toqué el piano - I played the piano (yesterday, or that night, or whatever specific timeframe context provides) Yo tocaba el piano - I used to play the piano at some point in the past, but I don't anymore. Me comí la manzana - I used to read books. Use context clues When reading or listening to Spanish, you can use context clues to figure out any listening to Spanish, you can use context clues to figure out any listening to Spanish. whether a verb phrase is in the preterite or imperfect tense. Certain temporal phrases are associated with either the preterite: ayer - yesterdayanoche - last nightdespués - afterwarddurante dos semanas - for two weeksel mes pasado - last monthel otro día - the other dayen ese momento - at that momententonces - thenesta tarde - this afternoonhace dos días - every daytodo el tiempo - all the timevarias veces - several times Mastering the Two Spanish Past Tenses Practice make perfectOne of the most efficient ways to master any Spanish grammatical concept is to practice with another person who can give you feedback and constructive criticism. Story-telling is an excellent form of practicing verb tenses. Try telling a story to your tutor or friend and having them correct you on your mistakes. Then, have them tell you a story in return, and pay attention to their choice of verb tense, and make note of which verb tense they use in the Spanish subtitle. Other media, such as Spanish-language movies or even videos like these can solidify your Spanish, and it's one. ConclusionDistinguishing between the preterite and the imperfect is one of the most challenging aspects of learning Spanish, and it's also one the most important. That being said, it's not impossible. With a little know how and a lot of practice you should be able to use both with no problems Leave a comment if you have any questions about these two slightly tricky verb forms! Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Or use email to Log in or Sign upBy signing up, you agree to our Terms. Terms of Service. With over 10 years of experience, HSA is where your goals merge with our teachers' passion: to improve your Spanish fluency. Custom-tailored to fit your needs, you choose your program, schedule, favorite teachers, pace of learning, and more.. Learn More Home » Knowledge Base » Foreign Words » Spanish Words » Preterite and imperfect: Understanding... PinterestFacebookXLinkedInRedditUnderstanding... PinterestFacebookXLinked show actions that were completed at definite points in the past. You might find it difficult to decide when to use each tense, but with practice, the choice becomes easier. Exploring these tenses involves learning about their definitions, how they are used, and seeing examples. The reference will provide key takeaways, examples, and tips to help remember the differences. It also touches on related confused words, such as the differences between preterite and past or imperfect. Preterite and past actions with no specified conclusion. PinPreterite vs. Imperfect - Created by 7ESL Preterite refers to the tense we use to describe actions that were completed at a specific point in the past. These actions have a clear beginning and end. For example: We watched a movie last night. The verb "watched" is in the preterite tense, indicating that were ongoing or habitual in the past and didn't have a specified duration or a definite end. For example: We were watching movies every Friday Using the imperfect tense "were watching" to convey a habitual action in the past with no clear endpoint. Preterite vs. Imperfect | Usage and Examples Aspect of Action Preterite Usage Imperfect Usage Completion Used for actions that are seen as completed. Used for actions that were ongoing or habitual without a specified endpoint. Time Frame Used to describe habitual actions in the past or set the scene with background details. Sequence Used to narrate a sequence of past actions that are completed. Used to describe what was happening, with no focus on the start or end of the action. Examples - I ate pizza yesterday.) - The party started at eight. - I used to eat pizza on Fridays. - The party was held every year. Tips to Remember the Difference For one-time completed actions, think preterite. For recurring or ongoing actions, choose imperfect. Remembering specific trigger words can help. For example, ayer (yesterday) often calls for the preterite, while siempre (always) usually indicates the imperfect. Yesterday I watched a very interesting movie. (Ayer vi una película muy interesante.) I finished my math homework before dinner. (Terminé mi tarea de matemáticas antes de cenar.) We went to the amusement park last weekend. (Fuimos al parque de diversiones el fin de semana pasado.) She sold her old car and bought a new one. (Ella vendió su coche viejo y compró uno nuevo.) I was eating when the phone rang. (Estaba comiendo cuando sonó el teléfono.) They used to sing together on weekends. (Cantaban juntos los fines de semana.) When I was a child, I used to go to the beach every summer. (Cuando era niño, iba a la playa cada verano.) While I was walking through the park, I was listening to music. (Mientras caminaba por el parque, escuchaba música.) The preterite tense in Spanish is often confused with the simple past tense in English, as both indicate