

PRETERITE: PART I

To conjugate regular **-AR** verbs in the preterite, drop the **-AR** & add the appropriate ending:

yo **é**
 tú **aste**
 él, ella, Ud. **ó**
 nosotros **amos**
 vosotros **asteis**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **aron**

To conjugate regular **-ER** and **-IR** verbs in the preterite, drop the **-ER/-IR** & add the appropriate ending:

yo **í**
 tú **iste**
 él, ella, Ud. **ió**
 nosotros **imos**
 vosotros **isteis**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **ieron**

Here are all three regular preterite verb forms together:

HABLAR	COMER	VIVIR
hablé	comí	viví
hablaste	comiste	viviste
habló	comió	vivió
hablamos	comimos	vivimos
hablasteis	comisteis	vivisteis
hablaron	comieron	vivieron

*****Note:** Nosotros forms for **-AR** and **-IR** verbs are the same in the preterite and present tenses.***

* The preterite is used for actions that happened a specific number of times (including once).

Ayer escribí tres cartas. *Yesterday I wrote three letters.*

Ella se levantó, se vistió, y salió de la casa. *She got up, dressed, and left the house.*

* The preterite is used for actions that interrupt.

Estudiaba cuando me dormí. *I was studying when I fell asleep.* (notice *estudiaba* is imperfect)

* The preterite is used for actions that occurred for a specific amount of time.

Vivimos allí por cuatro años. *We lived there for four years.*

Habló con su madre por cinco minutos. *She talked to her mom for five minutes.*

* The preterite is used for action-oriented events.

Caminé al mercado. *I walked to the store.*

Hubo un terremoto en Misuri. *There was an earthquake in Missouri.*

The above examples all fall within our general rule for using the preterite: **The preterite is used for past actions that are seen as completed.**

PRETERITE PART I: PRACTICE

A. Choose the correct preterite tense conjugation for these example verbs (HABLAR, COMER, VIVIR**).**

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Tú | 2. los hombres | 3. usted | 4. ustedes | 5. yo | 6. mi madre y yo |
| ___ comí | ___ comen | ___ viví | ___ viven | ___ hablé | ___ hablamos |
| ___ comiste | ___ comieron | ___ vivió | ___ vivían | ___ habló | ___ hablo |
| ___ comís | ___ comían | ___ vive | ___ vivieron | ___ hablaba | ___ habló |

B. Write the correct preterite tense conjugation for these example verbs (HABLAR, COMER, VIVIR**).**

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7. él <i>hablar</i> _____ | 10. vosotros <i>comer</i> _____ |
| 8. ellos <i>hablar</i> _____ | 11. él, ella y yo <i>vivir</i> _____ |
| 9. yo <i>comer</i> _____ | 12. tú <i>vivir</i> _____ |

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

13. I washed the dishes. Yo _____ (lavar) los platos.
14. He ate an apple. Él _____ (comer) una manzana.
15. They lived in Spain for three years. Ellos _____ (vivir) en España por tres años.

PRETERITE: PART II

In order to preserve the sound of the infinitive, several verbs change spelling in the preterite tense.

The following changes occur in the *yo* form only: Here are three examples:

Verbs that end in **-GAR** change **g** to **gu**

yo jugué (jugar)

Verbs that end in **-CAR** change **c** to **qu**

yo toqué (tocar)

Verbs that end in **-ZAR** change **z** to **c**

yo almorcé (almorzar)

For verbs that end in **-AER**, **-EER**, **-OÍR**, and **-OER**, the *él/ella/Ud.* ending changes to **-yó** (rather than **-ió**) and the *ellos/ellas/Uds.* ending changes to **-yeron** (rather than **-ieron**). The remaining endings get a written accent over the *í*.

CREER	LEER	OÍR
creí	leí	oí
creíste	leíste	oíste
creyó	leyó	oyó
creímos	leímos	oímos
creísteis	leísteis	oísteis
creyeron	leyeron	oyeron

Verbs that end **-UIR** change the same way, but the written accent over the *í* only occurs in the *yo* form.

