

Preterite vs Imperfect - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Comcast

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Preterite vs Imperfect SPANISH3Larrotta - Tatiana

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Spanish has two past tenses: preterite and imperfect. Most verbs can be put into either tense, depending upon the meaning. In this lesson, you will learn to conjugate regular -ar verbs in the preterite and the imperfect. You will also learn the basic difference between the preterite and the imperfect, so that you can begin using them correctly.

To conjugate regular -ar verbs in the preterite, simply drop the ending (-ar) and add one of the following:

é
aste
ó
amos
asteis
aron

To conjugate regular -ar verbs in the imperfect, simply drop the ending (-ar) and add one of the following:

aba
abas
aba
ábamos
abais
aban

Compare the verb "hablar" conjugated in the preterite and the

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Imperfect

- What you used to do
- incomplete actions
 - habitual/repeated actions
 - events that were in progress
 - physical characteristics
 - mental/emotional states
 - time-telling
 - age

Preterite

- What you did
- completed actions