actions that were completed in the past. We use preterite to pinpoint the specific time an action took place or to describe actions that were part of a sequence. Let's take a look at a comparison: Preterite: Él estudió (he studied) toda la noche. Simple Past: He studied all night. Although similar, we should note that the simple past in English can also express habitual past actions, a role often played by the imperfect tense in Spanish. Imperfect vs. Perfect The term "perfect" which signifies ongoing or habitual actions in the past in Spanish. Imperfect: Nosotros ibamos (we used to go) al cine los viernes. Perfect: We have gone to the cinema. The perfect tenses in English typically involve an auxiliary verb like "have" or "had," whereas the imperfect tense in Spanish conveys a sense of continuity or repetition without completion. , the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit. 110,331 active editors 7,023,810 articles in English Igor Judge, a British judge and a sense of continuity or repetition without completion. Nominative determinism is the hypothesis that people are drawn to professions that fit their name. The term was first used in the magazine New Scientist in 1994, after its humorous Feedback column mentioned a book on polar explorations by Daniel Snowman and an article on urology by researchers named Splatt and Weedon. The hypothesis had been suggested by psychologist Carl Jung, citing as an example Sigmund Freud (German for 'joy'), who studied pleasure. A few recent empirical studies have been challenged. One explanation for nominative determinism is the theory of implicit egotism, which states that humans have an unconscious preference for things they associate with themselves. An alternative explanation is genetic: an ancestor might have been named Smith or Taylor according to their occupation, and the genes they passed down might correlate to aptitudes for those professions. (Full article...) Recently featured: Donkey Kong Land History of education in Wales (1701-1870) White dwarf Archive By email More featured articles About Ed Stone ... that an actress who appeared in the 1915 film A Welsh Singer did not act in a film again until 1948? ... that Irve Tunick said he wrote about 700 to 800 scripts in his first 15 years of writing radio scripts? ... that a newspaper columnist described an Illinois TV station as one that would "illustrate a flood by showing its audience a hand-drawn picture of a lake in the corner of the screen"? ... that Empress Koken, having resigned the Japanese throne in favor of a relative, shaved her head, became a Buddhist nun, and forced her way back into power? ... that modernist architect Paul Rudolph was said to have run out of money three times while designing the Modulighton Building? ... that Sayuti Abubakar was nominated to become the vice governor of Aceh by an imprisoned former governor? ... that Google Street View in Antarctica started as a "challenge"? Archive Start a new article Trifid and Lagoon nebulae The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile releases the first light images (example shown) from its new 8.4-metre (28 ft) telescope. In basketball, the Oklahoma City Thunder defeat the Indiana Pacers to win the NBA Finals. An attack on a Greek Orthodox church in Damascus, Syria, kills at least 25 people. The United States conducts military strikes on three nuclear facilities in Iran. In rugby union, the Crusaders defeat the Chiefs to win the Super Rugby Pacific final. Ongoing: Gaza war Iran-Israel war Russian invasion of Ukraine timeline Recent deaths: John R. Casani Richard Gerald Jordan Franco Testa Raymond Laflamme Gertrud Leutenegger Maria Voce Nominate an article June 27: Helen Keller Day in the United States Depiction of Pope Agatho 678 - Pope Agatho (depicted), later venerated as a saint in both the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches, began his pontificate. 1800 - War of the Second Coalition: French forces won a victory at the Battle of Neuburg, ending Austrian control over the Russian battleship Potemkin began a mutiny against their officers. 1950 - Korean War: Five North Korean aircraft attacked an American air convoy above Suwon Air Base in the first air engagement of the Korean War. 2015 - Ignition of corn starch caused a dust fire at a water park in New Taipei City, Taiwan, killing 12 people and injuring more than 400 others. Wilhelmina FitzClarence, Countessite at a water park in New Taipei City, Taiwan, killing 12 people and injuring more than 400 others. of Munster (b. 1830)Frank Rattray Lillie (b. 1870)Harry Pollitt (d. 1960)Nico Rosberg (b. 1985) More anniversaries: June 26 June 27 June 28 Archive By email List of days of the year About 2024 variant of the Men's T20 World Cup for cricket in the Twenty20 International (T201) format, organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC). It was held in every odd year from 2007 to 2009, and since 2010 has been held in every even year with the exception of 2018 and 2020. In 2018, the tournament, twentyfour nations have played in the T20 World Cup. Nine teams have competed in every tournament, six of which have won the title twice each. Sri Lanka and Australia have won the title once each. Sri Lanka, England, Pakistan and India have each made three