

	Hablar (to speak)	Comer (to eat)	Escribir (to write)
(yo)	hablé	comí	escribí
(tú)	hablaste	comiste	escribiste
(él, ella, Ud.)	habló	comió	escribió
(nosotros)	hablamos	comimos	escribimos
(vosotros)	hablasteis	comisteis	escribisteis
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	hablaron	comieron	escribieron

EJEMPLOS

¿Hablaste con el médico?

Comimos a las ocho.

No escribió en el cuaderno

Did you speak with the doctor?

We ate at eight o'clock.

He didn't write in the notebook.

The **e** → **ie** or **o** → **ue** stem-changing verbs in the present tense do not make those changes in the preterit (i.e., **entiendo** → **entendí**, **cuento** → **conté**). However, stem-changing **-ir** verbs in the present tense do change from **e** → **i** or from **o** → **u** in the third person singular and plural of the preterit:

Repetir (to repeat)		Dormir (to sleep)	
repetí	repetimos	dormí	dormimos
repetiste	repetisteis	dormiste	dormisteis
repitió	repitieron	durmió	durmieron

The preterit endings are the same for both **-er** and **-ir** verbs. For **-ar** and **-ir** verbs, the first person plural is the same in the present and the preterit tense (e.g., **hablamos hoy**, **hablamos ayer**). Also, all preterit forms are stressed on the endings rather than the stems.





LA PRÁCTICA 1

Change these sentences from the present to the preterit tense:

1. Carlos toma café. **Carlos tomó café.**
2. Nosotros vendemos el carro. _____
3. ¿Qué estudias? _____
4. No viven aquí. _____
5. Entiendo el ejercicio. _____
6. Conversan en español. _____
7. Ella pide comida. _____
8. No encuentro las llaves. _____
9. ¿Cuándo viajas? _____
10. El bebé duerme mucho. _____

Translate into Spanish:

11. He called me twice. **Me llamó dos veces.**
12. I bought the dress yesterday. _____
13. She lived there for two years. _____
14. Our neighbor died last night. _____
15. They asked for more money. _____
16. Did you close the door? _____
17. I didn't drive yesterday. _____
18. He repeated the lesson. _____
19. We didn't visit Spain. _____
20. What did they serve? _____

Verbs with Spelling Changes

Verbos con cambios de deletreo

Many Spanish verbs appear to be irregular in the preterit simply due to their changes in spelling. Changes are made in the first person singular in order to retain the normal sounds in speech.

- (/k/)

Explicar (to explain)	
explic <u>qué</u>	explicamos
explicaste	explicasteis
explicó	explicaron

Other similar verbs are **buscar** (to look for), **sacar** (to remove), **mascar** (to chew), **pescar** (to fish), **equivocarse** (to be wrong), **secar** (to dry), **colocar** (to place), **acercarse** (to get near), **embarcarse** (to board), **indicar** (to indicate), **marcar** (to dial), **educar** (to educate).

- (/g/)

Llegar (to arrive)	
lleg <u>ué</u>	llegamos
llegaste	llegasteis
llegó	llegaron

Other similar verbs are **agregar** (to add), **entregar** (to turn in), **pegar** (to hit, to stick), **apagar** (to turn off), **pagar** (to pay), **jugar** (to play), **castigar** (to punish), **navegar** (to sail), **cargar** (to charge), **juzgar** (to judge), **colgar** (to hang), **tragar** (to swallow).

- (/z/)

Rezar (to pray)	
rec <u>é</u>	rezamos
rezaste	rezasteis
rezó	rezaron

Other identical conjugations include **abrazar** (to hug), **alcanzar** (to reach), **almorzar** (to have lunch), **cruzar** (to cross), **gozar** (to enjoy), **organizar** (to organize), **empezar** (to begin), **rechazar** (to refuse), **comenzar** (to start), **reemplazar** (to replace), **tropezar** (to trip).

EJEMPLOS

¡Caramba! ¡Me equivoqué!
Colgué la ropa en el ropero.
No desayuné con mi familia.

Shucks! I made a mistake!
I hung up the clothes in the closet.
I didn't have breakfast with my family.

