

The imperfect tense

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TENSE	Imperfect
TIME	Refers to nonspecific, continuous past actions
KEY PHRASES	“Used to,” “was + ____-ing,” “would,” “always”
STRUCTURE	Simple tense: VERB BASE + VERB ENDING

We use the imperfect tense when referring to actions that took place in the past, either repeatedly or over an extended period of time. It also indicates that an action in the past took place during an unspecified span of time. This differs significantly from the preterite, which is used to specify an action either at a particular point in time or for a specific number of times.

In fact, the element of time, though certainly in the past, is necessarily *not* specific for actions expressed in the imperfect. In these situations, it is simply irrelevant. Therefore, for situations expressed in the imperfect, one cannot determine when the action began or ended, the exact time it occurred, or the number of times it occurred.

Consider the following sentences.

I used to live in St. Louis.

John always ate cereal for breakfast.

Abby was a good conversationalist.

In the first sentence, the message clearly states that I lived in St. Louis in the past; however, *when* or *for how long* is not mentioned. While this action could be quantified (for example, I lived in St. Louis *for four years*), in this sentence the speaker has chosen not to do so. Thus, in this case, the length of time is irrelevant.

In the second sentence, we know that in the past John ate cereal for breakfast. The addition of the word *always*, however, indicates both that he did so many, many times and that it would be virtually impossible to find out exactly how many times he did eat cereal for breakfast. In this case, the number of times cannot be determined.

The last sentence is a description of something that was ongoing. In fact, there is no real action involved other than being. The time involved most likely would be “most of Abby’s life.” As in the first sentence, the exact amount of time is irrelevant in this context and, as in the second example, it would be impossible to determine exactly how long she was able to keep up her end of a conversation.

The essence of the imperfect tense is that the specific elements of time are missing. Messages in the imperfect do not tell us *when specifically*, but rather *when in general*. To summarize, the imperfect tense is used to refer to past actions in the following situations.

- ◆ The length of time over which the action occurred is irrelevant.
- ◆ The number of times the action occurred cannot be determined.
- ◆ The action is one of “being” in the past in a situation that was ongoing.

Regular verbs in the imperfect

Nearly all verbs in the imperfect are regular. To form the imperfect, follow the patterns below.

-ar VERBS Drop the **-ar** infinitive ending and add the following verb endings.

-aba	-ábamos
-abas	-abais
-aba	-aban

Below are the full conjugations of **hablar** and **estudiar** in the imperfect tense.

hablar to speak, talk		estudiar to study	
hablaba	hablábamos	estudiaba	estudiábamos
hablabas	hablabais	estudiabas	estudiabais
hablaba	hablaban	estudiaba	estudiaban

-er AND -ir VERBS Drop the **-er** or **-ir** infinitive ending and add the following verb endings.

-ía	-íamos
-ías	-íais
-ía	-ían

Below are the full conjugations of **comer** and **vivir** in the imperfect tense.

comer to eat		vivir to live	
comía	comíamos	vivía	vivíamos
comías	comíais	vivías	vivíais
comía	comían	vivía	vivían

Irregular verbs in the imperfect

There are only three verbs that are irregular in the imperfect—**ser**, **ir**, and **ver**. Their full conjugations in the imperfect are below.

ser to be		ir to go		ver to see	
era	éramos	iba	íbamos	veía	veíamos
eras	erais	ibas	ibais	veías	veíais
era	eran	iba	iban	veía	veían

Note that for all verbs—regular and irregular—the first- and third-person singular forms are identical in the imperfect tense.

When to use the imperfect

Habitual or continuous action in the past

In English, we often use the phrase “used to,” as in “I used to live in Texas” or “They used to eat in that restaurant.” In these cases, there is no indication of when or how many times this action occurred or how long it lasted.

EJERCICIO

¿Cuál es verdadero o falso para ti?

1. ____ Vivías en Nueva York.
2. ____ Jugabas con muñecas.
3. ____ De niño/niña, tenías un perro.
4. ____ Mirabas *Barrio Sésamo* (*Sesame Street*).
5. ____ Trabajabas en un restaurante.
6. ____ Leías la revista *Highlights*.
7. ____ Masticabas chicle en la escuela.
8. ____ Montabas en triciclo.
9. ____ Almorzabas en una cafetería.
10. ____ Ibas a la escuela en autobús.
11. ____ Saltabas en la cama.
12. ____ Tomabas vitaminas.

