



# PAST TENSE SPANISH 101: GUIDE TO ALL PAST TENSES IN SPANISH



# ENDINGS FOR PAST TENSES IN SPANISH

## PRETERITE

## IMPERFECT

## PAST PERFECT

## PAST PROGRESSIVE

-AR VERBS

-é  
-aste  
-ó  
-amos  
-asteis  
-aron

-aba  
-abas  
-aba  
-ábamos  
-abais  
-aban

Haber  
Imperfect + -ado  
form  
=  
Había hablado

Estar  
Past + -ando  
form  
=  
Estaba cenando

-ER/IR VERBS

-í  
-iste  
-ió  
-imos  
-isteis  
-ieron

-ía  
-ías  
-ía  
-íamos  
-íais  
-ían

Haber  
Imperfect + -ido  
form  
=  
Habías comido

Estar  
Past + -iendo  
form  
=  
Estaba durmiendo

# IMPERFECT VS PAST PROGRESSIVE IN SPANISH

## IMPERFECT

Past actions over an extended period.



Todos los días **llovía** mucho.  
Every day it **rained** a lot.

## PAST PROGRESSIVE

Past action in progress. Specific reference point.



Estuvo **lloviendo** todo el día.  
It was **raining** all day.

# SPANISH PAST TENSES

## PRETERITE

Specific time. Completed action.



Juan se **despertó** a las 8.  
Juan **woke up** at 8.

## IMPERFECT

Past habits and descriptions.



Va a visitar la ciudad en la que **vivía**.  
He's going to visit the city where he **used to live**.

## PAST PROGRESSIVE

Past action in progress.



Esa mañana **estaba lloviendo**.  
That morning **was raining**.

## PAST PERFECT

Past action happened before something else.



Cuando llegó, su avión ya **había salido**.  
When he arrived, his plane **had** already **left**.

# KEY POINTS: PAST TENSES IN SPANISH

Tense	Uses	Examples
Preterite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Completed</u> actions in the past.</li><li>• Activities that occurred at a <u>specific</u> moment in the past.</li></ul>	Ayer <b>hablé</b> con ella. Yesterday I <b>talked</b> to her.
Imperfect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describes <u>how</u> things or people were.</li><li>• Talks about past <u>habits</u> or <u>recurring</u> actions.</li><li>• Tells <u>time</u> and age.</li></ul>	La casa <b>era</b> grande. The house <b>was</b> big.
Past Perfect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expresses that a past action took place <u>before</u> something else.</li></ul>	Ya la <b>había visto</b> . I <b>had seen</b> it already.
Past Progressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refers to actions that were <u>interrupted</u> by another past event.</li><li>• Describes past actions that were <u>in progress</u>.</li></ul>	No <b>estaba viendo</b> la tele. I <b>wasn't watching</b> TV.

# LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[Past Tense Spanish 101: Guide to All Past Tenses in Spanish](#)

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[Spanish Past Tenses 101: Preterite vs Imperfect](#)

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