



INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Supersite: Audioscripts,
SAM AK, Lab MP3s
SAM/WebSAM: WB, LM

2.1

TALLER DE CONSULTA

These additional grammar topics are covered in the **Manual de gramática, Lección 2.**

2.4 Progressive forms, p. 382
2.5 Telling time, p. 384

The preterite

- Spanish has two simple tenses to indicate actions in the past: the preterite (**el pretérito**) and the imperfect (**el imperfecto**). The preterite is used to describe actions or states that began or were completed at a definite time in the past.

The preterite of regular **-ar**, **-er**, and **-ir** verbs

| comprar | vender | abrir |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| compré | vendí | abrí |
| compraste | vendiste | abriste |
| compró | vendió | abrió |
| compramos | vendimos | abrimos |
| comprasteis | vendisteis | abristeis |
| compraron | vendieron | abrieron |

- The preterite tense of regular verbs is formed by dropping the infinitive ending (**-ar**, **-er**, **-ir**) and adding the preterite endings. Note that the endings of regular **-er** and **-ir** verbs are identical in the preterite tense.
- The preterite of all regular and some irregular verbs requires a written accent on the endings in the **yo**, **usted**, **él**, and **ella** forms.

Ayer **empecé** un nuevo trabajo. Mi mamá **preparó** una cena deliciosa.
Yesterday I started a new job. My mom prepared a delicious dinner.

- Verbs that end in **-car**, **-gar**, and **-zar** have a spelling change in the **yo** form of the preterite. All other forms are regular.

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|--------|---|------|---|------------------|
| buscar | ➤ | busc- | ➤ | -qu- | ➤ | yo busqué |
| llegar | ➤ | lleg- | ➤ | -gu- | ➤ | yo llegué |
| empezar | ➤ | empez- | ➤ | -c- | ➤ | yo empecé |

- Caer**, **creer**, **leer**, and **oír** change **-i-** to **-y-** in the **usted**, **él**, and **ella** forms and in the **ustedes**, **ellos**, and **ellas** forms of the preterite. They also require a written accent on the **-i-** in all other forms.

| | | |
|-------|---|---|
| caer | ➤ | caí, caíste, cayó , caímos, caísteis, cayeron |
| creer | ➤ | creí, creíste, creyó , creímos, creísteis, creyeron |
| leer | ➤ | leí, leíste, leyó , leímos, leísteis, leyeron |
| oír | ➤ | oí, oíste, oyó , oímos, oísteis, oyeron |

- Verbs with infinitives ending in **-uir** change **-i-** to **-y-** in the **usted**, **él**, and **ella** forms and in the **ustedes**, **ellos**, and **ellas** forms of the preterite.

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| construir | ➤ | construí, construiste, construyó , construimos, construisteis , construyeron |
| incluir | ➤ | incluí, incluiste, incluyó , incluimos, incluisteis, incluyeron |

Remind students that **c** and **g** change to **qu** and **gu** to maintain the hard consonant sounds.

Explain that the combination of a strong vowel (**a**, **e**, **o**) and a weak vowel (**i**, **u**) usually forms a diphthong. The **i** in these verbs is stressed in order to break the diphthong.

Point out that **-uir** verbs require written accents in the **yo** and **él/ella/Ud.** forms.

You may want to explain that the **y** in forms such as **cayó** and **incluyeron** is a phonetic convention to avoid the three-vowel sequence that would otherwise occur in such forms.

- Stem-changing **-ir** verbs also have a stem change in the **usted, él,** and **ella** forms and in the **ustedes, ellos,** and **ellas** forms of the preterite.

| Preterite of -ir stem-changing verbs | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|------------|
| pedir | | dormir | |
| pedí | pedimos | dormí | dormimos |
| pediste | pedisteis | dormiste | dormisteis |
| pidió | pidieron | durmió | durmieron |

- Stem-changing **-ar** and **-er** verbs do not have a stem change in the preterite.
- A number of verbs, most of them **-er** and **-ir** verbs, have irregular preterite stems. Note that none of these verbs takes a written accent on the preterite endings.



—Nunca **tuve** oportunidad de despedirme de él.

Preterite of irregular verbs

| infinitive | u-stem | preterite forms |
|------------|--------|---|
| andar | anduv- | anduve, anduviste, anduvo, anduvimos, anduvisteis, anduvieron |
| estar | estuv- | estuve, estuviste, estuvo, estuvimos, estuvisteis, estuvieron |
| poder | pud- | pude, pudiste, pudo, pudimos, pudisteis, pudieron |
| poner | pus- | puse, pusiste, puso, pusimos, pusisteis, pusieron |
| saber | sup- | supe, supiste, supo, supimos, supisteis, supieron |
| tener | tuv- | tuve, tuviste, tuvo, tuvimos, tuvisteis, tuvieron |

| infinitive | i-stem | preterite forms |
|------------|--------|---|
| hacer | hic- | hice, hiciste, hizo, hicimos, hicisteis, hicieron |
| querer | quis- | quise, quisiste, quiso, quisimos, quisisteis, quisieron |
| venir | vin- | vine, viniste, vino, vinimos, vinisteis, vinieron |

| infinitive | j-stem | preterite forms |
|------------|---------|--|
| conducir | conduj- | conduje, condujiste, condujo, condujimos, condujisteis, condujeron |
| decir | dij- | dije, dijiste, dijo, dijimos, dijisteis, dijeron |
| traer | traj- | traje, trajiste, trajo, trajimos, trajisteis, trajeron |

- Note that not only does the stem of **decir (dij-)** end in **j**, but the stem vowel **e** changes to **i**. In the **usted, él,** and **ella** form of **hacer (hizo)**, **c** changes to **z** to maintain the pronunciation. Most verbs that end in **-cir** have **j**-stems in the preterite.

¡ATENCIÓN!

Other **-ir** stem-changing verbs include:

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| conseguir | repetir |
| consentir | seguir |
| hervir | sentir |
| morir | servir |
| preferir | |

¡ATENCIÓN!

Ser, ir, and **dar** also have irregular preterites. The preterite forms of **ser** and **ir** are identical. Note that the preterite forms of **ver** are regular. However, unlike other regular preterites, they do not take a written accent.

ser/ir

fui, fuiste, fue, fuimos, fuisteis, fueron

dar

di, diste, dio, dimos, disteis, dieron

ver

vi, viste, vio, vimos, visteis, vieron

The preterite of **hay** is **hubo**.

Hubo dos conciertos el viernes.

There were two concerts on Friday.

Have students conjugate **deshacer, oponer,** and **atraer**. Note that all verbs ending in **hacer, poner,** and **traer** are also irregular in the preterite.

¡ATENCIÓN!

Note that the third-person plural ending of **j**-stem preterites drops the **i**: **dijeron, trajeron**.

Ask a volunteer to conjugate **producir**.