

# HDHS #10: El Pretérito de los Verbos -AR

## REGULAR -AR VERBS

■ 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
yo	-é
tú	-aste
él, ella, Ud.	-ó
nosotros (-as)	-amos
ellos, ellas, Uds.	-aron

■ 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 of the following sentences.

**Hablo español.**  
*I speak Spanish.*

**Habló español.**  
*He/She/You (formal) spoke Spanish.*

■ Here are some examples of the preterite tense.

**Ella nadó en la piscina.**  
*She swam in the pool.*

**Ayer yo patiné sobre el hielo.**  
*Yesterday I ice skated.*

**Ellos compraron esquís.**  
*They bought skis.*

**Tú rentaste un barquito.**  
*You rented a small boat.*

## IRREGULAR YO's

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

- Verbs that end in **-car** → the yo form changes to **qué**
- Verbs that end in **-gar** → 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 <u>qué</u>	ju <u>gué</u>	empe <u>cé</u>
tú	tocaste	jugaste	empezaste
él, ella, Ud.	tocó	jugó	empezó
nosotros (-as)	tocamos	jugamos	empezamos
ellos, ellas, Uds.	tocaron	jugaron	empezaron

# PRÁCTICA

Escribe las formas correctas del verbo en el pretérito.

PRONOUNS	COMPRAR	BAJAR	RENTAR
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			
PRONOUNS	NADAR	BUCEAR	ESQUIAR
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			
PRONOUNS	ESTUDIAR	PATINAR	PASAR
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			
PRONOUNS	PRACTICAR	LLEGAR	ALMORZAR
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			