CONTRIBUIR

contribuí	contribuimos
contribuiste	contribuisteis
contribuyó	contribuyeron

PRETERITE PART IV: PRACTICE

A. Choose the correct preterite tense conjugation.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Juan <i>oír</i> | 2. Juan y María <i>leer</i> | 3. tú <i>caer</i> | 4. las señoritas <i>huir</i> | 5. el hombre <i>influir</i> |
| _____oye | _____leen | _____caíste | _____huían | _____influye |
| _____oía | _____leyeron | _____caes | _____huyen | _____influía |
| _____oyó | _____leían | _____caías | _____huyeron | _____influyó |

B. Fill in the missing letters to form the correct preterite conjugation.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6. yo jugar ju_____é | 9. yo tocar to_____é | 12. yo almorzar almor_____é |
| 7. yo llegar lle_____é | 10. yo buscar bus_____é | 13. yo cruzar cru_____é |
| 8. yo pagar pa_____é | 11. yo atacar ata_____é | 14. yo comenzar comen_____é |

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

15. Did you read the book? ¿_____ (leer) el libro?
16. I played soccer for five years. Yo _____ (jugar) al fútbol por cinco años.
17. My teachers influenced me. Mis maestros me _____ (influir).
- We heard the rumor at school. Nosotros _____ (oír) el rumor en la escuela.

PRETERITE: PART III

-AR and **-ER** verbs that change their stem in the present tense **do not** change in the preterite. They are conjugated just like other regular preterite verbs.

Present	Preterite	Present	Preterite
ENTENDER	ENTENDER	CERRAR	CERRAR
entiendo	entendí	cierro	cerré
entiendes	entendiste	cierras	cerraste
entiende	entendió	cierra	cerró
entendemos	entendimos	cerramos	cerramos
entendéis	entendisteis	cerráis	cerrasteis
entienden	entendieron	cierran	cerraron

-IR verbs that change their stem in the present tense **do** change in the preterite, but in a different way. They change **e→i** and **o→u** in the third person, singular and plural (*él, ella, Ud., ellos, ellas, Uds.*).

Present	Preterite	Present	Preterite
PREFERIR	PREFERIR	DORMIR	DORMIR
prefiero	preferí	duermo	dormí
prefieres	preferiste	duermes	dormiste
prefiere	prefirió	duerme	durmió
preferimos	preferimos	dormimos	dormimos
preferís	preferisteis	dormís	dormisteis
prefieren	prefirieron	duermen	durmieron

The third-person forms of **reírse** and **sonreír** undergo the following spelling simplification:

ri-ió→rió	sonri-ió→sonrió
ri-ieron→rieron	sonri-ieron→sonrieron

PRETERITE PART III: PRACTICE

A. Choose the correct preterite tense conjugation.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Juan <i>dormir</i> | 2. Juan y María <i>pedir</i> | 3. Carmen y yo <i>morir</i> | 4. las señoritas <i>preferir</i> |
| _____ durmió | _____ piden | _____ morimos | _____ preferían |
| _____ dormía | _____ pidieron | _____ moríamos | _____ prefieren |
| _____ duerme | _____ pedían | _____ mueren | _____ prefirieron |

B. Fill in the missing letters to form the correct preterite conjugation (**REMEMBER -AR and -ER verbs don't stem-change in the preterite, the only changes are e→i and o→u, and only third person subjects change**).

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 5. él <i>dormir</i> d_____rmió | 9. ella <i>encontrar</i> enc_____ntró | 13. ellos <i>probar</i> pr_____baron |
| 6. Uds. <i>almorzar</i> alm_____rizaron | 10. ellas <i>morir</i> m_____rieron | 14. ellas <i>preferir</i> pref_____rieron |
| 7. nosotros <i>contar</i> c_____ntamos | 11. Ud. <i>mostrar</i> m_____stró | 15. tú <i>recordar</i> rec_____rdaste |
| 8. yo <i>pedir</i> p_____dí | 12. él <i>advertir</i> adv_____rtió | 16. Uds. <i>pedir</i> p_____dieron |

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

17. I ordered a steak. Yo _____ (pedir) un bistec.
18. The baby slept for eight hours! ¡El bebé _____ (dormir) por ocho horas!
19. The students repeated the word. Los estudiantes _____ (repetir) la palabra.
20. Did the old lady die? ¿ _____ (morir) la mujer vieja?

PRETERITE: PART IV

Here are four important verbs in the preterite tense: **SER**, **IR**, **DAR** and **VER**. These four verbs are irregular; you must memorize them:

SER	IR	DAR	VER
fui	fui	di	vi
fuiste	fuiste	diste	viste
fue	fue	dio	vio
fuimos	fuimos	dimos	vimos
fuisteis	fuisteis	disteis	visteis
fueron	fueron	dieron	vieron

*****Note:** This is not a typo; SER and IR do have identical conjugations in the preterite!***

To review some of the rules for using the preterite:

- * For actions that happened a specific number of times (including once)
- * For actions that interrupt.
- * For actions that occurred for a specific amount of time.
- * For action-oriented events.

