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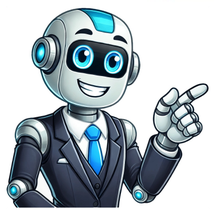

$1,500 $1,371 savings /mo $1,575 $1,059 total savings $5,250 $4,734 total savings In this Spanish grammar lesson you will learn about the ver preterite tense conjugation.In this lesson you will learn about:how ver is conjugated in Spanishhow ver is used in sentences in Spanishhow you can quiz yourself on the ver preterite tense conjugationhow to practice with flashcard on the ver preterite tense conjugationhow and why you should use the courses of Language Atlas to learn SpanishBy the end of the lesson you will know all about ver (to see/watch)! Ver Preterite Tense Conjugation Tableyovitúvisteél/ella/ustedvionosotros/nosotrasvimosvosotros/vosotrasvisteisellos/ellas/ustedesvieronThis section of the lesson on the ver preterite tense conjugation is about seeing the verb in action.This is valuable because you can improve your understanding of the ver preterite tense conjugation through examples.Ayer vi a tu hermano con su nueva novia. Yesterday I saw your brother with his new girlfriend.¿Tú viste la nueva película de Tarantino? Did you see the new Tarantino film?Él vio a su hijo por primera vez hace una semana. He saw his son for the first time a week ago.Nosotros vimos a tu sobrino con sus amigos en el parque el sábado pasado. We saw your nephew with his friends in the park last Saturday.¿Vosotros visteis leones en Tanzania? Did you see lions in Tanzania?Ellas vieron una obra de teatro después del trabajo. They watched a theatre play after work.Ustedes vieron al hombre salir del edificio. You saw the man leave the building.Quiz Yourself on the Ver Preterite ConjugationAt the end of every lesson you can do a small quiz.You will see the sentences of the previous chapter. You will either need to fill in the blanks, choose the correct multiple choice option, or both. Once you are done the correct answer will be shown.You can redo the quiz as many times as you want! 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Have you ever wondered what the best way is to learn a new language?I have been learning languages for over 20+ years and I was always frustrated with books, courses, and classes that I had tried.It never really seemed to work for me.I wanted to learn a language in the most effective and efficient way, and there was nothing out there for me.So I thought, “why not make something myself?”.Using my experience and by doing research I created Language Atlas, a platform where people can learn French and Spanish in the most effective and efficient way.I created free lessons and quizzes so that there would always be an easy and accessible way for people to learn or brush up on their language skills.However, I also created courses that are much more comprehensive and in-depth.These courses are easy to follow, clear, and allow you to become fluent in the most effective and efficient way.The courses of Language Atlas have:800+ Lessons with audio800+ Quizzes10,000 Flashcards with explanations, images, and audioA gamified way of learning a new languageA vibrant community (including support from me)You can register for free and try the French A0/A1 and Spanish A0/A1 Courses for free!This includes over 60 lessons and quizzes, 500 flashcards that adapt to how you learn, and access to the community (including support from me).All you have to do is study 30 minutes a day and you will be fluent in no time!Don’t miss out – register for free and start learning! In this grammar lesson you will learn about the regular ar verbs preterite tense conjugation.In this lesson you will learn about:the regular ar verbs preterite tense conjugationthe common regular ar verbs in Spanishwhat regular ar verbs preterite tense conjugation look like in sentenceshow you can quiz yourself on the regular ar verbs preterite tense conjugationhow to practice with flashcards on regular ar verbs preterite tense conjugationhow and why you should use the courses of Language Atlas to learn SpanishBy the end of the lesson you will know all about regular ar verbs preterite tense conjugation! Regular Ar Verbs Preterite Tense Conjugation Tablear endinghablar (to speak)yoéhablétúastehablasteél/ella/ustedóhablónosotros/nosotrasamoshablamosvosotros/vosotrasasteishablasteisellos/ellas/ustedesaronhablaronRegular Ar Verbs Conjugation MethodThere is a three-step method that will make conjugating regular spanish ar verbs very easy for you.In order to conjugate verbs that end with -ar in the preterite tense one must: Find the infinitive (full verb)Cut off the -arAdd the new ending (é, aste, ó, amos, asteis, aron)In the conjugation table above you can see the verb hablar which means to “to speak” in English. We will take this verb and conjugate it in the “yo” form using the three-step method.The full verb of “to speak” is hablar in Spanish.Once you cut of the ar ending all that is left is habl.When we add the new ending é, the final