

# Preterite of -ar verbs

## Preview

- Preterite tense
- Preterite of -ar verbs, nosotros form
- Stem-changing -ar verbs

## Preterite tense

- Use the **preterite** tense to talk about what happened or what someone did at a specific point in the past.
- To form the **preterite** of **-ar** verbs, like **comprar**, add these endings to the verb's stem.

yo compré

nosotros(as) compramos

tú compraste

vosotros(as) comprasteis

Ud., él, ella compró

Uds., ellos, ellas compraron

**Compré** un DVD ayer. *I bought a DVD yesterday.*

## Preterite of -ar verbs, nosotros form

- Note that, in the **preterite**, the **nosotros** form of **-ar** verbs looks exactly like the present tense form.
- You will have to use context to decide whether the speaker is talking about the present or the past.

Isa y yo **gastamos** mucho ayer. Casi nunca gastamos tanto.

## Stem-changing -ar verbs

- The stem-changing **-ar** verbs do not have stem changes in the **preterite**.

**Encontré** una camisa bonita y la compré.