Additional Characteristics About Verbs with Spelling Changes

- Verbs like **reír** (to laugh), **freír** (to fry), and **sonreír** (to smile) have a written accent mark on most of the forms in the preterit (i.e., **reí, reíste, rió, reímos, reísteis, rieron**).
- The verb **ver** (to see) is regular in the preterit, but has no written accent marks (i.e., **vi, viste, vio, vimos, visteis, vieron**).
- ir** verbs with stems ending in **ñ** drop the **i** in the third person in the preterit (e.g., **gruñir** [to grunt] – **gruñó, gruñeron**).
- Verbs ending in **-guar**, like **averiguar** (to investigate) change spelling in the first person singular in the preterit (**averigüé, averiguaste, averiguó, averiguamos, averiguasteis, averiguaron**).

TIP

Do not confuse words with the first person singular **-o** endings in the present indicative with words that have the third person singular **-ó** endings in the preterit.



LA PRÁCTICA 2

Write the first person singular form for each of these verbs:

- secar sequé
- alcanzar _____
- colocar _____
- pegar _____
- averiguar _____
- freír _____
- ver _____
- gruñir _____
- mascar _____
- cruzar _____

Verbs with Special Conjugations

Verbos con conjugaciones especiales

When the stem of an **-er** or **-ir** verb ends in **a**, **e**, **i**, or **o**, the following changes are made in the third person. Notice the written accent marks:

Creer (to believe)		Oir (to hear)	
creí	creímos	oí	oímos
creíste	creísteis	oíste	oísteis
creyó	creyeron	oyó	oyeron

Other verbs with such conjugations include **leer** (to read), **caer** (to fall), **poseer** (to possess), **proveer** (to provide).

With all verbs ending in **-uir** (except **-guir**), the pattern is somewhat similar:

Incluir (to include)	
incluí	incluimos
incluiste	incluisteis
incluyó	incluyeron

Other similar verbs are **obstruir** (to block), **concluir** (to conclude), **destruir** (to destroy), **contribuir** (to contribute), **distribuir** (to distribute), **substituir** (to substitute), **construir** (to build), **huir** (to escape).



LA PRÁCTICA 3

¿Qué pasó ayer? Follow the model:

- organizar la oficina (**yo**) Organicé la oficina ayer.
- tocar el piano (**él**) _____
- llegar tarde (**ellos**) _____
- distribuir los periódicos (**tú**) _____
- construir el mueble (**ella**) _____
- empezar a estudiar (**yo**) _____
- leer la historia (**nosotros**) _____
- ver una película (**Ud.**) _____

9. pagar la cuenta (**ellas**) _____

10. pescar en el río (**Uds.**) _____

Irregular Verbs

Verbos irregulares

Although several Spanish verbs have an irregular stem that must be memorized, most take the same endings in the preterit:

	Tener (to have)	Estar (to be)	Andar (to go, walk)
(yo)	tu ve	estuve	anduve
(tú)	tuv iste	estuviste	anduviste
(él, ella, Ud.)	tu vo	estuvo	anduvo
(nosotros)	tuv imos	estuvimos	anduvimos
(vosotros)	tuv isteis	estuvisteis	anduvisteis
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	tuv ieron	estuvieron	anduvieron

	Traer (to bring)	Decir (to say, tell)	Traducir (to translate)
(yo)	traj e	dije	traduje
(tú)	traj iste	dijiste	tradujiste
(él, ella, Ud.)	traj o	dijo	tradujo
(nosotros)	traj imos	dijimos	tradujimos
(vosotros)	traj isteis	dijisteis	tradujisteis
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	traj eron	dijeron	tradujeron

	Querer (to want)	Poner (to put)	Hacer (to do, make)
(yo)	quis e	puse	hice
(tú)	quis iste	pusiste	hiciste
(él, ella, Ud.)	quis o	puso	hizo
(nosotros)	quis imos	pusimos	hicimos
(vosotros)	quis isteis	pusisteis	hicisteis
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	quis ieron	pusieron	hicieron

	Saber (to know)	Caber (to fit)	Venir (to come)
(yo)	sup e	cupe	vine
(tú)	sup iste	cupiste	viniste
(él, ella, Ud.)	sup o	cupo	vino
(nosotros)	sup imos	cupimos	vinimos
(vosotros)	sup isteis	cupisteis	vinisteis
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	sup ieron	cupieron	vinieron

Ser (to be) and **ir** (to go) are irregular verbs also, but they have identical preterit forms. The meanings of the forms of **ser** and **ir** in the preterit are understood when placed in context. The verb **dar** (to give) is similar to the regular verb **ver** (to see):

TIP

Notice how the third person singular of **hacer** in the preterit is spelled **hizo**, and how the third person plural form of verbs with stems ending in **j**, such as **traieron** (**traer**) or **dijeron** (**decir**), do not have the **-ieron** ending.