conjugated form will be hablé.So when you wish to say “I spoke” in Spanish you get:Yo habléCommon Regular Ar VerbsSpanish has three regular verb groupsregular -ar verbsregular -er verbsregular -ir verbsThe regular ar verbs group is the biggest and most useful group. Most Spanish verbs fall in this group. Here is a list of common verbs that you are sure to encounter in day-to-day life:amarto loveandarto walkbailarto dancebuscarto look for, search forcaminarto walkcantarto singcomprarto buyentrar (en)to enter (into)escucharto listen (to)esperarto hope / wait (for)estudiarto studyhablarto speak / to talkllegarto arrivellevarto wear / carrymirarto watch / look atpagarto pay (for)practicarto practicepreparto preparetocarto touch / play (an instrument)tomarto taketrabajarto workThis section of the lesson on regular ar verbs preterite tense conjugation is about seeing the verbs in action.This is valuable because you can improve your understanding of regular ar verbs preterite tense conjugation through examples.diseñarYo diseñé alguna de las casas nuevas del barrio. I designed some of the new houses in the neighbourhood.bailar¿Tú bailaste con Anna en la boda de mi hermana? Did you dance with Anna at my sister’s wedding?llamarÉl llamó a la oficina ayer por la tarde. He called the office yesterday afternoon.saltar / llegarNosotros saltamos la valla y llegamos antes que vosotros. We jumped the fence and got there before you.cenarVosotros cenasteis antes de que yo llegara. You had dinner before I arrived.cambiarEllos cambiaron de coche antes de mudarse a otra ciudad. They changed their car before moving to another city.encontrar¿Encontraron (ustedes) la clínica fácilmente? Did you find the clinic easily?Quiz Yourself on Regular Ar Verbs Preterite Tense ConjugationAt the end of every lesson you can do a small quiz.You will see the sentences of the previous chapter.You will either need to fill in the blanks, choose the correct multiple choice option, or both. Once you are done the correct answer will be shown.You can redo the quiz as many times as you want! 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Spanish Grammar Preterite Tense Regular -ar Verbs Overview Use Quizzes Previous With over 10 years of experience, HSA is where your goals merge with our teachers’ passion: to improve your Spanish fluency. Custom-tailored to fit your needs, you choose your program, schedule, favorite teachers, pace of learning, and more.. Learn More All Spanish infinitives end in either -ar, -er, or -ir, as in hablar, leer, and escribir. Verbs that end in -ar are more common than -er and -ir verbs, and there are fewer irregulars. In this grammar lesson you will learn about the regular er verbs preterite tense conjugation.In this lesson you will learn about:the regular er verbs preterite tense conjugationthe common regular er verbs in Spanishwhat regular er verbs preterite tense conjugation look like in sentenceshow you can quiz yourself on the regular er verbs preterite tense conjugationhow to practice with flashcards on regular er verbs preterite tense conjugationhow and why you should use the courses of Language Atlas to learn SpanishBy the end of the lesson you will know all about regular er verbs preterite tense conjugation! Regular Er Verbs Preterite Tense Conjugation Tableer endingcomer (to eat)yoícomítúistecomisteél/ella/ustediócomíonosotros/nosotrasimoscomimosvosotros/vosotrasisteiscomisteisellos/ellas/ustedesieroncomieronRegular Er Verbs Conjugation MethodThere is a three-step method that will make conjugating regular spanish ar verbs very easy for you.In order to conjugate verbs that end with -er in the preterite tense one must: Find the infinitive (full verb)Cut off the -erAdd the new ending (í, iste, ió, imos, isteis, ieron)In the conjugation table above you can see the verb comer which means to “to eat” in English. We will take this verb and conjugate it in the “yo” form using the three-step method.The full verb of “to eat” is comer in Spanish.Once you cut of the er ending all that is left is com.When we add the new ending í, the final conjugated form will be comí.So when you wish to say “I ate” in Spanish you get:Yo comíCommon Regular Er VerbsSpanish has three regular verb groupsregular -ar verbsregular -er verbsregular -ir verbsThe regular er verbs group is the second biggest verb group. Many Spanish verbs fall in this group. Here is a list of common verbs that you are sure to encounter in day-to-day life:aprenderto learnbeberto drinkcomerto eatcometer (un error)to make (a mistake)comprenderto understandcorrerto runcreerto believedeberto oweleerto readmeter (en)to put (into)poseerto possess, ownromperto breaktemerto fear, dreadvenderto sellThis section of the lesson on regular er verbs preterite tense conjugation is about seeing the verbs in action.This is valuable because you can improve your understanding of regular er verbs preterite tense conjugation through examples.vender(Yo) Vendí