final appearances, while Pakistan have also made six semi-final appearances. The best result by a non-Test playing nation is the second round appearance by the United States in 2024, while the worst result by a Test playing nation is the second round appearance by the United States in 2024. Songs by Gen Hoshino Archive More featured lists Whitehead's trogon (Harpactes whitehead) is a species of bird in the family Trogonidae. It is endemic to the island of Borneo, where it is an uncommon resident in primary mountain forest. One of Borneo, where it is an uncommon resident in primary mountain forest. The male is crimson on the head, nape, and underparts, with a black throat and grey chest; the rest of its upperparts are cinnamon-brown where the male is scarlet. The species is primarily an insectivore, but also eats various plant materials, including fruits and seeds. Other than the timing of its breeding, typically between April and June, little is known about its breeding biology. It is classified as a near-threatened species, with population numbers thought to be declining and habitat loss a key threat. This male Whitehead's trogon was photographed perching on a branch near Mount Kinabalu in the Malaysian state of Sabah. Photograph credit: John Harrison Recently featured: Atacamite Turban Head eagle Springbok Archive More featured pictures Community portal - The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements. Village pump - Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues. Site news - Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement. Teahouse - Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Help desk - Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics. Content portals - A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia. Wikipedia is written by volunteer editors and hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other volunteer projects: CommonsFree textbooks and manuals WikidataFree knowledge base WikinewsFree-content news WikiquoteCollection of quotations WikisourceFree-content library WikispeciesDirectory of species WikiversityFree learning tools WikivoyageFree travel guide WiktionaryDictionary and thesaurus This Wikipedia is written in English. Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below. 1,000,000+ articles العربية Deutsch Español العربية Français Italiano Nederlands 日本語 Polski Português Pyccкий Svenska Українська Tiếng Việt 中文 250,000+ articles Bahasa Indonesia Bahasa Melayu Bân-lâm-gú Български Català Čeština Dansk Eesti Eλληνικά Esperanto Euskara עברית אין לשט געברית Vagyar Norsk bokmål Română Simple English Slovenčina Srpski Srpskohrvatski Suomi Türkçe Oʻzbekcha 50,000+ articles Asturianu Azərbaycanca []]] Bosanski جاردي Frysk Gaeilge Galego Hrvatski לא השמיט Kurdî Latviešu Lietuviu []]] Norsk nynorsk []] Norsk nynorsk []] Retrieved from " 2 This article is about the year 678. For the film, see 678 (film). For the Argentine TV program, see 6, 7, 8. Calendar year Yea Millennium 1st millennium Centuries 6th century 7th century 8th century Decades 650s 660s 670s 680s 690s Years 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 vte 678 by topic Leaders Religious leaders Religious leaders Religious leaders Categories Births Deaths Establishments vte 678 in various calendarsGregorian calendar678DCLXXVIIIAb urbe condita1431Armenian calendar127 (Fire Ox)3375 or 3168 — to —戊寅年 (Earth Tiger)3376 or 3169Coptic calendar394-395Discordian calendar1844Ethiopian calendar670-671Hebrew calendar438-4439Hindu calendar56-57Islamic calendar58-59Japanese calendar4438-4439Hindu calendar678DCLXXVIIIKorean calendar3011Minguo calendar1234 before ROC民前1234年Nanakshahi calendar-790Seleucid era989/990 AGThai solar calendar1220-1221Tibetan calendar Julian calendar. The denomination 678 for this year has been used since the early medieval period, when the Anno Domini calendar era became the prevalent method in Europe for naming years. July 27 - The Siege of Thessalonica (676-678) ends, when the Sclaveni withdraw. Autumn - Siege of Constantinople: Emperor Constantine IV confronts the Arab besiegers in a head-on engagement. The Byzantine fleet, equipped with Greek fire, destroys the Muslim fleet at Sillyon, [1][2][3][4] ending the Arab threat to Europe, and forcing Yazid (a son of caliph Muawiyah I) to lift the siege on land and sea. The victory also frees up forces that are sent to raise the two-year siege of Thessalonica by the local Slavic tribes. King Æthelred of Mercia defeats the Northumbrian forces under King Ecgfrith, in a battle near the River Trent. Archbishop Theodore helps to pay a weregild to avoid any resumption of hostilities (approximate date). April 27 - Emperor Tenmu holds divination for the purpose of proceeding to the Abstinence Palace. May 3 - Princess Tochi is buried at a place which could be Ako (Hyogo Prefecture). Tenmu is graciously pleased to raise lament for her. Wilfrid, bishop of York, is at the height of his power and owns vast estates throughout Northumbria. After his refusal to agree to a division of his see, Ecgfrith and Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, have him banished from Northumbria. April 11 - Pope Donus dies at Rome, after a reign of 1 year and 160 days. He is succeeded by Agatho I, who becomes the 79th pope. He is the