PRETERITE PART II: PRACTICE

A. Choose the correct preterite tense conjugation for irregular verbs **SER**, **IR**, **DAR** and **VER**.

- | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. él <i>ver</i> | 2. Juan y yo <i>ser</i> | 3. los hombres <i>ir</i> | 4. tú <i>dar</i> | 5. María <i>ser</i> | 6. Yo <i>ir</i> |
| ___ vio | ___ somos | ___ van | ___ das | ___ es | ___ fui |
| ___ va | ___ fuimos | ___ fueron | ___ dabas | ___ fue | ___ voy |
| ___ veía | ___ éramos | ___ iban | ___ diste | ___ era | ___ iba |

B. Write the correct preterite tense conjugation for the irregular verbs **SER**, **IR**, **DAR** and **VER**.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 7. yo <i>ser</i> _____ | 10. ustedes <i>ser</i> _____ |
| 8. tú <i>ir</i> _____ | 11. ellos <i>ir</i> _____ |
| 9. él <i>dar</i> _____ | 12. ellas <i>ver</i> _____ |

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

13. I was a carpenter for three years. Yo _____ (ser) carpintero por tres años.
14. Once, I saw an elephant. Una vez, yo _____ (ver) un elefante.
15. He went to the store on Monday. Él _____ (ir) a la tienda el lunes.
- Last week they gave me money. La semana pasada ellos me _____ (dar) dinero.

PRETERITE: PART V

A number of verbs that are irregular in the preterite follow a particular pattern. While their stems change, they all take the following endings:

yo **e**
 tú **iste**
 él, ella, Ud. **o**
 nosotros **imos**
 vosotros **isteis**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **ieron**

Here are the verbs, along with their corresponding stem changes:

Infinitive	Stem Change	Infinitive	Stem Change
ANDAR	anduv-	PONER	pus-
ESTAR	estuv-	SABER	sup-
TENER	tuv-	HACER	hic-
HABER	hub-	QUERER	quis-
PODER	pud-	VENIR	vin-

Here are two examples of how this pattern is applied:

ESTAR (estuv-)	SABER (sup-)
estuve	supe
estuviste	supiste
estuvo	supo
estuvimos	supimos
estuvisteis	supisteis
estuvieron	supieron

Note: The one exception is the *él/ella/Ud.* form of **hacer**. The **c** changes to **z** to form **hizo**.

PRETERITE PART V: PRACTICE

A. Choose the correct preterite tense conjugation.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1. Juan <i>andar</i>
_____ anduvo
_____ andaba
_____ anda | 3. Juan y María <i>tener</i>
_____ tienen
_____ tuvieron
_____ tenían | 5. el hombre <i>poner</i>
_____ pone
_____ ponía
_____ puso | 7. usted <i>hacer</i>
_____ hace
_____ hizo
_____ hacía |
| 2. yo <i>estar</i>
_____ estoy
_____ estaba
_____ estuve | 4. Uds. <i>poder</i>
_____ podían
_____ pueden
_____ pudieron | 6. vosotros <i>saber</i>
_____ sabéis
_____ supisteis
_____ sabíais | 8. tú y yo <i>querer</i>
_____ queríamos
_____ queremos
_____ quisimos |

B. Fill in the missing endings to form the correct preterite conjugation.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 9. tú <i>estar</i> estuv _____ | 11. nosotros <i>saber</i> sup _____ | 13. ellos <i>poder</i> pud _____ |
| 10. él <i>tener</i> tuv _____ | 12. vosotros <i>haber</i> hub _____ | 14. yo <i>hacer</i> hic _____ |

C. Fill in the missing stem to form the correct preterite conjugation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 15. el chico <i>poner</i> _____ o | 18. nosotros <i>querer</i> _____ imos |
| 16. las chicas <i>saber</i> _____ ieron | 19. tú <i>venir</i> _____ iste |
| 17. yo <i>hacer</i> _____ e | 20. vosotros <i>estar</i> _____ isteis |

PRETERITE: PART VI

Some irregular verbs follow a pattern in their irregularity. Verbs that end **-UCIR** or **-AER** have the same irregular end to their stem. **DECIR** also follows the pattern.

Infinitive -UCIR	Stem Change -uj-	Infinitive -AER	Stem Change -aj-	Infinitive DECIR	Stem Change dij-
TRADUCIR	traduj-	TRAER	traj-		
PRODUCIR	produj-	DISTRAER	distraj-		
CONDUCIR	conduj-	MALTRAER	maltraj-		

They use the same endings as the other irregular stem verbs (see PRETERITE: PART V), with the exception of the *ellos/ellas/Uds.* form, which loses the *i*.