EJERCICIO

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Traducción

1. *I used to study with John.*

2. *He used to work in a bank.*

3. *We used to live in an apartment.*

4. *They [m.] used to write notes in class.*

5. *You used to read lots of magazines.*

6. *You all used to open the windows in January.*

7. *I used to make my bed every morning.*

8. *Mickey Mantle used to play baseball for the Yankees.*

9. *They [f.] used to call us every night.*

10. *Where did you used to work?*

11. *Where did you all [formal] used to live?*

12. *He used to swim in our pool.*

13. *Mark used to be president of our club.*

14. *I used to go to Ravello, Italy every winter.*

15. *We used to invite everybody to our parties.*

Simple description

Many times sentences in the imperfect simply describe how things were. Whereas the preterite often emphasizes physical action, the imperfect frequently focuses on background description. It references what things were like, rather than what happened. The verb **ser**, which is used for description, origin, and time, and the verb **estar**, used to denote location, short-term conditions, and the result of an action, are both used frequently in such situations. Consider the following sentences.

Compré un coche.	PRETERITE (specific action)	<i>I bought a car.</i>
El coche era rojo.	IMPERFECT (description)	<i>The car was red.</i>
Ana se casó .	PRETERITE (specific action)	<i>Ana got married.</i>
Ana estaba casada.	IMPERFECT (description)	<i>Ana was married.</i>

Descriptions involving a person's profession or role in the past are in the imperfect, because they refer to what the person "used to" be or do. In addition, it would often be difficult, if not impossible, to pinpoint when this "being" or "doing" began and ended.

EJERCICIO

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¿Qué era? Complete each of the following sentences with the appropriate profession. Choose from the selections that follow, using the plural form where appropriate.

filósofo	arquitecto	bailarín	explorador
psiquiatra	payaso	político	escritor
detective	pianista	antropóloga	pintor

1. Bill Clinton era _____.
2. Frank Lloyd Wright era _____.
3. Bozo era _____.
4. Margaret Mead era _____.
5. Sherlock Holmes y Hercule Poirot eran _____.
6. Leo Tolstoy era _____.
7. Vladimir Horowitz era _____.
8. Aristóteles era _____.
9. Pablo Picasso era _____.
10. Sigmund Freud era _____.
11. Rudolf Nureyev y Anna Pavlova eran _____.
12. Cristóbal Colón era _____.

EJERCICIO

14·3

Traducción

1. *My father was a farmer* (el granjero).

2. *Mary had a little lamb* (el corderito).

3. *We wore uniforms to school.*

4. *I was embarrassed* (avergonzado).

5. *The store didn't have the shirt that I wanted.*

6. *The windows were open, but the door was closed.*

7. *Susana was pregnant* (embarazada).

8. *You all were wearing silly hats.*

9. *George was tall and handsome.*

10. *The cat was in the attic* (el desván).

11. *My pen didn't work* (funcionar).

12. *Where was the money?*

13. *I had lots of friends at camp* (el campamento).

14. *The cat was black and white.*

15. *The monster had two heads.*

EJERCICIO

14·4

Traducción

VOCABULARIO	la ciencia	<i>science</i>
	el científico, la científica	<i>scientist</i>
	la clase	<i>class</i>
	diferente	<i>different</i>
	la explosión	<i>explosion</i>
	fingir	<i>to pretend</i>
	el laboratorio	<i>laboratory</i>
	loco/loca	<i>mad, crazy</i>
	el médico, la médica	<i>doctor</i>
	menor	<i>younger</i>
	mezclar	<i>to mix</i>
	soñar con + INFINITIVE	<i>to dream of (being/doing something)</i>

When I was younger, I liked school a lot. My favorite class was science, and I always dreamed of being a doctor. I had a "laboratory" in my house. I used to mix different things and I hoped for an explosion. Whenever I did this, my mother was angry. She liked the house as it was. My friends and I pretended that we were mad scientists.

“-ing” in the past

The addition of “-ing” to a verb in English indicates an action in progress, for example, “I am working.” References to such actions in the past (“I was working”) generally omit mention of a specific length of time, and thus are conjugated in the imperfect. We often use this format to describe two actions going on at the same time, for example, **Yo tocaba la guitarra y Juan cantaba** (“I was playing the guitar and John was singing”). See also The progressive in the past, page 155.