alguno de mis libros antiguos. I sold some of my old books.aprender¿Aprendiste la lección esta vez? Did you learn the lesson this time? (you=tú)prometerEllа prometió no volver a hacerlo. She promised no to do it again.comerNosotros comimos muy bien en este restaurante italiano. We ate very well at this Italian restaurant.aprender¿Cuántos años teníais cuando aprendisteis a leer? How old were you when you learnt how to read?correrEllos corrieron tan rápido que no pudimos alcanzarlos. They ran so fast that we couldn’t get to them.Quiz Yourself on Regular Er Verbs Preterite Tense ConjugationAt the end of every lesson you can do a small quiz.You will see the sentences of the previous chapter.You will either need to fill in the blanks, choose the correct multiple choice option, or both. Once you are done the correct answer will be shown.You can redo the quiz as many times as you want! 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Use the preterite to relate past actions that occurred at a specific time in the past. ● Nací en 1990. (I was born in 1990.) If you plan to talk about past actions and mention the moment in which those actions occurred, use the preterite past tense. The Preterite Conjugation SPELLING CHANGES: CA, QUE; ZA, CE; GA, GUE… To conjugate verbs ending in -car, -gar, -guar and -zar in the preterite past tense, you must take into account some spelling rules. Sometimes the same sound (/k/, /g/…) can be written with different letters. ●acercar → acerqué ● llegar→ llegué ● averiguar→ averigüé ● almorzar→ almorcé In Spanish, an unaccented i between two other vowels is pronounced as a consonant and is written with a y. For this reason, when -er or -ir is preceded by a vowel, in the third person singular and in the third person plural, the i becomes y. ● construir→ construyó / construyeron ● oír→ oyó / oyeron ● caer → cayó / cayeron ● huir→ huyó / huyeron Here are common regular preterite verbs in Spanish along with their conjugation. You will notice six verb forms, belonging respectively to the following persons: (1) yo; (2) tu and vos; (3) él, ella, usted; (4) nosotros, nosotras; (5) vosotros, vosotras; (6) ellos, ellas and ustedes. For a full list of irregular preterite verbs, visit the post Irregular Preterite Verbs: A Conjugated Verb List. – vi– viste– vio– vimos– visteis– vieron 2. pasar (to walk by, pass) – pasé– pasaste– pasó– pasamos– pasasteis– pasaron 3. deber (must) – debí– debiste– debió– debimos– debisteis– debieron 4. dejar (to leave) – dejé– dejaste– dejó– dejamos– dejasteis– dejaron 5. llevar (to carry) – llevé– llevaste– llevó– llevamos– llevasteis– llevaron 6. encontrar (to find) – encontré– encontraste– encontró– encontramos– encontrasteis– encontraron 7. quedarse (to stay) – me quedé– te quedaste– se quedó– nos quedamos– os quedasteis– se quedaron 8. hablar (to speak) – hablé– hablaste– habló– hablamos– hablasteis– hablaron 9. pensar (to think) – pensé– pensaste– pensó– pensamos– pensasteis– pensaron 10. volver (to return) – volví– volviste– volvió– volvimos– volvisteis– volvieron 11. conocer (to know) – conocí– conociste– conoció– conocimos– conocisteis– conocieron Think this is neat? Share it with your friends! Hola, and welcome to the Spanish “spine verb” section. The correct grammatical name for this verb tense is the “preterite” tense. If you are taking Spanish in school or with a tutor or teacher, they will usually call it the “preterite” tense. Because the word “preterite” is hard to relate to anything we have nicknamed this tense the “spine” tense after the spine in your back. First of all, your spine is in back of you, representing the past tense. If you run your hand left to right across your back, you will feel that there is a definite starting point and ending point to your spine. Like your spine, the spine tense represents a singular event in time that has a definite starting and ending point. Here are a few examples of spine verbs. I ate She sat They traveled We walked Just like with our comparison with the spine, with each of these verbs, the situation started, had a definite ending, and happened in the past. The next lesson will teach you to conjugate using the “spine” or “preterite” tense. Ar Spine Spanish Verbs Explanation Let’s learn how to conjugate “ar” spine verbs or otherwise called the “preterite” tense. We’ll use the verb “hablar” which means “to talk or speak”. If I want to say I spoke, I would say (Yo) hablé We spoke would be (Nosotros) hablamos Notice that this conjugation is the same as the present tense. This is correct and the only way to tell the difference between present and the past spine tense is by the context. For example, “hablamos ayer” would be “we spoke yesterday”. And, “hablamos hoy” would be “We speak today”. To say Juan or María, You spoke I would say (Tú) hablaste (tú plural – used only in Spain) would be (Vosotros) hablasteis He spoke would be She spoke would be You spoke would be (El) habló (Ella) habló (Ud.) habló They spoke would be They (women) spoke would be All of you spoke would be (Ellos) hablaron (Ellas) hablaron (Uds.) hablaron Now take a look at the Spine AR endings one more time and repeat them. Now let’s try a few of these: Let’s take one more look at the “ar” spine verb endings: Now we’ll practice with a few different verbs. Are you ready? How did you do? Before going on to the practice session, we need to learn a few new words and take a look at some usage situations. First our new Vocabulary Now we’ll take a brief look at a couple of usage situations. The verb “to enter” in Spanish is “entrar”. If you add a location after the word “entrar”, you need to put the word “en” afterwards. – For example, if you say I enter the house, in Spanish you would say “Entro en la casa” and if you say “I enter the car” you would say “Entro en el carro”. Now, our final usage example: When you say “to try”, then add another verb, you have to add the word “de” between them. For example: “I tried to eat” – in past tense - would be “traté de comer”, the phrase “He tried to run would be “trató de correr”, and the phrase “We tried to speak” would be “tratamos de hablar” Remember, the AR verb “nosotros” form is the same in the present tense as well as the past tense. In the following Practice Session, you’ll have the chance to conjugate many ar spine verbs. Spanish Practice Session – Spine Practice Now, we’ll go ahead and begin our “ar” spine verb practice. As usual, you’ll read a phrase in English and you try to conjugate it into Spanish. Repeat this lesson if you’re not comfortable with it yet. Otherwise go ahead and move on. Have conversations faster, understand people when they speak fast, and other tested tips to learn faster. More info The Spanish preterite tense is likely to be your first exploration into past tense Spanish. Preterite Spanish is used to describe past actions that were already completed, with a clear beginning or ending. In Spanish, this simple past tense is usually called el préterito indefinido, while it’s also sometimes known as el pasado simple. In English, this tense is often referred to as the Spanish simple past tense, but since the Spanish imperfect is also a simple tense, we generally refer to this tense by its direct translation: the Spanish preterite tense. There are five common ways to talk about the past in Spanish, which we introduce individually in our post on past tense Spanish. In this post we’ll focus specifically on preterite tense Spanish. We’ll start by explaining when to use preterite in Spanish, followed by a section where we compare préterito vs imperfecto. Then we’ll dive into preterite conjugation. We’ll see the various preterite endings for the three groups of regular verbs, and then we’ll spend some time looking at irregular preterite forms. As we do with all of our posts, we’ll demonstrate everything with plenty of examples. We’ll finish up with a set of exercises where you can practice your preterite conjugations. Now let’s get started to learn everything we need to know about this Spanish past tense! When to use the Spanish preterite tense Before we explore the Spanish preterite conjugation, we need to clarify exactly when and where you can use this Spanish past tense. As we already mentioned, this tense is used to talk about a past action that had a clear beginning or ending. Let’s see these contexts in more detail. Completed event or action The preterite allows us to describe a completed action, process, or series of events. Comimos pizza ayer. – We ate pizza yesterday. Yo estudié piano por cinco años. – I studied piano for five years. Yo le regalé ese libro a Claudia. – I gave Claudia that book. An action that took place at a specific time or date We use the preterite to describe an action that took place at a specific point in the past (like a date, a day, or a time). Eso pasó antes de que llegáramos. – That happened before we arrived. Ana trabajó esa noche. – Ana worked that night. En 1901, Theodore Roosevelt se convirtió en Presidente de los Estados Unidos. – In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt became President of the United States. The start or end of a completed action The Spanish preterite helps us to describe an action that has a clear beginning or ending. This use is frequently applied with verbs like empezar (to start) or terminar (to finish). Comencé a escuchar su discografía hoy. – I started to listen to his discography today. Finalmente terminé de leer el libro que comencé hace tres meses. – I finally finished reading the book that I started three months ago. Actions in a sequence When we mention several past actions that happened in succession, regardless of how long each one may have taken, each action had to start and finish for the next one to take place. Therefore, we use the Spanish preterite when listing a sequence of past actions. Luego de hablar con él, sus amigos