<i>yo</i>	e
<i>tú</i>	iste
<i>él, ella, Ud.</i>	o
<i>nosotros</i>	imos
<i>vosotros</i>	isteis
<i>ellos, ellas, Uds.</i>	eron ←(NOT <i>ieron</i>)

PRETERITE PART VI: PRACTICE

A. Choose the correct preterite tense conjugation.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <i>yo traducir</i> | 3. el chofer <i>conducir</i> | 5. las señoritas <i>traer</i> | 7. vosotros <i>decir</i> |
| _____ traduje | _____ conducía | _____ traían | _____ decís |
| _____ traducía | _____ conduce | _____ traen | _____ dijisteis |
| _____ traduzco | _____ condujo | _____ trajeron | _____ decíais |
| 2. Juan y María <i>decir</i> | 4. tú <i>maltraer</i> | 6. <i>yo distraer</i> | 8. ustedes <i>producir</i> |
| _____ dicen | _____ maltrajiste | _____ distraje | _____ producen |
| _____ dijeron | _____ maltraes | _____ distraía | _____ produjeron |
| _____ decían | _____ maltraías | _____ distraigo | _____ producían |

B. Fill in the missing letters to form the correct preterite conjugation.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 9. tú <i>traducir</i> tradu _____ | 12. vosotros <i>decir</i> di _____ | 15. ellos <i>producir</i> produ _____ |
| 10. él <i>traer</i> tra _____ | 13. ellos <i>decir</i> di _____ | 16. tú <i>conducir</i> condu _____ |
| 11. nosotros <i>traer</i> tra _____ | 14. yo <i>producir</i> produ _____ | 17. ella <i>distraer</i> distra _____ |

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

18. *I said "hello" to him.* Yo le _____ (decir) «hola» a él.
19. *We drove the car one time.* Nosotros _____ (conducir) el carro una vez.
20. *The girl distracted the boy.* La chica le _____ (distraer) al chico.
21. *The students translated the story.* Los estudiantes _____ (traducir) el cuento.

PRETERITE REVIEW

The general rule for preterite is: **The preterite is used for past actions that are seen as completed.**

To review some of the specific rules for using the preterite:

- * For actions that happened a specific number of times (including once)
- * For actions that interrupt.
- * For actions that occurred for a specific amount of time.
- * For action-oriented events.

While there are regular verbs and regular verb endings in the preterite tense, there are also many irregular verbs, irregular stems, spelling changes, and exceptions to the rules that you must become familiar with. Many of the most commonly used verbs are irregular.

PRETERITE REVIEW PRACTICE

A. Conjugate the verbs for the subjects given. Pay attention to irregulars, stem-changers, and spelling changers.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. yo <i>hablar</i> _____ | 11. yo <i>buscar</i> _____ |
| 2. tú <i>comer</i> _____ | 12. tú <i>investigar</i> _____ |
| 3. él <i>vivir</i> _____ | 13. Paco <i>almorzar</i> _____ |
| 4. nosotros <i>dar</i> _____ | 14. nosotros <i>andar</i> _____ |
| 5. vosotros <i>ver</i> _____ | 15. vosotros <i>estar</i> _____ |
| 6. ellos <i>ser</i> _____ | 16. la chica <i>hacer</i> _____ |
| 7. Ud. <i>ir</i> _____ | 17. yo <i>tener</i> _____ |
| 8. Uds. <i>pedir</i> _____ | 18. tú <i>decir</i> _____ |
| 9. ella <i>dormir</i> _____ | 19. Uds. <i>traer</i> _____ |
| 10. los niños <i>caer</i> _____ | 20. Paco y Pepe <i>conducir</i> _____ |

B. Translate the sentences using verbs in the preterite tense. Think about which preterite rule would apply to each sentence.

