

HDHS #19: 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 qué	ju gué	empe cé
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			