fueron a su casa a saludar, dejaron algo de comida para él y se fueron. – After talking with him, his friends went to his house to say hello, left some food for him, and then left. Recommended: How to Learn Spanish Fast in 2025 How to stop confusing preterite vs imperfect A common problem for many Spanish students is knowing which past tense to use: preterite vs imperfect. Let’s just do a quick review of the general situations for when to use preterite in Spanish vs when to use imperfect. Preterite Past completed actions An event that interrupts another action Series of completed events Imperfect Ongoing actions Habitual past actions Descriptions or background information that sets the scene for a second action Telling time or age in the past We’ll wrap up this section with a couple of Spanish preterite examples, contrasted with imperfect examples, to demonstrate these contexts. Check out our detailed anti-confusion guide for a more in-depth explanation on when to use preterite vs imperfect. Preterite: Me comí 2 platos de cereal antes de salir. – I ate 2 bowls of cereal before going out. Imperfect: Comía mientras esperaba a que llegaran. – I was eating while I waited for them to arrive. Preterite: Me despedí, cerré la puerta y me fui a mi trabajo. – I said goodbye, closed the door, and left for work. Imperfect: Me despedía cuando empezó a llover. – I was saying goodbye when it started to rain. Spanish preterite tense conjugations Now that we’ve seen when and where the Spanish preterite is used, it’s time to learn how to conjugate this Spanish past tense. While this section may look long, the good news for Spanish learners is that, aside from a few highly-irregular verbs that need to be learned on their own, most preterite Spanish conjugations can be grouped into just three sets of endings. One set of preterite endings applies to regular -ar verbs, another applies to regular -er and -ir verbs, and the third set applies to most verbs with irregular preterite stems. We’ll start with the two sets of regular preterite endings, and then we’ll learn the third set of preterite forms along with the irregular stems for 15 common verbs. We’ll end with the full preterite conjugation charts for five highly-irregular verbs: ir, ser, ver, dar, and hacer. Now let’s dive in to our full lesson on Spanish preterite tense conjugations! Spanish Preterite Endings: Regular Verbs When dealing with regular verbs, there are only two sets of Spanish preterite endings that need to be learned: endings for -ar verbs, and endings for -er and -ir verbs. Let’s start with each set of preterite endings for regular verbs. Subject Preterite endings: -ar verbs Preterite endings: -er and -ir verbs yo -é -í tú -aste -iste él, ella, usted -ó -ió nosotros -amos -imos vosotros -asteis -isteis ellos, ellas, ustedes -aron -ieron Now let’s see each of these preterite endings applied to typical regular verbs. We’ll use trabajar (to work), entender (to understand), and vivir (to live) to demonstrate our regular preterite conjugations: infinitive trabajar entender vivir Stem trabaj- entend- viv- yo trabajé entendí viví tú trabajaste entendiste viviste él, ella, usted trabajó entendió vivió nosotros trabajamos entendimos vivimos vosotros trabajasteis entendisteis vivisteis ellos, ellas, ustedes trabajaron entendieron vivieron Did you notice that the first person plural (nosotros) endings in the Spanish preterite tense and the simple present tense are exactly the same for regular -ar and -ir verbs? That’s right! Let’s compare both tenses with their nosotros conjugations: Simple present tense: Nosotros trabajamos en la oficina. – We work at the office. Preterite past tense: Nosotros trabajamos en la oficina esta mañana. – We worked at the office this morning. Simple present tense: Nosotros escribimos una carta. – We write a letter. Preterite past tense: Nosotros escribimos una carta el otro día. – We wrote a letter the other day. Normally, native speakers can differentiate both tenses depending the context of the sentence. Often, adverbs of time are included as helpful hints that we’re speaking about the past, such as ayer (yesterday) or anoche (last night). Spanish preterite endings: Irregular verbs Throughout Spanish grammar, there are some irregular verbs that must be conjugated differently. The Spanish preterite tense is no different. Fortunately, we have one main set of preterite endings that apply to a majority of irregular verbs: the only thing that needs to be memorized is the irregular stem. That being said, there are several subsets of irregular preterite conjugations that follow slightly different rules. In the next section we’ll cover five of the most-important Spanish verbs that exhibit highly-irregular preterite conjugations, while for the others we’ll point you to our dedicated post that looks specifically at the different groups of irregular preterite verbs. Here’s our set of Spanish preterite tense