21. You visited the museum once. _____
22. I was running (*Corría*) when I fell. _____
23. My mom and I saw *Titanic* five times. _____
24. The girls lived in Spain for 4 months. _____
25. The party started at 7:00pm. _____
26. Isabel woke up, washed herself, got dressed, and left her house. (All Reflexive Verbs!!!)
- _____

IMPERFECT: PART I

To conjugate regular **-AR** verbs in the imperfect, drop the **-AR** and add the appropriate ending:

yo **aba**
 tú **abas**
 él, ella, Ud. **aba**
 nosotros **ábamos**
 vosotros **ábais**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **aban**

To conjugate regular **-ER & -IR** verbs in the imperfect, drop the **-ER/-IR** and add the appropriate ending:

yo **ía**
 tú **ías**
 él, ella, Ud. **ía**
 nosotros **íamos**
 vosotros **íais**
 ellos, ellas, Uds. **ían**

Here are all three regular imperfect verb forms together:

HABLAR	COMER	VIVIR
habl aba	com ía	viv ía
habl abas	com ías	viv ías
habl aba	com ía	viv ía
habl ábamos	com íamos	viv íamos
habl abais	com íais	viv íais
habl aban	com ían	viv ían

Note: The yo & él/ella/Ud. forms have the same endings, so the subject will be written more often to avoid confusion.

* The imperfect is used for actions that were repeated habitually (“always/used to ___”).

Mi familia vivía en España. *My family used to live in Spain.*

Las señoras siempre hablaban por las mañanas. *The ladies always used to chat in the mornings.*

* The imperfect is used for ongoing actions (“was/were ___ing”).

Yo leía cuando mi papá entró. *I was reading when my dad entered.* (note that entered is preterite)

Nosotros corríamos y hablábamos. *We were running and talking.*

* The imperfect is used for time & dates.

Era el siete de diciembre del mil novecientos cuarenta y uno. *It was December 7, 1941.*

Eran las ocho de la mañana. *It was 8:00am.*

* The imperfect is used for most descriptions: age, physical appearance, personality, emotions, conditions, physical sensations, weather, etc.

La niña tenía cinco años. *The little girl was five years old.*

Hacía frío en el invierno. *It was cold in the winter.*

The above examples all fall within our general rule for using the imperfect: **The imperfect is used for past actions that are not seen as completed.**

IMPERFECT PART I: PRACTICE

A. Choose the correct imperfect tense conjugation for these example verbs (**HABLAR, COMER, VIVIR**).

1. las señoritas	2. tú	3. yo	4. vosotros	5. nosotros	6. Paco
___ hablan	___ hablas	___ comí	___ comíais	___ vivíamos	___ vive
___ hablaron	___ hablabas	___ comió	___ coméis	___ vivimos	___ vivía
___ hablaban	___ hablaste	___ comía	___ comisteis	___ viviste	___ vivió

B. Write the correct imperfect tense conjugation for these model verbs (HABLAR, COMER, VIVIR).

7. él hablar _____ 10. Uds. comer _____
 8. yo hablar _____ 11. tú vivir _____
 9. la muchacha y yo comer _____ 12. vosotros vivir _____

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

13. I was washing the dishes. Yo _____ (lavar) los platos.
 14. He would run in the park. Él _____ (correr) en el parque.
 15. They used to go to England every year. Ellos _____ (ir) a Inglaterra cada año.

IMPERFECT: PART II

Good news! There are only three irregular verbs in the imperfect. You must simply memorize them.

SER	IR	VER
era	iba	veía
eras	ibas	veías
era	iba	veía
éramos	íbamos	veíamos
erais	ibais	veíais
eran	iban	veían

To review some of the rules for using the imperfect:

- * For actions that were repeated habitually (“always/used to ___”).
- * For ongoing actions (“were/was ___ing”).
- * For time & dates.
- * For most descriptions: age, physical appearance, personality, emotions, conditions, physical sensations, weather, etc.

IMPERFECT PART II: PRACTICE**A. Choose the correct imperfect tense conjugation for these irregular verbs (SER, IR, VER).**

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. él ser | 2. tú ser | 3. las chicas ir | 4. Juan y yo ir | 5. ellos ver | 6. tú ver |
| _____ fue | _____ eran | _____ fueron | _____ vamos | _____ ven | _____ viste |
| _____ es | _____ eras | _____ iban | _____ íbamos | _____ veían | _____ ves |
| _____ era | _____ fuiste | _____ van | _____ iban | _____ vieron | _____ veías |

B. Write the correct imperfect tense conjugation for these irregular verbs (SER, IR, VER).

7. el perro ser _____ 8. tú ir _____ 9. los chicos ver _____

C. Translate the underlined phrases (the Spanish verb you need is in parentheses).

10. I was a carpenter. Yo _____ (ser) carpintero.
 11. Carmen went to the beach every day. Carmen _____ (ir) a la playa cada día.
 12. We used to see the boat sometimes. Nosotros _____ (ver) el barco a veces.