	Ser	Ir	Dar
(yo)	fui	fui	di
(tú)	fuiste	fuiste	diste
(él, ella, Ud.)	fue	fue	dio
(nosotros)	fuimos	fuimos	dimos
(vosotros)	fuisteis	fuisteis	disteis
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	fueron	fueron	dieron

EJEMPLOS

¿Supiste que se casó Eva?
Anoche estuvimos en su casa.
Quiso tener una fiesta familiar.
Fueron todos sus primos.
Le trajeron docenas de regalos.
Puse la comida en la mesa.

Did you know that Eva got married?
We were at their house last night.
She wanted to have a family party.
All of her cousins went.
They brought her dozens of gifts.
I put the food on the table.

In some cases, the preterit tense may actually alter the meaning of a verb:

conocer (to know personally)
querer (to want)
saber (to know something)

La conocí.
No quise ir.
Supe la fecha.

I met her.
I refused to go.
I found out the date.



LA PRÁCTICA 4

¿Qué pasó anteayer? Follow the example.

1. Ud. / ir / al cine
2. Nosotros / hacer / la tarea
3. Ellas / andar / al supermercado
4. Carlos / poner / plantas en el jardín
5. Tú / venir / conmigo a la escuela
6. Yo no / querer / ir al trabajo
7. Ella / tener / problemas con su carro
8. Tú y yo / traer / libros a la clase
9. Uds. / traducir / los ejercicios
10. La directora me / dar / un chocolate

Anteayer usted fue al cine.

The Imperfect

Regular Verbs

Verbos regulares

The imperfect tense in Spanish is another common way to discuss what took place in the past. Unlike the preterit, however, which expresses completed action in past time, the imperfect tense generally expresses repeated or continuous action. These are the endings that are added to the stem of most verbs:

	Hablar (to speak)	Comer (to eat)	Escribir (to write)
(yo)	habl aba	com ía	escrib ía
(tú)	habl abas	com ías	escrib ías
(él, ella, Ud.)	habl aba	com ía	escrib ía
(nosotros)	habl ábamos	com íamos	escrib íamos
(vosotros)	habl abais	com íais	escrib íais
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	habl aban	com ían	escrib ían

EJEMPLOS

Los chicos hablaban toda la noche.

The kids were talking all night.

Comíamos pescado los viernes.

We used to eat fish on Fridays.

¿Escribías mucho durante la clase?

Did you write a lot during class?



LA PRÁCTICA 5

Write the first person plural form of the imperfect tense for each verb:

1. investigar investigábamos
2. encontrar _____
3. elegir _____
4. agarrar _____
5. sentir _____
6. morder _____
7. comenzar _____
8. golpear _____
9. hacer _____
10. partir _____

Irregular Verbs

Verbos irregulares

The only irregular verbs in the imperfect tense are **ir**, **ser**, and **ver**:

Ir (to go)		Ser (to be)		Ver (to see)	
iba	íbamos	era	éramos	veía	veíamos
ibas	ibais	eras	erais	veías	veíais
iba	iban	era	eran	veía	veían

TIP

Notice how the first and third person singular forms are the same in the imperfect tense, and are understood when put into context.

EJEMPLOS

Yo iba a la iglesia con mi tía.

I used to go to church with my aunt.

Veíamos videos cuando llegó.

We were watching videos when he arrived.

Eran soldados muy valientes.

They were very brave soldiers.

TIP

The preterit form of **hay** (there is, there are) is **hubo** (e.g., **hubo un accidente**, there was an accident), and the imperfect form is **había** or **habían** (e.g., **habían dos chicas**, there were two girls).



