El Pretérito - Past tense

In Spanish, we have two past tenses. El pretérito is used to talk about events that occurred at a specific point in the past.

Let’s compare present tense to past tense:

**PRESENTE** OF –AR VERBS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense forms</th>
<th>Past tense forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The present tense tells us what someone is doing or does.

The past tense tells us what someone did.

**PRETERITO** OF –AR VERBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense forms</th>
<th>Past tense forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice that the ____________ forms are the same in the past and the present. How do we know the difference? CONTEXT!!

**Keywords that describe past tense:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yesterday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day before yesterday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“#” days ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember expressions that use the present or future?

Siempre
todos los días
los viernes
hoy
esta noche
esta semana
mañana
pasado mañana
la próxima semana
el próximo mes
el próximo año

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Why are accents so important?

We know that words can change meaning based on accents:

Si= _______    Sí = _______

tu= _______    tú = _______

mi= _______    mí = _______

te= _______    té = _______

el = _______    él = _______

We also know that in Spanish the subject pronoun is not necessary with a verb because the verb ending tells us who is doing the action.

ENGLISH: I run, you run, we run

The subject pronoun *is* needed. “Run” by itself doesn’t tell us who is running.

SPANISH: Yo corro, tú corres, nosotros corremos

The subject pronouns *are not* needed. *Corro* tells us the subject is I or yo.

The verb endings not only tells us the ____________ but they also tell us the ____________.

Compare the verb llegar:

**llego** the –o at the end tells us the subject is ____ and also that the tense is ____________.

**llegó** the –ó at the end tells us the subject is ________ and the tense is ________________.

Is the accent important? ¡¡¡Sr!!! I mean.... ¡Sr!! ;)

The accent is not just important for writing, but tells us how the say the word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Try saying the following noting what syllable to stress:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>compro compró</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hablo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Let's conjugate! Regular –AR verbs in the past tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Me</th>
<th>Nos</th>
<th>Te</th>
<th>Se</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hablar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estudiar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levantar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levantarse</td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>Nos</td>
<td>Te</td>
<td>Se</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Irregulars: -CAR, GAR, -ZAR,

Verbs that end in –car, -gar, and –zar have irregular **YO** forms in the preterite. All other forms are regular.

**-CAR: Practicar, Tocar, Buscar, Sacar**

C --> qu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practiqué</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(tocar)   Yo _________

(buscar)  Yo __________

(sacar)   Yo __________

**-GAR: Jugar, Llegar, Pagar**

G --> gu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jugué</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(llegar)  Yo __________

(pagar)   Yo __________

*Jugar does NOT have a stem change in the preterite
*Remember jugo is juice, jugó is he/she played

**-ZAR: Almorzar, Comenzar,**

Z --> c

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Almorcé</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

(comenzar)  Yo __________

*No stem change in preterite

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Read our blog: http://spanishplans.wordpress.com/
or follow us on: twitter.com/spanishplans facebook.com/spanishplans

For more PRETERITE/ PAST TENSE lessons, try these:

Guided Notes for –ER, -IR verbs: Just like this packet, but for the other verb endings
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Preterite-of-IR-ER-verbs

Past Tense Powerpoint: 8 slides of practice, for Bell Work or class activity
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Preterite-Spanish-Powerpoint-Past-Tense

Past Tense with informal Commands: Practice preterite with informal commands
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Preterite-Spanish-Practice-Preterito-Whiteboard-Act-or-Worksheet

Past Tense songs: 4 authentic songs with Past Tense focus
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Preterite-Canciones-Songs-for-Past-Tense-Spanish

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ANSWERS: (in red)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-o</th>
<th>-amos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-as</td>
<td>-áis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a</td>
<td>-an</td>
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The present tense tells us what someone is doing or does.

The *past tense* tells us what someone did.

**PRETERITO OF –AR VERBS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-é</th>
<th>-amos</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-aste</td>
<td>-asteis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ó</td>
<td>-aron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice that the *NOSOTROS* forms are the same in the past and the present. How do we know the difference? CONTEXT!!

**Keywords that describe past tense:**

- ayer
- anoche
- anteayer
- el miércoles pasado
- la semana pasada
- el mes pasado
- el año pasado
- hace # días
- una vez
- un día

*Remember expressions that use the present or future?*

Siempre
todos los días
los viernes
hoy
esta noche
esta semana
mañana
pasado mañana
la próxima semana
el próximo mes
el próximo año

**Why are accents so important?**

We know that words can change meaning based on accents:

- Si= if
- tu= your
- mi= my
- te= (you) pronoun

Sí = yes
tú = you
mí = to me (after preposition)
té = tea

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el = the  él = he

We also know that in Spanish the subject pronoun is not necessary with a verb because the verb ending tells us who is doing the action.

ENGLISH: I run, you run, we run

       The subject pronoun is needed. “Run” by itself doesn’t tell us who is running.

SPANISH: Yo corro, tú corres, nosotros corremos

       The subject pronouns are not needed. Corro tells us the subject is I or yo.

The verb endings not only tells us the SUBJECT but they also tell us the TENSE

Compare the verb llegar:

llego  the –o  at the end tells us the subject is YO and also that the tense is PRESENT.

llegó  the –ó  at the end tells us the subject is EL, ELLA, UD. and the tense is PAST