

El Pretérito

- completed past action

Remember: to express the idea of "to have just" we use the following formula

acabar + de + infinitive (acabar is a regular ar verb)

Examples:

Acabo de hablar con Jorge por el teléfono.

I have just spoken with Jorge on the phone.

Los alumnos acaban de repasar los verbos.

The students have just reviewed the verbs.

***** Notice that the above formula is still in the "present tense."

The **Preterite tense**: (a past tense)

Now, you will learn the "preterite" tense of the verbs. This tense expresses the past as a completed action.

AR endings

é	amos
aste	asteis
ó	aron

ER/IR endings

í	imos
iste	isteis
ió	ieron

You MUST write the accents in where they are!!!! IF you do NOT put in the accents, it changes the meaning of the verb.

EXAMPLE: Hablo con Ana. (I speak with Ana) is different than:

Habló con Ana. (You f/s, or He, or She SPOKE with Ana)

REMEMBER: VERBS THAT ARE IRREGULAR IN THE PRESENT TENSE MAY NOT BE IRREGULAR IN THE PRETERITE.

Some of the verbs will be "spell changers" to keep the original sound.
Examples: tocar is pronounced with a "hard c"
to keep this hard sound with the "yo" form, the verb spell changes.

tocar normally in the YO form would be tocé (toe say) but it needs to be pronounced (toe kay); the "kay" sound is easy because it is a word in Spanish (que)

Therefore, the "yo" form of tocar in the Preterite (past) is toqué

• Here are some "spelling changers" in the preterite tense in the "yo form"

Verbs that end in:

--car	(like tocar)	qué
--gar	(like jugar)	qué
--zar	(like empezar)	cé

Tocar: to played (instruments)/touched

toqué	tocamos
tocaste	tocasteis
tocó	tocaron

*Other verbs like tocar: buscar, sacar

Jugar: to played (sports)

jugué	jugamos
jugaste	jugasteis
jugó	jugaron

Empezar: to started/began

empecé	empezamos
empezaste	empezasteis
empezó	empezaron

***other verbs: comenzar,

• Don't forget that there are also some "key phrases" that indicate past tense:

ayer (yesterday), anoche (last nite), la semana pasada (last week), el mes pasado (last month), etc., el fin de semana pasado (last weekend)

EXAMPLES:

hablar: to spoke/talked

hablé	hablamos
hablaste	hablasteis
habló	hablaron

comer: to ate

comí	comimos
comiste	comisteis
comió	comieron

vivir: to lived

viví	vivimos
viviste	vivisteis
vivió	vivieron

Irregulars:
hacer: to did/made

hice	hicimos
hiciste	hicisteis
hizo	hicieron

ir: to went & ser: to was/were

fui	fuimos
fuiste	fuisteis
fue	fueron

- Some verbs change meaning in the preterite:

Conocer: to met

Saber: to found out

No querer: to refused

Querer: to tried/managed

Irregulars starting in Level II Cap. 3

UV Verbs: (tanning verbs) ;)

Andar: to walked

anduve	anduvimos
anduviste	anduvisteis
anduvo	anduvieron

Tener: to had

tuve	tuvimos
tuviste	tuvisteis
tuvo	tuvieron

"i" Verbs

Venir: to came

vine	vinimos
viniste	vinisteis
vino	vinieron

Dar: to gave

di	dimos
diste	disteis
dio	dieron

Ver: to saw

vi	vimos
viste	visteis
vio	vieron