first pope to stop paying tribute to Emperor Constantine IV upon election. In Japan, the national worshiping to the Gods of Heaven and Earth is planned. Tenmu tries to select his daughter Tochi as a Saio to make her serve the Gods. However, Tochi suddenly takes ill and dies. The Beomeosa temple complex in Geumjeong-gu (modern South Korea) is constructed, during the reign of King Munmu of Silla. Childebert III, Merovingian Frankish king and son of Theuderic III Childebrand I, duke of Burgundy (d. 751) K'inich Ahkal Mo' Nahb III, Maya ruler of Palenque April 11 - Pope Donus May 3 - Tochi, Japanese princess Abdullah ibn Aamir, Arab general (b. 626) Ælfwine, king of Deira (approximate date) Aisha, wife of Muhammad Arbogast, bishop of Strasbourg Nathalan, Scottish bishop Wechtar, Lombard duke of Friuli Zhang Wenguan, chancellor of the Tang dynasty (b. 606) ^ Haldon 1990, p. 64. ^ Lilie 1976, pp. 78-79. ^ Treadgold 1997, pp. 326-327. ^ Mango & Scott 1997, p. 494. Haldon, John F. (1990). Byzantium in the Seventh Century: The Transformation of a Culture (revised ed.). Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-31917-1. Lilie, Ralph-Johannes (1976). Die byzantinischen Staates im 7. und 8. Jhd [Byzantine Reaction to the Expansion of the Arabs. Studies on the Structural Change of the Byzantine State in the 7th and 8th Cent.] (in German). Munich: Institut für Byzantinistik und Neugriechische Philologie der Universität München. OCLC 797598069. Mango, Cyril; Scott, Roger (1997). The Chronicle of Theophanes Confessor. Byzantine and Near Eastern History, AD 284–813. Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-822568-7. Treadgold, Warren (1997). A History of the Byzantine State and Society. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. ISBN 0-8047-2630-2. Retrieved from " 32009 Argentine TV series or program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique to Real PowerGenreArchive television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critique television program 6, 7, 8First logoAlso known as The Critiqu Eduardo Massa Alcántara Mariana Moyano Dante Palma Sandra Russo Nora Veiras Country of originArgentinaOriginal languageSpanishNo. of seasons7ProducerPensado Para TelevisiónOriginal releaseMarch 9, 2009 (2009-03-09) -23 December 2015 (2015-12-23) Six in the Seven at Eight, usually called 6, 7, 8, was an Argentine political commentary TV program broadcast by the government-run Channel 7 since 2009. Its name comes from the fact that, when it first started airing, there were five members on the show's panel, and its motto was you are the sixth one (the viewer). Since it was broadcast by Channel 7 at 8 p.m., the name was shortened to "6, 7, 8". In late 2009, the program was moved to 9 p.m., a new segment was added to be aired on Sundays at night, and new guest panelists were invited, making it more than six members.[1] Nevertheless, the show's name remained unchanged. It was first hosted by María Julia Oliván and a panel which included Orlando Barone, Carla Czudnowsky, Eduardo Cabito Massa Alcántara, Luciano Galende and Sandra Russo, along with a guest analyst who would give their opinions throughout the program. María Julia Oliván announced in an interview for web site Television.com.ar that, on January 28, 2010, should make her last appearance on the program. [2] Her place was occupied by Luciano Galende, and from 2013 onward the host has been Carlos Barragán. The program was nominated to the 2010 Martín Fierro Awards in the category Best Journalistic Program. The program has come under criticism due to its perceived advocacy of Kirchnerism, which is controversial since it is aired by a state-owned TV channel during the time when Cristina Kirchner. 6, 7, 8 was first aired on March 9, 2009. The initial name was "6 in the 7 at 8", making reference to the 6 people in the program, the channel Televisión Pública Argentina that airs in channel 7, and that the program was broadcast at 8:00 pm. Although the number of people and the timeslot changed over time, the name "678" was kept. It is an Archive television program focused on politics and journalism. It was created during the campaign for the 2009 midterm elections, in order to broadcast the Kirchnerite propaganda known as Relato K, and to attack the opposing candidates. It received a privileged timeslot on Sundays, right after the broadcasting of the Fútbol para todos weekly matches. view in the conflict between Kirchnerism and the media.[3] Mauricio Macri, president of Argentina since December 10, 2015, appointed Hernán Lombardi as the new manager for Channel 7. Soon thereafter it was announced that the channel would not air 6, 7, 8 because the production company decided not to renew the contract with the TV Pública. [4][5] According to Clarín newspaper the program uses archive footage to criticize Mass Media outlets, judges and political opponents to the national government.