LA PRÁCTICA 6

Insert the correct form of the imperfect on each line below:

1. (comer) Samuel _____ en el hotel con frecuencia.
2. (ir) A veces los estudiantes _____ a la biblioteca.
3. (jugar) Yo _____ con el perro todos los días.
4. (vivir) Ella _____ cerca de un lago en las montañas.
5. (cantar) ¿_____ mucho cuando era más joven?
6. (dormirse) En aquella época tú _____ a las doce.
7. (ver) Nosotros siempre _____ películas con la familia.
8. (hay) En esa esquina _____ dos gasolineras.
9. (hablar) Cuando llegamos ellos _____ inglés.
10. (ser) De vez en cuando Lupe _____ muy traviesa.

Imperfect vs. Preterit: A Difference in Usage

El imperfecto comparado con el pretérito: una diferencia en el uso

Generally, a Spanish speaker views a past event in two different ways. If the speaker views the entire event as a completed event → |, started or finished in the past, he will use the preterit. However, if the speaker views the past as an event in progress → → →, as a frequently repeated act, or as a description or background activity, he will use the imperfect.

→ |

Viajé a Miami el mes pasado.

I traveled to Miami last month.

→ → →

Frecuentemente viajaba a Miami.

I used to travel to Miami frequently.

Adverbial phrases such as **con frecuencia**, **de vez en cuando**, and **muchas veces** often accompany the imperfect because they imply an unspecified period of time, whereas more concise terminology such as **ayer**, **anoche**, and **el otro día** often accompany the preterit. Moods, emotions, and thoughts are also expressed with the imperfect tense (e.g., **¿Qué pensaba ella de mí?** [What did she think of me?]). However, the imperfect, and not the preterit, is used to tell what time it *was* in the past (**Eran las tres.** [It was three o'clock.]).

Sometimes the preterit and the imperfect are used together, either when one action interrupts another, or when there is indirect discourse; that is, to report what was said before:

Tocaban música cuando llamé.

They were playing music when I called.

Él me dijo que fumabas.

He told me you used to smoke.



Verbs (e.g., **hacer**) in the imperfect tense are often translated into English as either *used to do* or *was doing*, whereas the preterit is simply *did*.



LA PRÁCTICA 7

Complete the translations using either the preterit or the imperfect:

1. *They ate the pie last night.* Anoche ellos **comieron** el pastel.
2. *She used to wash dishes.* Ella _____ los platos.
3. *We were cleaning the bathroom.* _____ el baño.
4. *Did you wake up at six o'clock?* ¿Te _____ a las seis?
5. *I studied all day long.* Toda el día yo _____.
6. *You guys refused to go.* Ustedes no _____ ir.
7. *The party lasted six hours.* La fiesta _____ seis horas.
8. *Who was living here last year?* ¿Quién _____ aquí el año pasado?
9. *She liked to swim in the river.* Le _____ bañarse en el río.
10. *There was an accident on Friday.* _____ un accidente el viernes.

Continue to translate using forms of the preterit and the imperfect:

11. *While we were practicing, he arrived with the pizza.*

Mientras que _____ él _____ con la pizza.

12. *She played the guitar and you were singing.*

Ella _____ la guitarra y tú _____.

13. *I went home after work and took a bath.*

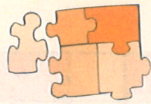
_____ a mi casa después del trabajo y me _____.

14. *He stood up and began to read.*

Se _____ y _____ a leer.

15. *They said you were going to the store.*

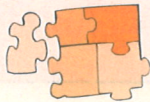
Ellos _____ que tú _____ a la tienda.



POR SU CUENTA

Conteste las preguntas con respuestas completas:

1. ¿Dónde nacieron sus padres?
 2. ¿Gastó mucho dinero la semana pasada?
 3. ¿Estudiaba español el año pasado?
 4. ¿Se lavó las manos hoy?
 5. ¿Quién estaba en su casa anoche?
 6. ¿A qué hora te acostó ayer?
 7. ¿Qué tomó cuando tenía dolor de cabeza?
 8. ¿Entendió todas las palabras en esta lección?
 9. ¿Usaba la computadora cuando era más joven?
 10. ¿Tuvo una fiesta para celebrar su cumpleaños?
-