EJERCICIO

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Traducción

1. *I was washing (fregar) the dishes.*

2. *Nobody was listening while the politician was speaking.*

3. *He was walking and I was running.*

4. *They [m.] were listening to the radio while they were studying.*

5. *We were trying to sleep, but the baby was crying (llorar).*

6. *Why were you watching television while I was studying?*

7. *The children were playing in the garden.*

8. *We were living in a glass house.*

9. *You all were selling T-shirts (la camiseta) on the corner (la esquina).*

10. *I was suffering from a cold (el resfriado).*

11. *The frogs were jumping (saltar) near the lake.*

12. *I was taking a shower while they [f.] were eating breakfast.*

13. *Carmen was preparing dinner.*

14. *We were thinking about you a lot.*

15. *While she was explaining the theory (la teoría), everybody was leaving.*

Mental or emotional action or physical sensation

Feelings and mental actions are usually not bound by either time or number of occurrences. These actions are not physical. Rather, they describe a state of being, and thus they are continuous. In fact, several of the verbs listed below change meaning significantly when used in the preterite (see The preterite tense, page 109).

Yo esperaba el autobús.

I was waiting for the bus.

OR ***I waited*** for the bus.

No creíamos el cuento.

We didn't believe the story.

Estabas cansado.

You were tired.

Queríais ir al cine.

You wanted to go to the movies.

Romeo amaba mucho a Julieta.

Romeo loved Juliet a lot.

Ellos tenían veinte dólares esta mañana.

They had twenty dollars this morning.

Hacía buen tiempo.

It was nice out.

Me dolían los oídos.

My ears hurt.

Below are several common verbs that are often used in the imperfect.

VOCABULARIO

amar	to love	molestar	to be bothersome to
conocer	to know a person/place	odiar	to hate
creer	to believe	pensar (e > ie) (en)	to think (about)
doler	to be painful to	poder (o > ue)	to be able to
esperar	to hope, wait (for)	querer (e > ie)	to want
estar	to be	saber	to know
gustar	to be pleasing to	sentir (e > ie)	to regret, feel sorry
llevarse bien con	to get along with	sentirse (e > ie)	to feel

EJERCICIO

14·6

¿Verdadero o falso? *Some of the following sentences contain both an imperfect and a preterite clause.*

1. ____ Esta mañana nadie comió nada porque no tenía hambre.
2. ____ Dumbo podía volar porque tenía unas orejas enormes.
3. ____ Muchas personas fueron al cine la semana pasada porque querían ver una película.
4. ____ Elvis Presley era un cantante muy popular que también actuó en treinta y una películas.
5. ____ John Lennon tocaba la guitarra para los Beatles y también escribió muchas canciones.
6. ____ De niño, Mahatma Gandhi tenía un televisor en su dormitorio y lo miraba mucho.

EJERCICIO

14·7

Traducción

1. *I knew the answer.*

2. *Jane hated the color red.*

3. *Did you know him?*

4. *They [m.] didn't believe me.*

5. *My family loved me a lot.*

6. *We were very sad for a long time.*

7. *He hated his new boss.*

8. *I liked the photo of your family.*

9. *I liked the flowers in their garden.*

10. *Even though he bothered me, I loved him.*

11. *She worried about you a lot.*

12. *Were you thinking about me?*

13. *What were you thinking about?*

14. *How did you feel during the trial (el juicio)?*

15. *He didn't get along with his mother-in-law (la suegra).*

EJERCICIO

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Traducción *This paragraph contains verbs in the present, preterite, and imperfect tenses.*

VOCABULARIO	enorme	<i>enormous</i>
	la experiencia	<i>experience</i>
	extraño	<i>strange</i>
	la mariposa	<i>butterfly</i>
	por un rato	<i>for a while</i>
	la raya	<i>stripe</i>

Yesterday, when I was walking to school, I saw a butterfly. It was enormous. At first I was afraid, but only for a while, because I knew that butterflies are not monsters. It was red and orange and had yellow stripes. It was beautiful and it had big eyes that seemed purple to me. This experience was very strange.

“Would” and “could” in the past

The words “would” and “could” are markers for two different tenses in English—the imperfect and the conditional. Because of this, they often present problems for English speakers who are learning another language. Consider the following sentences.

I would go to the movies, but I don't have time.

I would go to the movies every weekend as a child. (I used to go to the movies....)

