

PRETERITE

VS

IMPERFECT

Lesson taken from the
story, "Dos Hermanos"

In this lesson, we will:

- 1. Learn the main uses of the preterite tense and view examples from the story, “Dos Hermanos”**

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- 2. Notice how to form the preterite tense**

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- 2. Notice how to form the preterite tense**
- 3. Compare and contrast the preterite with the imperfect tense with a timeline and practice exercises**

WHEN DO WE USE THE PRETERITE TENSE?

- To describe actions that have been completed that had a specific start and end time

“¿Qué **sacaste**?” le pregunté. “**Saqué** 9.5,” dijo con una pequeña sonrisa.

*“What did you **get**?” I asked him. “I **got** a 9.5,” he said with a little smile.*

WHEN DO WE USE THE PRETERITE TENSE?

- To describe actions that have been completed that had a specific start and end time
- To talk about the beginning or end of an event

Pero durante ese primer año de la preparatoria, los alumnos mismos **empezaron** a hacer comparaciones.

*But during that first year of high school, the students themselves **started** to make comparisons.*

WHEN DO WE USE THE PRETERITE TENSE?

- To describe actions that have been completed that had a specific start and end time
- To talk about the beginning or end of an event
- To refer to actions that happened at a specific time or date

La semana pasada mi padre me **llamó** a su oficina
y **expresó** su preocupación.

*Last week my father **called** me into his office and
expressed his concern.*

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Pasé 3 años en la academia.

*I **spent** 3 years at the academy.*

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- To talk about the beginning or end of an event
- To refer to actions that happened at a specific time or date
- Paired with the imperfect tense to state an interrupted action

Pero mientras nos acercábamos a la casa, **volví a recordar y me puse nervioso.**

*But as we got closer to home, **I again remembered and became nervous.***

Pero mientras nos acercábamos a la casa, **volví a recordar y me puse nervioso**.

*But as we got closer to home, I again remembered and **became nervous**.*

Mientras yo aún seguía en la preparatoria, José **entró** a una universidad para estudiar ingeniería.

*While I was still in high school, Jose **entered** a university to study engineering.*

WHEN DO WE USE THE PRETERITE TENSE?

- To describe actions that have been completed that had a specific start and end time
- To talk about the beginning or end of an event
- To refer to actions that happened at a specific time or date
- Paired with the imperfect tense to state an interrupted action
- Often to state events in a sequence

Mi maestra me **miró** fijamente, **suspiró**, y **comenzó**
a hablar.

*My teacher **stared** at me, **sighed**, and **started** to
speak.*

HOW TO FORM THE PRETERITE TENSE

	AR VERBS	ER & IR VERBS CONJUGATE THE SAME	
Subject	Caminar	Volver	Escribir
Yo	Caminé	Volví	Escribí
Tú	Caminate	Volviste	Escribiste
Él/ella/usted	Camino	Volvió	Escribió
Nosotros/as	Caminaamos	Volvimos	Escribimos
Ellos/ellas/ustedes	Caminaaron	Volvieron	Escribieron

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- Yo, él, ella, usted have an accent mark on the last vowel.

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- me llamo

La semana pasada mi padre me **llamó** a su oficina y **expresó** su preocupación.

- me llamo
- expreso

HOW TO FORM THE PRETERITE TENSE

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Yo	Caminé	Volví	Escribí
Tú	Caminate	Volviste	Escribiste
Él/ella/usted	Caminó	Volvió	Escribió
Nosotros/as	Caminamos	Volvimos	Escribimos
Ellos/ellas/ustedes	Caminaron	Volvieron	Escribieron

- The nosotros (we) endings for regular -ar and -ir verbs are the same in both the preterite and present tenses.

HOW TO FORM THE PRETERITE TENSE

	AR VERBS	ER & IR VERBS CONJUGATE THE SAME	
Subject	Caminar	Volver	Escribir
Yo	Caminé	Volví	Escribí
Tú	Caminaste	Volviste	Escribiste
Él/ella/usted	Caminó	Volvió	Escribió
Nosotros/as	Caminamos	Volvimos	Escribimos
Ellos/ellas/ustedes	Caminaron	Volvieron	Escribieron

- Ese día mi hermano y yo **caminamos** a casa.
- Mi hermano y yo siempre **caminamos** a casa.

There are a lot of verbs that are irregular in the preterite tense.

Here are some examples from our story.

- Sacar = (yo) saqué = “**Saqué** 9.5,” dijo José alegre.