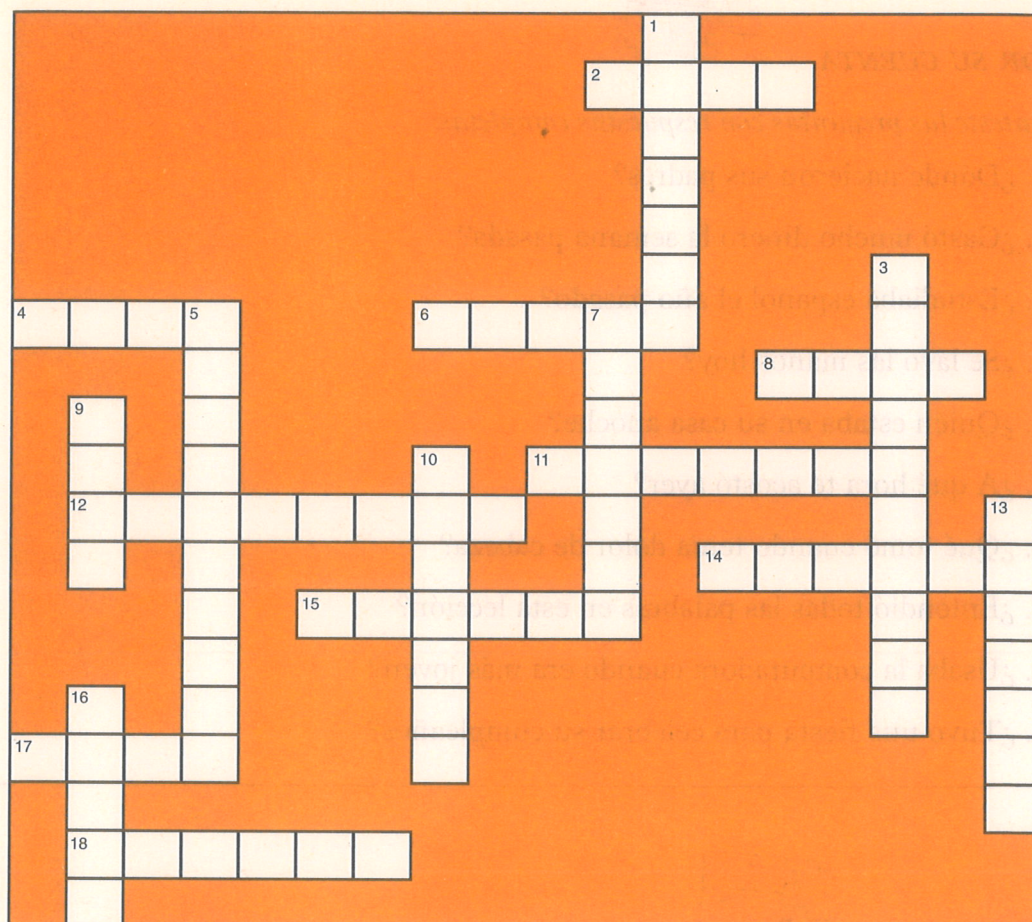


EL REPASO

Are the following statements true or false? (No answers are given: you'll have to check what you have read.)

1. The present indicative tense can refer to future action. _____
 2. The preterit tense tells what used to happen in the past. _____
 3. The imperfect can refer to actions that were happening in the past. _____
 4. The 1st person plural form is the same in the preterit and the present. _____
 5. Endings are the same for regular **-er** and **-ir** verbs in the imperfect. _____
 6. The verbs **ser** and **ir** have the same forms in the preterit tense. _____
 7. Most spelling changes in the preterit occur in the 1st person singular form. _____
 8. The verb **imponer** is conjugated the same as **poner**. _____
 9. **Hubo** and **hay** are forms of the verb **hallar**. _____
 10. The imperfect tense is used to tell what time it was in the past. _____
-

CROSSWORD 3



Translate these into Spanish:

Across

2. She came
4. I had
6. I wanted
8. They were
11. I used to travel
12. They danced
14. It was
15. We went
17. I said
18. They heard

Down

1. You did (sing. inf.)
3. You were working (sing. inf.)
5. You explained (sing. inf.)
7. We found out
9. There was
10. You ate (sing. inf.)
13. They fell
16. We gave