The first sentence is in the conditional tense (which will be covered in Chapter 16), because it refers to an action that *would* take place if a certain condition were met, namely, my having more time. The second sentence is in the imperfect, because it refers to an action that took place many times in the *past*. In the imperfect, “would” is the equivalent of “used to.”

The same holds true for “could.” Consider the following sentences.

I'm so hungry, I could eat three hamburgers.

When I was younger, I could eat three hamburgers without gaining weight.

The first sentence is conditional because it refers to an uncompleted action that might (or might not) take place in the future. The second, however, refers to what the person “used to be able to” do. In the imperfect, “could” is equivalent to “was able to” or “were able to.”

Additional examples illustrate these differences.

Cuando yo era joven, **jugaba** al béisbol cada fin de semana.

Cuando yo vivía en Florida, **podía** nadar todo el año.

Juan **no estudiaba** porque no le gustaba la clase.

When I was young, I would play baseball every weekend. (used to)

When I lived in Florida, I could swim all year long. (was able to)

John wouldn't study because he didn't like the class. (didn't used to)

Traducción

1. *As a child, John would watch TV every day after school.*

2. *When we lived in France, we would drink wine with every meal.*

3. *Last year they [m.] couldn't speak Spanish.*

4. *Why couldn't you go to the movies with me?*

5. *When I was young, I would look under the bed every night before turning out (apagar) the light.*

6. *Lou Gehrig could play baseball better than Ty Cobb.*

7. *When Jane used to work at the bank, she would drink fifteen cups (la taza) of coffee every day.*

8. *When you [formal] were younger, you could remember the capitals of every state.*

9. *When John Smith worked for the CIA, he would never tell anybody his real name.*

10. *They [m.] couldn't vote because they didn't have identification.*

11. *You were never home. Where would you go those nights?*

12. *We couldn't call you because the telephone wouldn't work.*

13. *For every party that we had, Lisa would bring french fries and I would bring ketchup.*

14. *The bread was moldy (mohoso). I couldn't eat it.*

15. *As a girl, Vicky would have to make her bed every morning before leaving for school.*

Key words and phrases

Certain words or phrases, when used to describe frequency of a past action, imply repetitive, uncounted occurrences of that action. When one of these words or phrases appears in a sentence describing an ongoing past action, use the imperfect tense. Several of these words and phrases are listed below.

VOCABULARIO

all day long	todo el día	from time to time	de vez en cuando
all one's life	toda la vida	many times	muchas veces
all the time	todo el tiempo	never	nunca
always	siempre	often	a menudo, con frecuencia
at times, sometimes	a veces	so many times	tantas veces
every day	cada día	various/several times	varias veces
every year	cada año	whenever	cuando
for a while	por un rato		
frequently	frecuentemente, con frecuencia		

EJERCICIO

14·10

Traducción

1. *I always studied before a test.*

2. *He frequently called me after 10:00 P.M.*

3. *All my life I wanted to have a piano.*

4. *They [m.] always cheated (engañar) us whenever we played cards.*

5. *You ate there frequently.*

6. *You all often wrote long letters.*

7. *From time to time we sent money to the organization.*

8. *Sometimes he didn't earn as much money as his wife.*

9. *All the time that I was there, you all never said anything.*

10. *He always sent a thank-you note after receiving a gift.*

11. *She never bought anything without a coupon (el cupón).*

12. *He frequently lied to us, but we never said anything to him.*

13. *I always wondered (preguntarse) why she washed her hands so many times every day.*

14. *She was never happy. She complained every day, all day long.*

15. *At times we read, and at times we wrote in our diaries.*

EJERCICIO

¡Te toca a ti! *Cuando eras menor, ¿cuál era verdadero (V) o falso (F) para ti?*

1. ____ Cada día me cepillaba los dientes dos o tres veces.
2. ____ Jugaba a las damas con mis amigos.
3. ____ Todo el día robaba bancos y varias tiendas.
4. ____ Con frecuencia dormía hasta las tres de la tarde.
5. ____ Siempre me llevaba bien (*got along*) bien con mis padres.
6. ____ A veces nadaba en un lago y otras veces nadaba en el océano.
7. ____ Con frecuencia recibía una "F" en la clase de matemáticas.
8. ____ Siempre me llevaba bien con mis amigos.
9. ____ Cada día tenía una manicura y una pedicura.
10. ____ Casi cada día hablaba por teléfono.

