



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

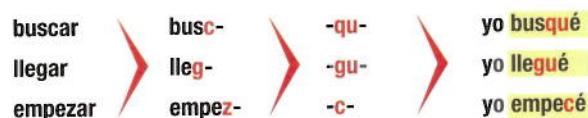
comprar	vender	abrir
compré	vendi	abri
compraste	vendiste	abriste
compró	vendió	abrió
compramos	vendimos	abrimos
comprasteis	vendisteis	abristeis
compraron	vendieron	abrieron

- 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.

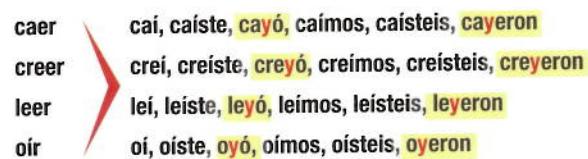
Ayer **empecé** un nuevo trabajo. Mi mamá **preparó** una cena deliciosa.

Yesterday I started a new job. My mom prepared a delicious dinner.

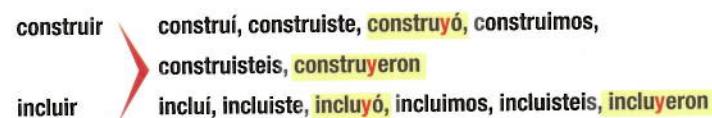
- Verbs that end in **-car**, **-gar**, and **-zar** have a spelling change in the **yo** form of the preterite. All other forms are regular.



- Caer**, **creer**, **leer**, and **oir** 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.



- 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.



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	durmío	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.

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Other -ir stem-changing verbs include:

conseguir	repetir
consentir	seguir
hervir	sentir
morir	servir
preferir	

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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.

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

Ask a volunteer to conjugate **producir**.