[6] On October 13, 2009 the program aired a video that had circulated in blogs. The anonymous video was recorded through a hidden camera, and it shows the journalist and columnist of newspaper La Nación, Carlos Pagni, in an alleged operation to publish false information for the purpose of damaging the oil company Repsol YPF. The broadcast of the video was criticized by the Partido Solidario deputy Carlos Heller who was a guest on the program that day, expressing his objection to the publication of anonymous films. The contents of the video were criticized by the panelists after it was shown. According to an article in La Nación that was published the next day about the segment, "the presentation of the hidden camera, and the images of the hidden camera (cut, but carefully and professionally edited) do not, at any moment, show the columnist in situations that could corroborate the serious and injurious charges about corruption that are made in the video through printed boards and a voice-over".[7] In the video, there are appearances by other people who may represent Pagni, receiving money in return for newspaper articles. However, after the airing on October 13, Pagni received the support of the Argentine Journalism Forum (Foro del Periodismo Argentino) and other journalists.[8] YPF issued a complaint to investigate who recorded the video, and the veracity of the facts that are seen on it. They assured that "it is true that the video, and the veracity of the facts that are seen on it." Martín Fierro Awards Best journalism program[10] ^ Asteriscos.tv Seis, siete, ocho ¿y ahora a las nueve? (in Spanish) ^ "6, 7, 8 en TVPública.com.ar". Archived from the original on 2013-08-04. Retrieved 2010-04-16. ^ Oliván, pp. 9-12 ^ "Chau 6, 7, 8". Archived from the original on 2015-11-25. Retrieved 2015-11-24. ^ "Adiós 678". ^ Clarin.com, «El programa que ataca a los medios críticos cuesta caro» Archived 2010-01-13 at the Wayback Machine (in Spanish) ^ La Nación.com, «Agravia Canal 7 a un columnista con un video anónimo» Archived 2011-06-05 at the Wayback Machine (in Spanish) ^ (Igual hubo una operación", por Raúl Kollmann (in Spanish) ^ "Todos los nominados a los Martín Fierro], La Nación (in Spanish), April 15, 2014, Retrieved April 15, para Televisión Official website of Canal Siete Retrieved from "4 The following pages link to 6, 7, 8 External tools (link count transclusion count sorted list) · See help page for transclusion count sorted list) · See help pa Barone (links | edit) 678 show (redirect page) (links | edit) 43rd Martín Fierro Awards (links | edit) 44th Martín Fierro Awards (links | edit) 45th Martín Fierro Awards (links | edit) 43rd Martín Fier edit) Archive television program (links | edit) Talk:6, 7, 8 (transclusion) (links | edit) User:AlexNewArtBot/TelevisionSearchResult/archive19 (links | edit) User:AlexNewArtBot/TelevisionSearchResult/archive115 (links | edit) User:AlexNewArtBot/TelevisionSearchResult/archive19 (links | edit) User:AlexNe User:AlexNewArtBot/ArgentinaSearchResult/archive3 (links | edit) User:CleanupWorklistBot/lists/Argentina/Politics watchlist (links | edit) Wikipedia:WikiProject Latin America/The 10,000 Challenge (links | edit) Wikipedia:WikiProject Latin America/The 10,000 Challenge/1-1000 (links | edit) View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500) Retrieved from "WhatLinksHere/6, 7, 8" Mastering Spanish past tenses can be tricky, especially when deciding between the preterite and imperfect. If you've ever wondered when to use each one, this guide has preterite vs imperfect Spanish explained in a clear and simple way. Understanding the difference between these two past tenses will help you sound more natural and confident in Spanish conversations. Let's break it down step by step! The preterite tense is used for: Actions completed at a specific time Events that happened once Actions with a clear beginning or end Key question: Did the action start and finish? If yes, use the preterite! Think of the preterite as the "action movie" tense. Examples: Ayer fui al cine. (Yesterday, I went to the movies.) El año pasado viajé a México. (Last year, I traveled to Mexico.) Compré un coche nuevo la semana pasada. (I bought a new car last week.) Nos casamos en 2015. (We got married in 2015.) Estudié tres horas anoche.(I studied for three hours last night.) The imperfect tense is used for: Ongoing or repeated actions Background descriptions Telling time, age, or weather Mental or emotional states Key question: Was the action continuous, habitual, or background information? If yes, use the imperfect! Think of the imperfect as the "background story" tense. Examples: Cuando era niño, jugaba mucho. (When I was a child, I played a lot.) Siempre comíamos juntos los domingos. (We always ate together on Sundays.) Hacía mucho calor en el verano. (It was very hot in the summer.) Mi abuela siempre contaba historias antes de dormir. (My grandmother always told stories before bedtime.) Estudiaba mientras escuchaba música.(I was studying while listening to music.) Preterite Regular Conjugation Imperfect Regular Conjugation Imperfect Regular Conjugation Preterite Regular Conjugation Imperfect Regular Conjugation Preterite Regular Conjugation Preterite Regular Conjugation Imperfect Regular Conjugation Preterite Regular Conjugation Preteri Ayer jugaba todo el día. Ayer jugué todo el día. Don't use the preterite for describing people or settings. La casa era grande y bonita. Change the tense of these sentences: Ella leyó el libro cada noche antes de dormir. Anoche estudiaba español.- Anoche estudiaba español. Viajamos a Colombia en 2019.- Viajábamos a Colombia todos los años. (if habitual) Mi mamá cocinó arroz.