Complete each sentence with the appropriate preterite or imperfect form of the verb in parentheses. Look for the markers. For example, **anoche** (last night) indicates the preterite, while **con frecuencia** (frequently) indicates the imperfect.

1. Yo _____ (hablar) con Jorge esta mañana.
2. De niño, Felipe _____ (vivir) en México.
3. Anoche, Marcos _____ (comer) tres tacos.
4. De niño, Marcos _____ (comer) tacos cada noche.
5. Ayer, nosotros _____ (ir) al cine.
6. Yo _____ (comprar) esta camisa en Harrods.
7. Nosotros _____ (llegar) aquí a las dos de la tarde.
8. Juanita _____ (llegar) a la una.
9. María siempre _____ (estudiar) en la cocina.
10. Ayer María _____ (estudiar) por una hora.
11. A veces los señores Molino _____ (comer) en el patio.
12. El jueves pasado, los Yankees de Nueva York _____ (jugar) al béisbol contra los Twins de Minnesota.
13. Mi tío siempre _____ (ser) más alto que yo.
14. Tú nunca _____ (ser) tan alto como yo.
15. Ellos _____ (ir) al cine tres veces el fin de semana pasado.

Clock time and age in the past

When referring to the time of day or one's age in the past, always use the imperfect. There are only two verbs involved here: **ser** (for clock time) and **tener** (for age). Note that references to time and age are often made with regard to other actions, and that these actions often (but not always) are in the preterite.

Era la una cuando **llegué**.

IMPERFECT + PRETERITE

It was one o'clock when I arrived.

Eran las ocho y media cuando **me desperté**.

IMPERFECT + PRETERITE

It was eight thirty when I woke up.

Yo tenía diez años cuando **conocí** a Juan.

IMPERFECT + PRETERITE

I was ten years old when I met John.

No conocía a Juan cuando **tenía** ocho años.

IMPERFECT + IMPERFECT

I didn't know John when I was eight.

Traducción

1. *It was two thirty when you called me.*

2. *Mary was twenty-two when she bought her first car.*

3. *It was a quarter after four when I found the money.*

4. *They [f.] were eighteen years old when they graduated (graduarse) from high school.*

5. *It was five to five when the tree fell down.*

6. *We worked hard when we were fifteen.*

7. *When I got up, it was six fifteen.*

8. *I learned how to ride a bike when I was six years old.*

9. *It was a quarter to four in the morning when the telephone rang.*

10. *She had her first baby, a girl, when she was forty-one, and she had her second daughter when she was forty-four.*

11. *We didn't know that it was twelve thirty.*

12. *It was three o'clock in the morning when they left.*

13. *Where did you live when you were fourteen years old?*

14. *What time was it when you finished the book?*

15. *How old was John when he got married (casarse)?*

¡Te toca a ti! Responde a las preguntas siguientes con una frase completa.

1. ¿Qué hora era cuando te acostaste anoche?

2. ¿Qué hora era cuando te levantaste esta mañana?

3. ¿Cuántos años tenías cuando comenzaste la escuela?

4. ¿Cuántos años tenías cuando aprendiste a montar en bicicleta?

5. ¿Qué hora era cuando saliste de tu casa esta mañana?

6. ¿Qué hora era cuando volviste a tu casa anoche?

7. ¿Cuántos años tenías cuando comenzaste a estudiar español?

8. ¿Cuántos años tenías cuando aprendiste a nadar?

Había—hay in the past

Just as **hay** in the present is both singular and plural (“there is,” “there are”), the imperfect form **había** (from the verb **haber**), means both “there was” and “there were.” Because **había** as an imperfect form is used to express existence, not action, it is typically used to express **hay** when referring to the past.

Había leche en el refrigerador.

There was milk in the refrigerator.

Había tres hombres y un bebé en la película.

There were three men and a baby in the movie.

No había dinero en el banco.

There wasn't any money in the bank.

No había hojas en el árbol.

There weren't any leaves on the tree.

NOTE In the preterite, **hay** becomes **hubo**. Due to **hay**'s primary function of expressing existence (a usage most often requiring the imperfect tense in the past), the preterite form of **hay** is used only rarely—for example, **Hubo un ataque nuclear anoche** (“There was a nuclear attack last night”).

Traducción Remember that the English word "any" is understood in negative expressions with **hay**.

