

Preterit & Imperfect

Preterit & Imperfect Comparison

	<u>Preterit</u>	<u>Imperfect</u>
General Uses	Completed past action	Incomplete past actions Habitual or continuous action in the past. Descriptions
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “-ed” words. (I walked. Yo caminé.) ▪ “did” something. (Did you dance last night?- ¿Bailaste anoche?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Was/were +ing.” (He was swimming. Él nadaba.) ▪ “Used to”. (I used to run 5 km.- Yo corría por 5 km.) ▪ “Would” in the past (I would run fast when I was young.- Yo corría rápido cuando era joven.) ▪ “-ed” verbs when the action is continual. (I always walked the dog after school.- Siempre caminaba con el perro después de la escuela.)
Key words or phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayer ▪ Anteayer ▪ Cada día ▪ una <u>vez</u> ▪ Ya ▪ De repente (suddenly) ▪ El (año) pasado ▪ A specific time. (Julia bailó a las siete. Julia danced at 7 o’clock.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Siempre ▪ Nunca ▪ Frecuentamente ▪ Todos los días ▪ Todavía
Specific Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of an event (¡Fue una fiesta fantástica! It was a great party!) ▪ Sequence of events. (Juan fue a casa, abrió la puerta, y se cayó. Jaun went home, opened the door and fell down.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emotion. (The champions were very excited.- Los campeones estaban muy animados.) ▪ Age. (Inez was three years old.- Inez tenía tres años.) ▪ Weather. (It was raining and windy.- Llovía y hacía viento.) ▪ Telling time. (It was 3 o’clock.- Eran las tres.) ▪ Location. (The tower was over there.- La torre estaba allá.) ▪ A group of actions that happen at the same time. (Mientras mi madre limpiaba la casa, mi padre cortaba el césped.- While my mother cleaned the house, my father would mow the lawn.)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mental activity. (I knew that he wasn’t right.- Sabía que no tenía razón.)

		<p>Verbs that usually relate to mental activities or emotions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tener (hambre, suerte, calor, etc.) ▪ Pensar ▪ Parecer ▪ Querer ▪ Creer ▪ Saber ▪ Poder ▪ Sentirse ▪ Deber ▪ Conocer
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Preterit and Imperfect Together

- Used together when an action occurring in the past (Imperfect) is broken by another action (preterit).
 - Los ciudadanos de Tokyo *hacían* un picnic en el parque cuando de repente, Godzilla *apareció* en el horizonte.
 - The citizens of Tokyo were picnicking in the park when Godzilla suddenly appeared on the horizon.

Words that change meanings in the Past Tenses

- Some words change meaning depending on if you use them in the preterit or imperfect.

<u>Verb</u>	<u>Preterit</u>	<u>Imperfect</u>
Saber	<p>Learned, found out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Supe</i> que no hacíamos una fiesta. ▪ I <i>found out</i> (that) we weren't having a party. 	<p>Knew (a fact, how to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Juan <i>sabía</i> el capital de Guinea. ▪ Juan knew the capital of Guinea.
Conocer	Met someone for the first time	Knew (a person, place)
Querer	Tried to	Wanted to
No querer	Refused to	Didn't want to
Poder	Managed to succeeded in	Could, was able to
	Other	
Haber	<p>An <i>event</i>. (Hubo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hubo un <i>inundación</i> tremendo. ▪ There was a tremendous <i>flood</i>. 	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Había un buen día. ▪ It was a good day.