There are a lot of verbs that are irregular in the preterite tense.

Here are some examples from our story.

- Sacar = (yo) saqué = “**Saqué** 9.5,” dijo José alegre.
- Poner = (yo) puse = “Pero mientras nos acercábamos a la casa, volví a recordar y me **puse** nervioso.”

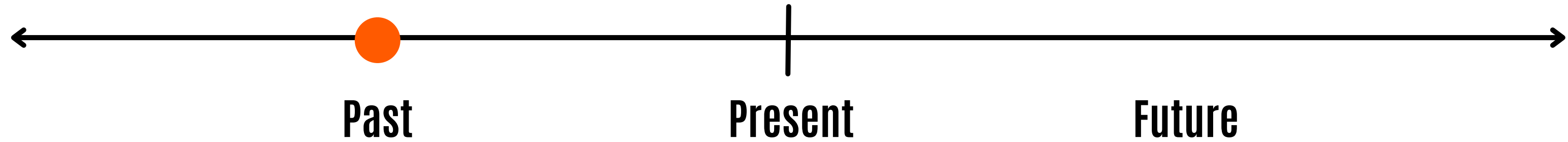
FUN FACT

Both ser and ir are the exact same in the preterite tense.

Subject	IR	SER
Yo	fui	fui
Tú	fuiste	fuiste
Él/ella/usted	fue	fue
Nosotros/as	fuimos	fuimos
Ellos/ellas/ustedes	fueron	fueron

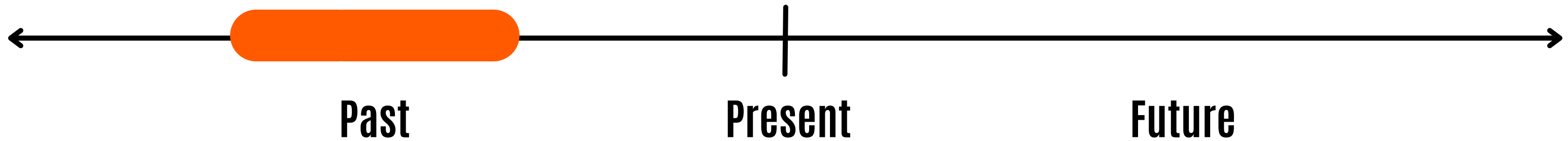
Estudié en la Universidad de Princeton.
I studied at Princeton University.

Preterite



Estudiaba en la Universidad de Princeton.
I was studying at Princeton University.
I used to study at Princeton University.

Imperfect



**LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE
TWO PAST TENSES**

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

My brother and I **were** taking private math classes over the summer.

PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

My brother and I **were** taking private math classes over the summer.

PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

Mi hermano y yo **estábamos** tomando clases de matemáticas particulares durante el verano.

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

“When I **marked** your brother's exam, I **thought** you would do just as well, Marco.”

PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

“When I **marked** your brother's exam, I **thought** you would do just as well, Marco.”

PRETERITE OR **IMPERFECT**

“Cuando **corregí** el examen de tu hermano, **pensé** que tú saldrías igual de bien, Marco.”

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

“What did **you get**?” I asked him. “**I got** a 9.5,” he said with a little smile.

PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

“What did **you get**?” I asked him. “**I got** a 9.5,” he said with a little smile.

PRETERITE OR **IMPERFECT**

“¿Qué **sacaste**?” le pregunté. “**Saqué** 9.5,” dijo con una pequeña sonrisa.

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

Although José and I **knew** about the comparisons, neither of us **said** anything, or at least, not much. José **knew** that any attempt to comfort me **was** only going to make me feel worse, and I didn't **want** him to feel bad either just because I **couldn't** keep up with him.

PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

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PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

Aunque José y yo **sabíamos** de las comparaciones, ninguno **decía** nada, o al menos, no demasiado. José **sabía** que cualquier intento de consolarme solo me **iba** a hacer sentir peor, y yo tampoco **quería** que se sintiera mal tan solo porque yo no **podía** seguirle el paso.

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

He always **listened** to my songs and always **encouraged** me to continue.

PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

He always **listened** to my songs and always **encouraged** me to continue.

PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

Él siempre **escuchaba** mis canciones y siempre me **animaba** a continuar.

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

Afterward, I **received** a scholarship to study in New York.

PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES

Afterward, I **received** a scholarship to study in New York.

PRETERITE OR **IMPERFECT**

Posteriormente **recibí** una beca para estudiar en Nueva York.