

Preterite vs Imperfect

	Preterite Tense		Imperfect Tense	
Use	The preterite tense can be used when the speaker is describing a completed action. An indication of whether the action has been completed is if it has an obvious beginning or end.		The imperfect tense can be used to show an ongoing or repeated action, physical characteristics, mental or emotional states that are ongoing, time or date, age, and activities that have been interrupted.	
	-ar	-er/-ir	-ar	-er/-ir
Yo	é	í	aba	ía
Tu	aste	iste	abas	ías
El/Ella/Usted	ó	ió	aba	ía
Nosotros	amos	imos	ábamos	íamos
Vosotros	asteis	isteis	abais	íais
Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes	aron	ieron	aban	ían