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

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.

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.*
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.

Pasé 3 años en la academia.

I spent 3 years at the academy.
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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>AR Verbs</th>
<th>ER &amp; IR Verbs Conjugate the Same</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo</td>
<td>Caminé</td>
<td>Volví</td>
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<tr>
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- *Yo, él, ella, usted* have an accent mark on the last vowel.
La semana pasada mi padre me llamó a su oficina y expresó su preocupación.
La semana pasada mi padre me llamó a su oficina y expresó su preocupación.

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

- me llamo
- expresó
## How to Form the Preterite Tense

### AR Verbs

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### ER & IR Verbs Conjugate the Same

- 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**

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- 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.

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</tr>
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I studied at Princeton University.

I was studying at Princeton University.

I used to study at Princeton University.
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.”

PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT
LET'S PRACTICE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE TWO PAST TENSES


PRETERITE OR IMPERFECT

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

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.

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.