- Mi mamá cocinó arroz cuando llegué. Understanding preterite = Completed Action Imperfect = Ongoing, Habitual, or Background With regular practice and plenty of examples, you'll start to recognize the patterns easily-and speak more naturally! If you want to improve your Spanish and sound more natural, don't miss our latest blog post: "Think in Spanish! How to Rephrase Sentences Like a Native." Learn practical tips to restructure sentences like a fluent speaker. Check it out now! Want to take your Spanish to the next level? Book a free consultation with Hannah today and explore customized online classes designed just for you! Plus, don't forget to subscribe to our free newsletter to get part two of this mini-lesson. You can download this resource to support yourself. Preterite vs Imperfect Spanish Explained 1.pdf (1)Download Discover what makes our lessons a great learning experience. Check out their stories! Do you want to see more reviews? Visit us on Google or Facebook to see what our students say. Published: January 4, 2024 One of the most challenging aspects of Spanish grammar is distinguishing between the preterite and imperfect tenses. In this comprehensive guide, we'll provide detailed explanations, conjugation rules, and plenty of examples to help you navigate the complexities of the imperfect vs preterite tenses. Whether you're discussing a regularly occurring event in the past or in a specific moment last week, understanding when to use these tenses is crucial. Let's delve into the fascinating world of past tenses in Spanish and unlock a new level of language proficiency. Preterite vs Imperfect: The Basics Are you struggling to differentiate between the preterite and imperfect tenses in Spanish? These two past tenses are essential for expressing actions in the past, and understanding when to use each one can be challenging. The imperfect tense describes ongoing actions or states in the past, like por un rato ("for a while") or en ese moment ("at that moment"). The preterite tense is used for completed actions with a specific timeframe, such as ayer por la tarde ("yesterday afternoon") or la semana pasada ("last week"). What is the Imperfect Tense? If you want to refer to an interrupted action or an event that occurred repeatedly in the past, then you will use the imperfect tense. Imperfect tense. Imperfect tense for '-ar' Verbs Let's look at imperfect verb endings for a regular -ar verb, bailaba X0 bailaba tense, remember that yo bailaba means both "I used to dance" and "I was dancing." Here are some example sentences: Cuando era niña, bailaba con mi esposo cuando sonó el teléfono - I was dancing with my husband when the phone rang The Imperfect '-er' and '-ir' Endings in Spanish Regular verbs ending in -ar always use the endings. Beber Yo bebía Nosotros bebíans Vosotros bebíans Ellos/Ella/Usted bebía Nosotros bebíans Vosotros vivíans Él/Ella/Usted bebía Nosotros vivíamos Vosotros vivíais Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes vivían Example sentences include: Bebíamos café todas las mañanas en la oficina - We used to drink coffee every morning in the office Tú vivías cerca del parque cuando eras niño - You used to live near the park when you were a child Irregular Verbs in the Imperfect Tense As with most languages, there are a couple of verbs (including reflexive verbs) that fall outside the general rules for tenses, which is frustrating for beginners. As far as the imperfect tense goes, for now, as a beginner, you only need to remember that ser, ver, and ir are irregular. Their endings need to be memorized. What is the Preterite Tense? When it comes to the Preterite tense, we're talking about actions (expressed as verbs) that have already been performed, but which have a clear start and a clear endpoint. For instance, "last week, I went for a walk in the park - as you declare when the event took place, last week, and how long for, 30 minutes." In Spanish, this looks like: La semana pasada, salí a caminar por el parque durante 30 minutos. Preterite Endings For '-ar' Verbs In order to conjugate a regular verb into the preterite tense, it's quite simple - just like with the imperfect tense, you simply drop the '-ar' ending and replace it with the appropriate Preterite Suffix. Let's use hablar, which means "to talk"... Yo hable Tú hablaste Él/Ella/Usted habló con el profesor sobre su proyecto - She spoke with the profesor sobre su proyecto - She spoke with the profesor about her project Preterite Endings For '-er' and '-ir' Verbs As above, again using the examples beber ("to drink") and vivir ("to live"), you simply swap out the regular infinitive ending for the appropriate preterite one: Beber Yo bebi Tú bebisteis Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes bebieron Vivir Yo viví Tú viviste Él/Ella/Usted vivió Nosotros/Nosotras vivimos Vosotros/Vosotras vivisteis Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes vivieron Irregular Verbs In The Preterite Tense Despite the fact that Spanish is an easy language to learn quickly, it does have its hurdles. One of these challenges lies in the preterite tense. These irregular conjugation of verbs in the preterite tense. take a look at some examples: estar (to be) tener (to have) haber (to have) haber (to do/make) ir (to go) dar (to give) ser (to be) poner (to be able to) To use these verbs in the preterite tense, it's necessary to memorize their specific conjugation forms. Mastering irregular verbs is an essential step in becoming fluent in Spanish. With practice and dedication, you can navigate the intricacies of the preterite tense and communicate effectively in the Spanish language. Here are two examples showcasing irregular verbs in the preterite tense. Aver, estuve en la fiesta hasta altas horas de la noche -Yesterday, I was at the party until late at night Juan puso el libro sobre la mesa y lo dejó ahí - Juan put the book on the table and left it there In these sentences, we can see the irregular conjugations of the verbs estar ("to put") in the preterite tense. The Difference Between the Preterite vs Imperfect In the simplest possible terms the preterite tense indicates what you did whilst the imperfect tense determines what you were doing. This is pretty much the same for all instances, and can be a helpful way to figure out which ending to use. Toqué la guitarra means "I played the guitar" - for a clear cut distinct time. So, that's the preterite tense (from the -ar verb tocar). Yo tocaba la guitarra means "I used to play the guitar " or "I was playing the guitar " or "I was playing the guitar " - without saying when or how long. So, that's preterite tense. Comí mi cena means "I used to eat my dinner". This would refer to a repeated action in the past or an interrupted action. Therefore, it's the imperfect tense How to Remember the Preterite vs Imperfect tense soften and phrases that might suggest that the imperfect tense is being used would be those referring to vague times, like... Todo el tiempo - All the time Siempre - Always Varias veces - Several times Muchas veces - Several times Todos los días - Every day A menudo - Often A veces - Sometimes Other more specific words and phrases, that can be referred to as preterite trigger words, include the following... Anoche - Last night Esta tarde - This afternoon En ese momento - At that moment Otro día - Two days ago Entonces - Then Durante dos semanas - For two weeks El mes pasado - Last month Preterite vs Imperfect Tense: Tips and

Tricks for Learning Spanish Let's explore some tips for Spanish learners. Change Your TV Habits Consider switching things up a little and watching some Spanish TV or movies. Put English subtitles on and it will help you associate specific words and phrases with the sound of spoken Español. Likewise, you could put on your own favorite films and TV shows... but watch them with Spanish subtitles. Through this method, you will pick up particular verbs and phrases that catch your eye. Practice With Friends that you can converse with, the best (and fastest!) way to become fluent in any language is simply to speak it. Particularly if the speaker can offer you feedback. If you have any Spanish-speaking friends, now's the time to ask for their help! If you're a bit shy about speaking right now, you could ask them to text or email you in Spanish instead, which would give you a chance to practice your written communication too. Apps, Games, Quizzes If you struggle to settle down and "study" because it feels too much like hard work, try making things fun! There are hundreds of Youtube videos, smartphone apps, and online tutorials that can help train your brain gradually, over time. Gamified language-learning apps, social media groups, and language forums are great places to start. TikTok is a great tool for learning Spanish grammar and language. All of these tips can be incorporated into your daily routine. Keeping up with your Spanish practice regularly, even just for a few minutes a day, will solidify and consolidate the information you are learning. Indeed, this will push it into your long-term memory. are some questions that might be of help What does "ayer por la tarde" and "en aquella época" mean in Spanish? Ayer por la tarde means "yesterday evening" while en aquella época "mean in Spanish? Ayer por la tarde means "yesterday evening" while en aquella época "mean in Spanish? Ayer por la tarde means "yesterday evening" while en aquella época "mean in Spanish? Ayer por la tarde means "at that time". moment"), and todos los días ("all the time"). How many past tenses are there in Spanish? in a while" or "from time to time." It is used to express actions that occur occasionally. For example, De vez en cuando voy al cine con mis amigos ("I go to the movies with my friends once in a while"). Summing Up: Imperfect vs Preterite Tense - Which To Use & When Learning all of this can be very beneficial for anyone who plans on traveling to a Spanish-speaking country. Spanish-language learners often struggle with these two past tenses and when to use them. The good news is that the preterite and imperfect tenses in Spanish language and grammar studies, the sooner you'll get the hang of it. And it's ok to make mistakes - even advanced learners mix these tenses up sometimes! Go over your notes consistently and provide clarity to even the most confused Spanish learner. One of the biggest challenges for English speakers learning Spanish is knowing when to use the imperfect (el imperfecto) vs the preterite (el pretérito). Both describe past actions but have differences with