endings for the majority of irregular verbs: Subject Preterite endings: irregular verbs yo -e tú -iste él, ella, usted -o nosotros -imos vosotros -isteis ellos, ellas, ustedes -ieron Since we need the stem in order to apply these irregular Spanish preterite conjugations, let’s review 15 of the most common irregular verbs to see their stems. Since these are such important verbs, we have specific posts that examine many of them in detail. Where we’ve included links, click through to go deep on these Spanish verbs! At the end of this chart of irregular preterite verbs, we’ll provide example preterite sentences in Spanish with each one. Verb, Spanish Irregular stem English andar anduv- to walk, to go about estar estuv- to be componer compus- to compose contener contuv- to contain descomponer descompus- to break down detener detuv- to stop, to detain disponer dispus- to provide poder pud- to be able to poner pus- to put proponer propus- to propose querer quis- to want to tener tuv- to have saber sup- to know prevenir previn- to prevent venir vin- to come Now, for all of the irregular verb stems we’ve seen here, presented in the same order as above, let’s see some preterite examples in Spanish. Notice that regardless of the stem, they all just take the same preterite endings (in bold) that we saw in the conjugation chart. Anduve muy ocupado toda la tarde. – I was running around very busily the entire afternoon. Estuve en mi casa hasta la tarde. – I was at home until the afternoon. Él compuso la música para esta película. – He composed the music for this movie. No contuve mi entusiasmo cuando lo ví. – I didn’t contain my enthusiasm when I saw him. El televisor se descompuso ayer. – The television set broke yesterday. Por suerte, se detuvieron antes de chocar. – Luckily, they stopped before crashing. Me dispuse a terminar esto temprano. – I decided to finish this early. Pude salir de la casa pero había mucho tráfico. – I was able to leave home but there was a lot of traffic. Puso mucha confianza en ti. – He placed a lot of trust in you. Propuse algunas idea pero no sé si las tomen en cuenta. – I proposed a few ideas but I don’t know if they’ll be taken into consideration. Quise traer varios juegos pero solo encontré este. – I wanted to bring a few games but I only found this one. Tuve un sueño muy raro. – I had a really weird dream. Él supo cómo organizar todo. – He knew how to organize everything. Ellos previnieron el accidente. – They prevented the accident. Viniste desde muy lejos. – You came from far away. Highly-irregular preterite conjugations So far, we’ve seen the three sets of preterite tense endings that apply to most verbs, whether regular or irregular. Even most other irregular preterite verbs just exhibit slight variations of what we’ve just seen. Fortunately for Spanish learners, there aren’t many highly-irregular verbs that need to be learned individually. We’ll introduce the following ones here: ser (to be), ir (to go), dar (to vie), ver (to see), and hacer (to do). Ser and ir are identical, dar and ver are similar, and hacer has a stem change. Let’s see each of these three groupings here. Ser and Ir preterite conjugations First, take a look at this preterite conjugation chart for ser (to be) and ir (to go): Subject ser ir yo fui fui tú fuiste fuiste él, ella, usted fue fue nosotros fuimos fuimos vosotros fuisteis fuisteis ellos, ellas, ustedes fueron fueron Did you notice that the ir and ser preterite conjugations are exactly the same? That’s right! So how do we differentiate them? It’s all about context. Ir is used to talk about going or leaving. Ser is used to give descriptions that are rarely subject to change. So how does this work when you have to rely on understanding context alone? Native speakers intuitively know which verb is being used. Even when the context is known, however, Spanish students still often find it confusing to know which verb is being used, since the conjugations for ir and ser look exactly the same. A reasonably easy and effective trick to tell these verbs apart is to remember is that the verb ir is used when something moves to somewhere else, so it is usually followed by a preposition such as a, or alternatively para. By comparison, the verb ser is typically followed by a description. Fueron a todos los conciertos en el tour. Necesitaron bastante dinero para eso. – They went to every concert on the tour. They needed a lot of money for that Mis amigos y yo fuimos bomberos por muchos años. – My friends and I were firefighters for many years. Fui a ver a mi vecino. – I went to see my neighbor. Fui su vecino por muchos años. – I was his neighbor for many years. Ver and Dar preterite conjugations These two short verbs both follow the same preterite form. Notice that although these conjugations resemble endings for regular -er and -ir verbs, the first- and third-person singular preterite conjugations do not have accents. Subject ver dar yo