



El pasado

- Hay dos formas principales del pasado:
 - El pretérito
 - El imperfecto

El imperfecto vs. el pretérito

- The imperfect **describes** what was happening, what was going on, things that happened regularly, or a series of repeated or habitual events. It puts us in the moment.
- The preterite describes things that are done. We're looking back at what happened.

El imperfecto vs. el pretérito

- *In general:*
 - Think of the preterite as actions that occurred and are over and done with.
 - Think of the imperfect as giving the background of what was happening during that time – whether it is a description or a series of repeated actions.
- Remember, these rules are “in general.” There are many instances where you could use either tense depending on what the speaker means.

El pretérito

- Usos del pretérito:
 - Express events/actions in the past that began or ended at a definite time in the past without giving more details about other simultaneous or interrupting actions.
 - Actions that are complete/finished.
 - Actions that you can pin-point on a time-line.
 - Used any time you specify a specific time (ayer, anoche, a las ocho, el lunes, etc).
 - Actions done a specific/certain number of times.

El pretérito

Las palabras siguientes indican el pretérito:

• Ayer	• El mes pasado
• Anteayer	• El año pasado
• Anoche	• Hace dos días
• Desde el primer momento	• Ayer por la mañana
• Durante dos siglos	• Ayer por la tarde
• El otro día	• Cuatro veces / Una vez
• En ese momento	• Siempre ** (always, constant over a specific period of time – all along)
• Entonces	• Nunca ** (never, not even once)
• Esta mañana	
• Esta tarde	
• La semana pasada	

**Depends upon meaning

El imperfecto

• Usos del imperfecto:

- Express habitual or repeated actions/events and states in the past.
- Actions without definite beginnings or endings (that continued for an indefinite time or may still be happening).
- Gives the idea of “used to...” or “was doing” in English.
- Used for description of people, places, objects, events, weather, and time.
- It’s like the present tense of the past – you are saying what was happening



Imperfecto

Las palabras siguientes indican el imperfecto:

- A menudo
 - A veces
 - Cada día
 - Cada semana
 - Cada mes
 - Cada año
 - Con frecuencia
 - Todo el tiempo
 - De vez en cuando
 - En aquella época
 - Frecuentemente
 - Generalmente
 - Muchas veces
 - Mucho
 - Todos los días
 - Siempre** (*always – if meaning each time*)
 - Nunca ** (*meaning never used to –over a period of time*)
- **Depends upon meaning.

El imperfecto

• Formas del imperfecto de verbos -AR:

Yo **-aba** Nosotros **-ábamos**

Tú **-abas** Vosotros **-abais**

Él **-aba** Ellos **-aban**



El imperfecto

Yo **llamaba** Nosotros **llamábamos**

I used to call
I was calling

We used to call
We were calling

Tú **llamabas** Vosotros **llamabais**

You used to call
You were calling

You all used to call
You all were calling

Él **llamaba** Ellos **llamaban**

He used to call
He was calling

They used to call
They were calling



Preterite: **Siempre y Nunca**

Siempre – always (constant over a specific period of time or “all along”)

Siempre lo supo – He always knew it./Knew it all along

Nunca – Never, not even once

Nunca tuviste tiempo para mí – You never (not even once) had time for me.

Imperfect:

Siempre – always meaning “each time” – over and over.

Siempre ayudaba a mi mamá. – I helped my mom each time.

Nunca – never used to.

Nunca estábamos de acuerdo en nada. – We never used to agreed on anything.