clear examples, comparison charts, and English translations so you can master these tenses like a native speaker! Imperfect (El Imperfecto)Preterite (El Pretérito)Habitual/repeated actions"I used to eat cereal every morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions "I ate cereal this morning." -> Yo comía cereales todas las mañanas.Completed actions gané. Habitual actions (used to/would) Ongoing actions (was/were + -ing) Descriptions (age, time, weather, emotions) Setting the scene in stories Spanish (Imperfecto)English TranslationYo jugaba fútbol todos los días. I used to play soccer every day. Ella era muy simpática cuando era niña. She was very nice when she was a child. Eran las tres de la tarde. It was three in the afternoon. Lluvia mucho cuando llegamos. It was raining a lot when we arrived. Tip: The imperfect is like a background setting—it tells us what was happening over time. Want more? See our full guide on How to Use the Imperfect Tense in Spanish for conjugation rules and practice exercises. Completed actions (one-time events) Actions with clear start/end Sequences of events (first X happened, then Y) Sudden changes Spanish (Pretérito)English TranslationAyer comí paella. Ellos viajaron a España el año pasado. They traveled to Spain last year. De repente, empezó a llover. Suddenly, it started to rain. Primero estudié, luego salí con amigos. First, I studied, then I went out with friends. Tip: The preterite is like a snapshot—it tells us what happened at a specific moment. Need help conjugation? Check out our Preterite Yo vivía en Madrid.(I used to live in Madrid.(I lived in Madrid [for a time].)Ella trabajaba cuando llamé.(She was working when I called.)Ella trabajó ayer.(She worked yesterday.) Chart: Key Differences AspectImperfectPreteriteType of ActionOngoing, habitualCompleted, one-timeDurationNo defined endHas clear start/endExample TriggersSiempre, a menudo, cada díaAyer, anoche, el lunes pasado Mistake: Using preterite for "was/were + -ing" Correction: Use imperfect for ongoing actions. Estudiá cuando sonó el teléfono. (Incorrect) Viajá a México el año pasado. (I traveled to Mexico last year.) Cuando era niño, siempre __ (jugar) en el parque. -> Answer: jugaba (imperfect - habitual action) Ayer, yo __ (comer) una pizza entera. -> Answer: comí (preterite - completed action) Mientras ella __ (leer), él __ (llegar). -> Answer: leía, llegó (imperfect for ongoing, preterite for interruption) Want more practice? Try our Spanish Past Tenses Quiz!
Think about duration
Was it ongoing (imperfect) or finished (preterite)?
Look for trigger words
New Saver (preterite)
Verterite)
Verterite
Verterit question Imperfect vs Preterite Quiz and get instant feedback on your answers! Test your knowledge of Spanish past tenses! Read each sentence and choose whether the verb should be in the imperfect or preterite tense. Click "Show Answer" to check your understanding. 1. Cuando (ser) niño, siempre (jugar) en el parque. Answer: era, jugaba Both verbs are in imperfect because they describe habitual past actions (being a child and playing regularly). 2. Ayer, yo (comer) una pizza entera. Answer: comí Preterite is used because it's a completed action at a specific time (yesterday). 3. Mientras ella (leer), él (llegar). Answer: leía, llegó Imperfect for ongoing action (reading), preterite for the interrupting action (arriving). 4. El año pasado, nosotros (viajar) a España por dos semanas. Answer: viajamos Preterite is used because it's a completed action with a specific duration. 5. Cuando (tener) diez años, (romperse) el brazo. Answer: tenía, me rompí Imperfect for age/background information, preterite for the specific completed action. 6. Generalmente, ellos (cenar) a las 8, pero anoche (cenar) a las 10. Answer: cenaban, cenaron Imperfect for habitual action, preterite for the specific exception. 7. La semana pasada, tú (estar) enfermo por tres días. Answer: estuviste Preterite is used for a state that lasted for a specific, limited time. 8. Cuando vivía en México, (llover) mucho durante el verano. Answer: llovía Imperfect is used for weather conditions in the past, especially habitual ones. 9. Ayer por la noche, (ver) una película muy interesante. Answer: vi Preterite is used for a completed action at a specific time (last night). 10. De repente, el teléfono (sonar) mientras yo (dormir). Answer: vi Preterite is used for a completed action at a specific time (last night). 10. De repente, el teléfono (sonar) mientras yo (dormir). Answer: vi Preterite is used for a completed action at a specific time (last night). sonó, dormía Preterite for the sudden action (rang), imperfect for the ongoing action (was sleeping). 11. Cada verano, mis abuelos ____ (venir) a visitarnos. Answer: venían Imperfect is used for the beginning of an action at a specific time. 13. Cuando _____ (conocer) a mi esposa, ella _____ (trabajar) en un banco. Answer: conocí, trabajaba Preterite for the moment of meeting, imperfect for the background situation. 14. Antes _____ (haber) más árboles en este parque. Answer: había Imperfect is used for describing how things were in the past. 15. Ellos _____ (casarse) en 2010 y todavía (estar) felices juntos. Answer: se casaron, están Preterite for the completed action (got married), present for current state.