

Preterite vs. Imperfect

How to distinguish Preterite from Imperfect.

1. The Preterite will usually have a specific time frame.
2. The Imperfect will usually translate as "used to", or has a general time frame: always, never, generally, etc.
3. Verbs like *was*, *needed*, *wanted*, *age*, use the Imperfect.



Some of these statements will be in the Preterite; others will be in the Imperfect. Refer to the introduction pg.#2. **answers on next page**

1. I used to study more when I was young. _____
2. He went with me last year. _____
3. They (*m*) wanted to leave yesterday. _____
4. Juan was my best friend. _____
5. She always sang my favorite song. _____
6. You (*Ud.*) learned Spanish very quickly. _____
7. I never used to follow the instructions. _____
8. She was cooking when I arrived. _____
9. Jose drank too much last night. _____
10. You all always opened the store on time. _____
11. We didn't pay because we didn't receive the bill. _____
12. I was going to study but didn't have time. _____
13. Maria visited me this morning. _____
14. We arrived at the same time. _____
15. Mr. Gomez was a good teacher. _____ El Sr. Gomez
16. They (*f*) needed more money. _____
17. You (*tú*) weren't doing anything. (nothing) _____ nada
18. She invited me to the party. _____
19. I was cooking when she arrived. _____
20. She planned to leave. _____
21. You (*tú*) ordered the pizza. _____
22. They were (*m*) watching when he fell. _____ él se cayó
23. Maria left her purse at the restaurant. _____
24. She made a sculpture in her class. _____ una escultura
25. I usually waited for the bus here. _____
26. We always returned our books. _____
27. You (*tú*) spent more money than I. _____ que yo
28. They (*m*) wrote to the president yesterday. _____
29. We never used to see it before this year. _____
30. She bought her new dress at this store. _____

A

As a spoken exercise, translate the Spanish column into English, then the English column into Spanish.
for previous page

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| 1. Yo estudiaba más cuando era joven. | 1. I used to study more when I was young. |
| 2. Él fue conmigo el año pasado. | 2. He went with me last year. |
| 3. Ellos querían salir ayer. | 3. They (<i>m</i>) wanted to leave yesterday. |
| 4. Juan era mi mejor amigo. | 4. Juan was my best friend. |
| 5. Ella siempre cantaba mi canción favorita. | 5. She always sang my favorite song. |
| 6. Ud. aprendió español muy rápido. | 6. You (<i>Ud.</i>) learned Spanish very quickly. |
| 7. Yo nunca seguía las instrucciones. | 7. I never used to followed the instructions. |
| 8. Ella estaba cocinando cuando yo llegué. | 8. She was cooking when I arrived. |
| 9. José tomó demasiado anoche. | 9. Jose drank too much last night. |
| 10. Uds. siempre abrían la tienda a tiempo. | 10. You all always opened the store on time. |
| 11. No pagamos porque no recibimos la cuenta. | 11. We didn't pay because we didn't receive the bill. |
| 12. Yo iba a estudiar pero no tuve tiempo. | 12. I was going to study but didn't have time. |
| 13. María me visitó esta mañana. | 13. Maria visited me this morning. |
| 14. Llegamos al mismo tiempo. | 14. We arrived at the same time. |
| 15. El Sr. Gomez era buen maestro. | 15. Mr. Gomez was a good teacher. |
| 16. Ellas necesitaban más dinero. | 16. They (<i>f</i>) needed more money. |
| 17. No hacías nada. | 17. You (<i>tú</i>) weren't doing anything |
| 18. Ella me invitó a la fiesta. | 18. She invited me to the party. |
| 19. Yo estaba cocinando cuando ella llegó. | 19. I was cooking when she arrived. |
| 20. Ella pensaba salir. | 20. She planned to leave. |
| 21. Ordenaste la pizza. | 21. You (<i>tú</i>) ordered the pizza. |
| 22. Ellos estaban viendo cuando él se cayó. | 22. They (<i>m</i>) were watching when he fell. |
| 23. María dejó su bolsa en el restaurante. | 23. Maria left her purse at the restaurant. |
| 24. Ella hizo una escultura en su clase. | 24. She made a sculpture in her class. |
| 25. Yo usualmente esperaba el autobús aquí. | 25. I usually waited for the bus here. |
| 26. Siempre regresábamos nuestros libros. | 26. We always returned our books. |
| 27. Gastaste más dinero que yo. | 27. You (<i>tú</i>) spent more money than I. |
| 28. Ellos le escribieron al presidente ayer. | 28. They (<i>m</i>) wrote to the president yesterday. |
| 29. Nunca lo veíamos antes de este año. | 29. We never used to see it before this year. |
| 30. Ella compró su vestido nuevo en esta tienda. | 30. She bought her new dress at this store. |