

El Pretérito- Past tense

In Spanish, we have two past tenses. El pretérito is used to talk about events that occurred at a specific point in the past.

Let's compare present tense to past tense:

PRESENTE OF –AR VERBS.



The present tense tells us what someone is doing or does.

The *past tense* tells us what someone *did*.

PRETERITO OF –AR VERBS

Notice that the _____ forms are the same in the past and the present.
How do we know the difference? CONTEXT!!

Keywords that describe past tense:

_____	Yesterday
_____	Last night
_____	Day before yesterday
_____	Last Wednesday
_____	Last week
_____	Last month
_____	Last year
_____	"#" days ago
_____	Once
_____	One day



Remember expressions that use the present or future?

Siempre
 todos los días
 los viernes
 hoy
 esta noche
 esta semana
 mañana
 pasado mañana
 la próxima semana
 el próximo mes
 el próximo año

Why are accents so important?

We know that words can change meaning based on accents:

Si= _____ Sí = _____

tu= _____ tú = _____

mi= _____ mí = _____

te= _____ té = _____

el = _____ él = _____



We also know that in Spanish the subject pronoun is not necessary with a verb because the verb ending tells us who is doing the action.

ENGLISH: I run, you run, we run

The subject pronoun *is* needed. “Run” by itself doesn’t tell us *who* is running.

SPANISH: Yo corro, tú corres, nosotros corremos

The subject pronouns *are not* needed. *Corro* tells us the subject is I or *yo*.

The verb endings not only tells us the _____ but they also tell us the _____.

Compare the verb llegar:

llego the –o at the end tells us the subject is _____ and also that the tense is _____.

llegó the –ó at the end tells us the subject is _____ and the tense is _____.

Is the accent important? ¡¡¡Si!!! I mean.... ¡¡Sí!! ;)

The accent is not just important for writing, but tells us how the say the word.

Try saying the following noting what syllable to stress:

compro compró trabajo trabajó miro miró

hablo hablé bailo bailó tomo tomó

Let's conjugate! Regular -AR verbs in the past tense:

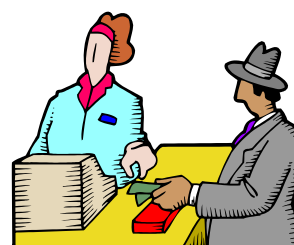
Hablar



Estudiar



Comprar



Cantar



Levantar

Levantarse

		Me	Nos
		Te	
		Se	Se



Irregulars: -CAR, GAR, -ZAR,



Verbs that end in -car, -gar, and -zar have irregular YO forms in the preterite. All other forms are regular.

-CAR: Practicar, Tocar, Buscar, Sacar

C → qu

Practicué	

(tocar) Yo _____

(buscar) Yo _____

(sacar) Yo _____

-GAR: Jugar, Llegar, Pagar

G → gu

Jugué	



*Jugar does NOT have a stem change in the preterite

*Remember jugo is juice, jugó is he/she played

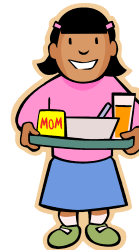
(llegar) Yo _____

(pagar) Yo _____

-ZAR: Almorzar, Comenzar,

Z → c

Almorcé	



*No stem change in preterite

(comenzar) Yo _____

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For more PRETERITE// PAST TENSE lessons, try these:

Guided Notes for –ER, -IR verbs: Just like this packet, but for the other verb endings
<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Preterite-of-IR-ER-verbs>

Past Tense Powerpoint: 8 slides of practice, for Bell Work or class activity
<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Preterite-Spanish-Powerpoint-Past-Tense>

Past Tense with informal Commands: Practice preterite with informal commands
<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Preterite-Spanish-Practice-Preterito-Whiteboard-Act-or-Worksheet>

Past Tense songs: 4 authentic songs with Past Tense focus
<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Preterite-Canciones-Songs-for-Past-Tense-Spanish>

ANSWERS: (in red)

-o	-amos
-as	-áis
-a	-an

The present tense tells us what someone is doing or does.

The *past tense* tells us what someone *did*.

PRETERITO OF –AR VERBS

-é	-amos
-aste	-asteis
-ó	-aron

Notice that the **NOSOTROS** forms are the same in the past and the present.
How do we know the difference? CONTEXT!!

Keywords that describe past tense:

ayer	Yesterday
anoche	Last night
anteayer	Day before yesterday
el miércoles pasado	Last Wednesday
la semana pasada	Last week
el mes pasado	Last month
el año pasado	Last year
hace # días	"#" days ago
una vez	Once
un día	One day



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el próximo año

Why are accents so important?

We know that words can change meaning based on accents:

Si= if	Sí = yes
tu= your	tú = you
mi= my	mí = to me (after preposition)
te= (you) pronoun	té = tea



el = **the** él = **he**

We also know that in Spanish the subject pronoun is not necessary with a verb because the verb ending tells us who is doing the action.

ENGLISH: I run, you run, we run

The subject pronoun *is* needed. “Run” by itself doesn’t tell us *who* is running.

SPANISH: Yo corro, tú corres, nosotros corremos

The subject pronouns *are not* needed. *Corro* tells us the subject is I or *yo*.

The verb endings not only tells us the **SUBJECY** but they also tell us the **TENSE**

Compare the verb llegar:

llego the –o at the end tells us the subject is **YO** and also that the tense is **PRESENT**.

llegó the –ó at the end tells us the subject is **EL, ELLA, UD.** and the tense is **PAST**