

EL PRETÉRITO



THE PRETERITE (PAST) TENSE



What is the preterite used for?

- The preterite is used for actions in the past that are seen as completed.
- The use of the preterite tense implies that the past action had a definite beginning and definite end
- The preterite also tells us specifically when an action took place.



Examples of the preterite tense:

- Carlos bought a CD
- María ate a hamburger
- On Friday Jorge went to the swimming pool



Regular verbs



Conjugating regular ‘ar’ verbs:

- To conjugate regular -ar verbs in the preterite, simply drop the -ar and add the following endings:

yo	é
tú	aste
él/ella	ó
nosotros	amos
vosotros	asteis
ellos/ellas	aron

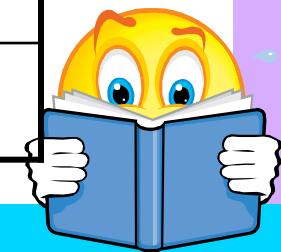


Example of regular ‘ar’

verb hablar – to talk

- Take the ‘ar’ off the infinitive and this leaves your stem ‘habl’

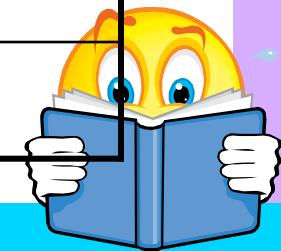
yo	hablé
tú	hablaste
él/ella/usted	habló
nosotros	hablamos
vosotros	hablasteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	hablaron



Conjugating regular 'er' and 'ir' verbs

- To conjugate regular -er and -ir verbs in the preterite, simply drop the -er or -ir and add the following endings:

yo	í
tú	iste
él/ella/usted	ió
nosotros	imos
vosotros	isteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	ieron

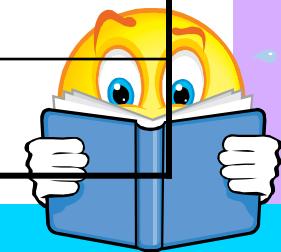


Example of regular 'er' verb

comer - to eat

- Take the 'er' off the infinitive and this leaves your stem 'com'

yo	comí
tú	comiste
él/ella/usted	comió
nosotros	comimos
vosotros	comisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	comieron



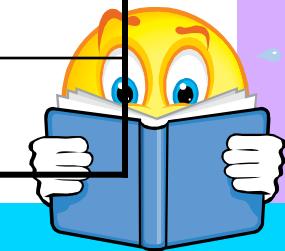
Example of regular ‘ir’

verb

vivir - to live

- Take the ‘ir’ off the infinitive and this leaves your stem ‘viv’

yo	viví
tú	viviste
él/ella/usted	vivió
nosotros	vivimos
vosotros	vivisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	vivieron



Irregular verbs



Irregular verbs that don't follow a rule and need to be learned:

- Ser
- Ir
- Hacer
- Decir
- Ver
- Traer



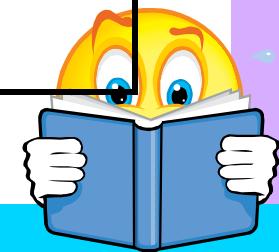
Ser - to be

yo	fui
tú	fuiste
él/ella/usted	fue
nosotros	fuimos
vosotros	fuisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	fueron



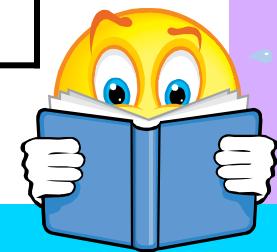
Ir - to go

yo	fui
tú	fuiste
él/ella/usted	fue
nosotros	fuimos
vosotros	fuisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	fueron



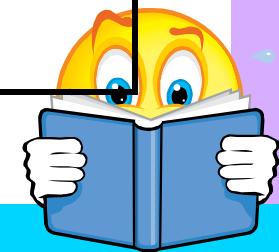
Hacer - to do

yo	hice
tú	hiciste
él/ella/usted	hizo
nosotros	hicimos
vosotros	hicisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	hicieron



