Preterite Indefinite

Spanish · British English › Spanish

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / _____

Take this test online and practise in the Palabrify app
palabrify.com/spanish/grammar/a2/preterite-indefinite

The Simple Past Tense (Pretérito Indefinido) – Regular Verbs

Hello there! Today, we're diving into the world of the Spanish past, specifically the **Pretérito Indefinido** tense. This is a crucial tense we use to describe **completed actions** that happened at a **specific moment in the past**. Think of it like the simple past in English (e.g., 'I did', 'she went').

At this level, we'll focus on **regular verbs**. This means you only need to remember the endings for each verb group (-ar, -er, -ir), and the verb stem stays the same. It's really straightforward!

Subject + **Verb Stem** + Pretérito Indefinido Ending

Here's how regular verbs are conjugated in the Pretérito Indefinido:

Subject	'-AR' Verbs (e.g., hablar)
yo	hablé
tú	hablaste
él/ella/usted	habló
nosotros/as	hablamos
vosotros/as	hablasteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	hablaron

Subject	'-ER' Verbs (e.g., comer)
yo	comí
tú	comiste
él/ella/usted	comió
nosotros/as	comimos
vosotros/as	comisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	comieron

Subject	'-IR' Verbs (e.g., vivir)
yo	viví
tú	viviste
él/ella/usted	vivió
nosotros/as	vivimos
vosotros/as	vivisteis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	vivieron

Don't forget the accents! In the **yo** and **él/ella/usted** forms, accents are key to distinguishing them from the present tense. For example, *hablo* (I speak/am speaking – present) vs. *hablé* (I spoke – past)!

Yo hablé con mi amigo ayer.
I spoke with my friend yesterday.

Ella comió una manzana.
She ate an apple.

Nosotros vivimos allí dos años.
We lived there for two years.

Watch out! Don't confuse the Pretérito Indefinido with the Imperfecto. The Indefinido is for completed, single actions in the past that have a clear beginning and end. The Imperfecto is used for describing habits, background actions, or actions that were ongoing in the past without a specific end. For instance, *Ayer fui al cine* (Indefinido - 'Yesterday I went to the cinema') vs. *Cuando era niño, iba al cine cada semana* (Imperfecto - 'When I was a child, I used to go to the cinema every week').

Practise regularly, and you'll see that the Pretérito Indefinido will become your best friend for talking about the past! Good luck!

AYER: A Y E R

Part 1 — Choose the correct word

Circle the option that correctly fills each gap.

1. Anoche ella _____ un email a su amigo.
   Last night she wrote an email to her friend.
   A) escribe B) escribirá C) escribió D) ha escrito

2. Anoche ella _____ hasta las tres para su examen.
   Last night she studied until three for her exam.
   A) estudiará B) estudiaba C) estudia D) estudió

3. Ayer ellos _____ los regalos con alegría.
   Yesterday they opened the presents happily.
   A) abren B) abrieron C) han abierto D) abrirán

4. Yo _____ a mis abuelos el fin de semana.
   I visited my grandparents at the weekend.
   A) visitaré B) visito C) visitaron D) visité

5. Tú _____ pan en la panadería.
   You bought bread at the bakery.
   A) compraste B) compró C) comprarás D) compras

6. Ayer vosotras _____ un mensaje a Juan.
   Yesterday you wrote a message to Juan.
   A) habéis escrito B) escribís C) escribisteis D) escribiréis

7. Ayer usted _____ quedarse en casa.
   Yesterday you decided to stay at home.
   A) decide B) decidió C) decidirá D) decidía

8. Ayer yo _____ mucha fruta.
   Yesterday I ate a lot of fruit.
   A) como B) comí C) he comido D) comeré

Part 2 — Fill in the gap

Write the missing word or phrase on the line.

1. Nosotras _____ mucho en la clase.
   We learned a lot in class.
2. Tú _____ el libro en un día.
   You finished the book in one day.
3. Ayer vosotros _____ mucho en la reunión.
   Yesterday you talked a lot at the meeting.
4. Anoche ella _____ muy bien en el concierto.
   Last night she sang very well at the concert.
5. Ella _____ un zumo de naranja.
   She drank orange juice.
6. Yo _____ un vaso de agua.
   I drank a glass of water.

Part 3 — Translate

Write each word in Spanish on the line.

1. to wait › _____
2. to believe › _____
3. to work › _____
4. to listen › _____
5. to run › _____
6. to talk › _____

Part 4 — Match the pairs

Write the letter of the matching translation next to each term.

	Term		Translation
1.	cenar	A	to live
2.	responder	B	to have dinner
3.	bailar	C	to dance
4.	vender	D	to travel
5.	viajar	E	to allow

6.	vivir	F	to go up
7.	permitir	G	to answer
8.	subir	H	to sell

Answer Key

Part 1 — Choose the correct word

1. C) escribió
2. D) estudió
3. B) abrieron
4. D) visité
5. A) compraste
6. C) escribisteis
7. B) decidió
8. B) comí

Part 2 — Fill in the gap

1. aprendimos
2. terminaste
3. hablasteis
4. cantó
5. bebió
6. bebí

Part 3 — Translate

1. esperar
2. creer
3. trabajar
4. escuchar
5. correr
6. hablar

Part 4 — Match the pairs

1. B (to have dinner)
2. G (to answer)
3. C (to dance)
4. H (to sell)
5. D (to travel)
6. A (to live)
7. E (to allow)
8. F (to go up)