1. *There was a spider under my bed this morning.*

2. *There were twenty people at the party.*

3. *There was a fly in my soup.*

4. *There were one hundred questions on the test.*

5. *There was a lot of noise during the storm.*

6. *There were five hundred pages in the book.*

7. *There wasn't any gasoline in the tank.*

8. *There weren't any leaves on the trees.*

9. *There wasn't enough time for questions.*

10. *There were more women than men at the meeting.*

11. *There was garbage (la basura) on the table.*

12. *There was so much fog (la niebla) that I couldn't drive.*

13. *In January, because it was so cold, there wasn't anybody outside.*

14. *In the summer, there were lots of people in the streets.*

15. *There weren't any women in that restaurant.*

Traducción

1. *I was going to eat.*

2. *Were you going to tell me something?*

3. *He was going to wear his white shirt, but it was dirty.*

4. *We were going to shovel (quitar) the snow.*

5. *They [m.] were going to spend the day in the country, but the weather was bad.*

6. *When were you all [formal] going to sit down?*

7. *I was going to go to bed at ten thirty, but there was a good program on television.*

8. *How were you going to do this?*

9. *Why was she going to build a house in the woods?*

10. *Who was going to fix this faucet (el grifo)?*

11. *We were going to brush our teeth, but there wasn't any toothpaste (la pasta de dientes).*

12. *I was going to give him money for his birthday.*

13. *Where were you all going to send this package?*

14. *When were you going to bring us the flowers?*

15. *Why wasn't he going to fill the glasses with water?*

The progressive in the past

There are two ways to show the progressive (that is, English “-ing” expressions) in the past in Spanish: You can use the imperfect tense (see “-ing” in the past on page 141), or you can use **estar** + PRESENT PARTICIPLE, where **estar** is conjugated in the imperfect. This latter construction is identical to the present progressive as covered in Chapter 12, except that in referring to the past, the conjugated form of **estar** is in the imperfect tense.

Yo estaba hablando.

Estábamos comiendo.

Estabas leyendo un libro.

Estabais arreglando el coche.

Él estaba cepillándose los dientes.

Ellas estaban mirándose.

I was speaking.

We were eating.

You were reading a book.

You were fixing the car.

He was brushing his teeth.

They were looking at each other.

EJERCICIO

¿Qué estabas haciendo anoche? *Escribe una X delante de las cosas que estabas haciendo anoche.*

1. ____ Yo estaba estudiando español.
2. ____ Yo estaba jugando a los naipes.
3. ____ Yo estaba duchándome.
4. ____ Yo estaba escribiendo una carta.
5. ____ Yo estaba pagando las cuentas.
6. ____ Yo estaba limpiando la casa.
7. ____ Yo estaba cocinando.
8. ____ Yo estaba contando el dinero.
9. ____ Yo estaba durmiendo.
10. ____ Yo estaba pensando en mis amigos.
11. ____ Yo estaba sirviendo una comida especial a mi familia.
12. ____ Yo estaba escuchando la radio.

EJERCICIO

14·17

Traducción

1. *I was eating.* _____
2. *You were studying.* _____
3. *Dumbo was flying.* _____
4. *She was eating lunch.* _____
5. *We were drinking milk.* _____
6. *You all were telling the truth.* _____
7. *They [m.] were going to bed.* _____
8. *You all [formal] were brushing your hair.* _____
9. *I was taking a bath.* _____
10. *John was shaving.* _____
11. *Sophia was playing the piano.* _____
12. *Sophia was playing tennis.* _____

EJERCICIO

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Traducción *This paragraph includes verbs in the present, preterite, and imperfect tenses.*

VOCABULARIO	afirmar que el celular celular el chanchullero, la chanchullera la culpa el demandado, la demandada el/la demandante demandar el episodio fallar a favor de incluso si el/la juez mientras la onza el pedazo pesar poner un anuncio el programa según	<i>to claim that</i> <i>cell phone</i> <i>cellular</i> <i>scammer</i> <i>fault</i> <i>defendant</i> <i>plaintiff</i> <i>to sue</i> <i>episode</i> <i>to rule in favor of</i> <i>even if</i> <i>judge</i> <i>while</i> <i>ounce</i> <i>piece</i> <i>to weigh</i> <i>to place an ad</i> <i>program, show</i> <i>according to</i>
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