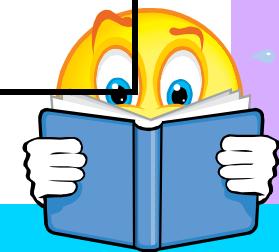
Decir - to say

yo	dije
tú	dijiste
él/ella/usted	dijo
nosotros	dijimos
vosotros	dijisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	dijeron



Ver - to see

yo	vi
tú	viste
él/ella/usted	vio
nosotros	vimos
vosotros	visteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	vieron



Traer - to bring

yo	traje
tú	trajiste
él/ella/usted	trajo
nosotros	trajimos
vosotros	trajisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	trajeron



Irregular verbs that follow a pattern:

- A number of verbs that are irregular in the preterite follow a particular pattern.
- While their stems change, they all take the following endings:

- e
- iste
- o
- imos
- isteis
- ieron



Here are the verbs, along with
their corresponding stem changes:

Infinitive

andar
estar
tener
caber
haber
poder
poner
saber
querer
venir

Stem Change

anduv-
estuv-
tuv-
cup-
hub-
pud-
pus-
sup-
quis-
vin-



Examples:

estar (estuv-)

estuve

estuviste

estuvo

estuvimos

estuvisteis

estuvieron

saber (sup-)

supe

supiste

supo

supimos

supisteis

supieron



Verbs with spelling changes



'Ir' verbs that change their stem in the present tense

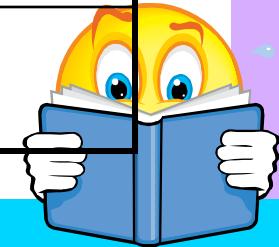
- They also change in the preterite, but in a different way.
- They change e:i and o:u in the third person, singular and plural



Example

preferir - to prefer

yo	preferí
tú	preferiste
él/ella/usted	prefirío
nosotros	preferimos
vosotros	preferisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	prefirieron



Verbs ending in -gar, -car and -zar

- In order to preserve the sound of the infinitive, a number of verbs change spelling. The following changes occur in the "yo" form only:
 - Verbs that end in -gar change g to gu
 - Verbs that end in -car change c to qu
 - Verbs that end in -zar change z to c



Examples:

- Jugar - yo jugué
- Buscar - yo busqué
- Almorzar - yo almorcé
- A table of some common spelling changing -gar, -car and -zar verbs is shown on the next slide



-gar

cegar
colgar

jugar
llegar

pagar
plegar

regar
rogar

tragar
vagar

-car

aparcar
buscar

clarificar
clasificar

destacar
empacar

justificar
practicar

sacar
tocar

-zar

almorzar
autorizar

cazar
comenzar

cruzar
empezar

forzar
organizar

simbolizar
tropezarse



Verbs ending in -aer, -eer, -oír, and -oer

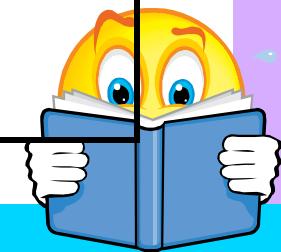
- The él/ella/usted forms use the ending "yó" (rather than ió)
- The third person plural uses the ending "yeron" (rather than ieron)
- The remaining forms gain a written accent over the letter "i"



Example

creer - to believe

yo	creí
tú	creíste
él/ella/usted	creyó
nosotros	creímos
vosotros	creísteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	creyeron



Verbs ending in -uir

- The él/ella/usted forms use the ending "yó" (rather than ió)
- The third person plural uses the ending "yeron" (rather than ieron)
- The yo form also gains a written accent over the letter "i"



Example

huir - to flee/escape

yo	huí
tú	huiste
él/ella/usted	huyó
nosotros	huimos
vosotros	huisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	huyeron



Verbs ending in -ucir

- Remove the -cir from the infinitive and conjugate as follows:

yo	produje
Tú	produjiste
él/ella/usted	produjo
nosotros	produjimos
Vosotros	produjisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	produjeron

