EL PRETÉRITO

- The preterite is one of the tenses used to describe the past. The preterite is used for actions in the past that are seen as completed. Use of the preterite tense means that the past action had a definite beginning and definite end. In English, it can be compared to the -ed ending.
- ➤ To conjugate regular verbs in the preterite, simply drop the -ar, find the subject, and add one of the following endings:

PRONOUNS	-AR ENDINGS	-ER ENDINGS	-IR ENDINGS
yo	-é	-í	-í
tú	-aste	-iste	-iste
él, ella, Ud.	-ó	-ió	-ió
nosotros(as)	-amos	-imos	-imos
ellos, ellas, Uds.	-aron	-ieron	-ieron

In the preterite, there are accents on the first and third person singular forms. Accent marks are very important in Spanish. Note the differences in meaning in of the following sentences:

Hablo español. Habló español.

I speak Spanish. <u>He/She/You (formal) spoke</u> Spanish.

Here are some examples of the preterite tense.

Ella nadó en la piscina. Ayer yo patiné sobre el hielo.

She swam in the pool. Yesterday I ice skated.

Ellos compraron esquís. Tú rentaste un barquito.

They bought skis. You rented a small boat.

IRREGULAR YO'S

In order to preserve the sound of the infinitive, a number of verbs change their spelling in the preterite tense. The following changes occur in the "yo" form only:

Verbs that end in -car \rightarrow the yo form changes to **qué** Verbs the end in -gar \rightarrow the yo form changes to **gué**

Verbs that end in -zar → the yo form changes to **cé**

Here are some examples:

PRONOUNS	TOCAR	JUGAR	EMPEZAR
yo	to qué	ju gué	empe <u>cé</u>
tú	tocaste	jugaste	empezaste
él, ella, usted	tocó	jugó	empezó
nosotros	tocamos	jugamos	empezamos
ellos, ellas, ustedes	tocaron	jugaron	empezaron

LOS PRONOMBRES DE OBJECTOS DIRECTOS

A pronoun is a word that replaces a noun.

Marcos = he the students = they

the t-shirt = it the homework assignments = they

> A direct object is an object that directly receives the action of the verb. Direct objects are usually identified by answering the question:

"verb" what? (Ate what? Gave what? Bought what?) ...and sometimes whom?

Juan kicks the ball. Kicks what? the ball = direct object
Ariel studies Spanish. Studies what? Spanish = direct object
I am giving the books to Marcia. Giving what? ...not Marcia! the books = direct object

> Therefore a direct object pronoun is a pronoun that takes the place of the object that directly receives the action of the verb!

Juan kicks the ball. the ball = it Juan kicks IT.

Ariel studies Spanish. Spanish = it Ariel studies IT.

I am giving the books to Marcia. the books = it I give THEM to Marcia.

Here is a table of all the direct object pronouns and their meanings.

Direct Object Pronouns			
Singular	Plural		
me – me	nos – us		
te - you (familiar)			
lo, la - him, her, you, it	los, las - them, you all		

The placement of the direct object pronoun is different in Spanish than it is in English. The pronoun goes <u>before</u> the verb, instead of after it! There is a simple formula to remember the order of the words:

SDV+ Subject – Direct Object Pronoun – Verb – anything else

Juan lanza <u>el balón</u>. el balón = lo Juan lo lanza.

Juan kicks the ball. the ball = it Juan kicks it. (Juan "it" kicks.)

Note that when you want to say IT or THEM, it is important to know If the item is masculine or feminine.

I eat pork rinds every day. pork rinds = **los** chicharrones Yo **los** como cada día. I eat hamburgers every day. hamburgers = **las** hamburguesas Yo **las** como cada día.