vi di tú viste diste él, ella, usted vio dio nosotros vimos dimos vosotros visteis disteis ellos, ellas, ustedes vieron dieron Hacer preterite conjugation Hacer is one of the most common Spanish verbs. It has an irregular form in the first-person singular conjugation of the simple present tense (yo hago), and an irregular preterite form in the third-person singular (hizo). The rest of the hacer preterite endings use the stem hic-, followed by the endings we saw for other irregular verbs in the last section. We cover this verb in full detail in our post on hacer conjugation. Subject hacer yo hice tú hiciste él, ella, usted hizo nosotros hicimos vosotros hicisteis ellos, ellas, ustedes hicieron Conclusion: Preterite tense Spanish Today’s post covered everything you need to know about the Spanish simple past tense known as the preterite. We started off by asking what is the preterite tense in Spanish: el préterito indefinido or el pasado simple. The next section looked at when do you use preterite in Spanish. For the most part, we saw that the Spanish preterite tense is used when describing past actions that have been completed, including when listing a series of past actions. Then we got into the preterite conjugations Spanish uses for regular and irregular verbs. We saw that regular verbs have just two sets of preterite Spanish endings, while most irregular verbs have a third set of preterite endings. We saw the preterite stems for some of the most important irregular preterite verbs, and then we took a closer look at five highly-irregular preterite tense conjugations: ir, ser, ver, dar, and hacer. We also included a quick review of the two simple Spanish past tenses: preterite vs imperfect, noting that the imperfect is generally used for unfinished or ongoing actions. In that section, as well as throughout the post, we provided links to some of our other detailed posts covering specific lessons that we referenced here. Through all this, you should now have a good grasp of the Spanish preterite tense: how to recognize it, when to use it, and how to apply each preterite conjugation. We encourage you to practice this Spanish past tense whenever you’re speaking, and to notice it whenever you read spanish text. For now, we’ll leave you with a set of exercises to put your new preterite conjugation knowledge into practice! Spanish preterite practice exercises A lot of today’s post on preterite tense Spanish focused on conjugation. Now it’s time to practice using the Spanish preterite tense by applying the correct conjugations in each of these sentences. We provide the verb for each of the preterite examples in Spanish, and we’re helping you out by including the stem for all of the irregular preterite verbs. If we don’t mention the stem, then the verb has a regular preterite form. The answers and translations are below. 1. Yo le _____ ese libro a Claudia. (prestar) 2. Nosotros _____ al restaurante. (ir: highly irregular) 3. Tú le _____ un regalo a mi madre en su cumpleaños. (dar: highly irregular) 4. Ayer _____ en la piscina con unos amigos. (estar: estuv-) 5. No _____ muy amigas en la universidad. (ser: highly irregular) 6. No _____ nada de lo que pasaba. (entender) 7. Ella _____ toda la tarde sobre eso. (hablar) 8. No _____ lo que debía. (pagar) 9. De pequeño no _____ perro, pero sí _____ otras mascotas. (tener: tuv-; tener: tuv-) 10. Ellos _____ por mucho tiempo. (viajar) 11. Yo _____ que tenía que irme de inmediato. (sentir) 12. Eso, nosotros lo _____ entre los dos. (hacer: highly irregular) 13. Yo _____ temprano, disculpa. (salir) 14. Ustedes _____ por la ventana justo a tiempo. (mirar) 15. Open-ended question for more preterite practice: ¿Qué hiciste la semana pasada? Preterite conjugation practice: Answers 1. Yo le presté ese libro a Claudia. – I lent that book to Claudia. 2. Nosotros fuimos al restaurante. – We went to the restaurant. 3. Tú le diste un regalo a mi madre en su cumpleaños. – You gave my mom a gift on her birthday. 4. Ayer estuviste en la piscina con unos amigos. – Yesterday you were at the pool with some friends. 5. No fuimos muy amigas en la universidad. – We were not good friends in college. 6. No entendí nada de lo que pasaba. – I did not understand what was happening. 7. Ella habló toda la tarde sobre eso. – She talked the entire afternoon about that. 8. No pagué lo que debía. – I didn’t pay what I had to. 9. De pequeño no tuve perro, pero sí tuve otras mascotas. – As a kid I didn’t have a dog, but I did have other pets. 10. Ellos viajaron por mucho tiempo. – They traveled for a long time. 11. Yo sentí que tenía que irme de inmediato. – I felt that I had to leave immediately. 12. Eso, nosotros lo hicimos entre los dos. – We did that, the two of us. 13. Yo salí temprano, disculpa. – I left early, sorry. 14. Ustedes miraron por la ventana justo a tiempo. – You looked out the window right on time. 15. What did you do last week? For completed actions, including those listed in sequence, be sure to use the Spanish preterite tense! Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. European language students will frequently come across mentions of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, better known as the CEFR. It’s a simple framework to measure language proficiency across languages and teaching methods, used by students, employers, and organizations working with foreign language speakers.First conceived in the 1970s, the finished version was released in 2001 by the Council of Europe. Since then, the language guidelines have become widely accepted as the standard measure of proficiency in European languages in around 40 countries.We use the CEFR at Language Atlas. It’s a starting point for most students outside formal studies and a straightforward measure of progress in the language learning world. In short, essential info, and we’ve compiled a guide that covers everything you need to know about CEFR and how it can help you on the path to fluency.As you can see in our multichromatic table, the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is a quick and easy guide to language proficiency. It is not a teaching methodology but a broad set of guidelines that can be understood at a glance.Commonly known as the CEFR in English, but sometimes the CEFRL or CEF, it portions the journey from beginner to fluency into 6 digestible stages. Within each stage is a detailed set of measures and questions for assessing proficiency levels.New students swayed by the benefits of learning a language, which quickly stack up with major European languages like Spanish and French, will encounter CEFR terminology across learning resources.The CEFR can be applied to all European languages and provides an accessible table for learners to track progress and set goals. While not a precise measure like IELTS or other international language exams, it boils the language learning journey into a set of measures that travels across borders and teaching methodologies.Above all, CEFR uses language, terms, and measures we can all relate to and will still be relevant even if/when you become a seasoned polyglot.Having been finessed and refined since its creation, it has become a continental standard that influences language studies in Europe and beyond.The CEFR’s effectiveness lies in its deceptively simple six steps from early learner (Basic User) to fluency (Proficient User).Underlying each step is a set of accessible measures, moulded and finessed to reflect what a successful language learning journey looks like.A short summary of each proficiency level in the CEFR, sourced from the Council of Europe, is usually enough for many language learners to gauge their proficiency:A1– Able to comprehend and use common daily expressions and basic phrases.– Can introduce yourself and others– Able to ask and answer questions about personal details like residence, acquaintances, and possessions.– Can engage in simple conversations with the other person speaking slowly and clearly. A2– Understands sentences and commonly used expressions on issues close to you, such as basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, and employment.– Ability to communicate effectively during simple tasks involving straightforward info exchanges on familiar and routine issues.– Can talk in basic terms about aspects of your background.– Able to resolve matters of immediate necessity using simple terms. B1– Grasp the key points of clear and standard information on familiar subjects encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.– Confident in handling most situations while travelling in a region where the language is spoken.– Ability to generate straightforward, connected text on topics of personal interest or areas of knowledge. – Can describe experiences, events, dreams, hopes, and ambitions and provide brief reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. B2– Comfortable understanding concrete and abstract topics within intricate texts, including technical discussions within their specialized field.– Able to engage in fluent and spontaneous interactions with native speakers without difficulty for either party.– Confident in producing articulate and detailed text across a broad spectrum of subjects.– Capable of explaining viewpoints on topical issues while offering a detailed overview of the pros and cons of different options. C1– Can easily comprehend long and challenging texts and discern implicit meaning and abstract ideas. – Capable of expressing thoughts fluently and spontaneously, with no difficulties finding appropriate expressions.– Flexible and effective use of language across social, academic, and professional contexts.– Skilled at producing clear, well-structured, and detailed text on intricate subjects, demonstrating the considered use of organizational patterns and connectors. C2– Effortless comprehension of nearly everything he