Unidad 4

El imperfect

El pasado

Hay dos formas principales del pasado:

El pretérito
- Actions that were completed in the past

El imperfecto
- To talk about what was happening
- What you used to do
- How old someone was
- What time it was

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 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.

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

**Depends upon meaning
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.

Las formas del imperfecto

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Los verbos -AR</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo</td>
<td>-aba</td>
<td>-ábamos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú</td>
<td>-abas</td>
<td>-abais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ud./Él/Ella</td>
<td>-aba</td>
<td>-aban</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

El verbo Contar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contar – to tell a story</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo</td>
<td>contaba</td>
<td>contábamos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú</td>
<td>contabas</td>
<td>contabais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ud./Él/Ella</td>
<td>contaba (You/He/She was telling, used to tell)</td>
<td>contaban (You/They were telling, used to tell)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prueba de práctica
1. Yo _____________ (pelear) cada día.
2. La princesa _____________ (llorar) todas las noches.
3. Tú _____________ (regresar) al palacio cada mes.
4. Nosotros _____________ (estar) enamorados.
5. Los guerreros _____________ (cazar) en el bosque cada año.

Siempre y Nunca

*Preterite:*
• 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.
Siempre y Nunca

★ 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.*