IMPERFECT: CONJUGATION REVIEW

The general rule for imperfect is: **The imperfect is used for past actions not seen as completed.**

To review some of the rules for using the imperfect:

- * For actions that were repeated habitually (“always/used to ____”).
- * For ongoing actions (“were/was ____ing”).
- * For time & dates.
- * For most descriptions: age, physical appearance, personality, emotions, conditions, physical sensations, weather, etc.

Most verbs are regular in the imperfect, but the three irregulars are very common and must be memorized.

IMPERFECT CONJUGATION PRACTICE

A. Conjugate the verbs for the subjects given. Pay attention to irregulars.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. yo <i>hablar</i> _____ | 11. yo <i>buscar</i> _____ |
| 2. tú <i>comer</i> _____ | 12. tú <i>ver</i> _____ |
| 3. él <i>vivir</i> _____ | 13. Paco <i>ser</i> _____ |
| 4. nosotros <i>dar</i> _____ | 14. nosotros <i>andar</i> _____ |
| 5. vosotros <i>ver</i> _____ | 15. vosotros <i>estar</i> _____ |
| 6. ellos <i>ser</i> _____ | 16. la chica <i>hacer</i> _____ |
| 7. Ud. <i>ir</i> _____ | 17. yo <i>tener</i> _____ |
| 8. Uds. <i>pedir</i> _____ | 18. tú <i>ir</i> _____ |
| 9. ella <i>dormir</i> _____ | 19. Uds. <i>traer</i> _____ |
| 10. los niños <i>caer</i> _____ | 20. Paco y Pepe <i>conducir</i> _____ |

B. Translate the sentences using verbs in the imperfect tense. Think about which imperfect rule would apply to each sentence.

21. You visited the museum every summer. _____
22. I was studying when there was an earthquake. _____
23. The girls used to like Justin Bieber. _____
24. It was 8:00am on Saturday. _____
25. The teacher was very sad. _____
26. We were cold when it was snowing. _____

IMPERFECT: USAGE REVIEW

The general rule for imperfect is: **The imperfect is used for past actions not seen as completed.**

To review some of the rules for using the imperfect:

- * For actions that were repeated habitually (“always/used to ____”).
- * For ongoing actions (“were/was ____ing”).
- * For time & dates.
- * For most descriptions: age, physical appearance, personality, emotions, conditions, physical sensations, weather, etc.

One way to determine if a verb is actually the imperfect is to try substituting one of the following:

was/were ...ing

used to ...

would (meaning used to) ...

The following examples show how to use this substitution test for the imperfect:

I **worked** in the agency during the day. → I **was working** in the agency during the day.

I **visited** my grandmother every day. → I **used to visit** my grandmother every day.

Every afternoon I **took** a nap. → Every afternoon I **would take** a nap.

One does not normally think of an age, physical appearance, personality, emotion, condition, or physical sensation as a completed action, so they are usually expressed in the imperfect.

Ramón tenía miedo de hablar en público. *Ramón was afraid to speak in public.*

Me gustaba el coche. *I liked the car. (The car was pleasing to me.)*

Era una señorita muy guapa. *She was a beautiful young lady.*

IMPERFECT USAGE PRACTICE

A. Try substituting *was/were ...ing, used to ..., or would ... (meaning used to ...)* for the underlined verb to determine whether the tense should be imperfect or preterite.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. He <u>wore</u> a white shirt to the party.
_____ llevó
_____ llevaba | 3. Carmen <u>prepared</u> dinner when the doorbell rang.
_____ preparó
_____ preparaba | 5. Pablo <u>read</u> the paper last night.
_____ leyó
_____ leía |
| 2. He <u>wore</u> a white shirt every day.
_____ llevó
_____ llevaba | 4. Juan <u>ran</u> ten miles.
_____ corrió
_____ corría | 6. Juan <u>ran</u> most mornings.
_____ corrió
_____ corría |

B. Decide if the underlined verb should be preterite or imperfect, then write the appropriate conjugation in the space.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 7. They <u>were</u> very tall. _____ | 13. You <u>were running</u> yesterday. _____ |
| 8. I <u>talked</u> to the teacher. _____ | 14. <u>Did they eat</u> ? _____ |
| 9. You <u>wanted</u> more food. _____ | 15. Her <u>name was</u> Sara. _____ |
| 10. The sky <u>was</u> cloudy. _____ | 16. I <u>repeated</u> the number. _____ |
| 11. We <u>studied</u> our Spanish. _____ | |
| 12. He <u>went</u> to the store. _____ | |