

HDHS #20: El Pretérito de los Verbos -ER/-IR

REGULAR –ER/-IR 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 –er/-ir, find the subject, and add one of the following endings:
- 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.

PRONOUNS	-ER, -IR Endings
yo	-í
tú	-iste
él, ella, Ud.	-ió
nosotros (-as)	-imos
ellos, ellas, Uds.	-ieron

Aprendo español.
I am learning Spanish.

Aprendió español.
He/She/You (formal) learned Spanish.

- Here are some examples of the preterite tense.

Ella salió del museo.
She left the museum.

Ayer yo asistí a un concierto.
Yesterday I attended a concert.

Ellos escribieron unas cartas.
They wrote some letters.

Tú comiste el pastel de cumpleaños.
You ate the birthday cake.

THE 3V RULE

- If a preterite verb has three consecutive vowels, then I changes to Y.

leer → leí leiste **leió** leimos **leieron**
 ↓ ↓
 leyó leyeron

NOTE: The other forms have an accent on the letter i.

PRÁCTICA

A. Escribe las formas correctas del verbo en el pretérito.

PRONOUNS	SALIR	COMER	DECIDIR
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			
PRONOUNS	ASISTIR	ESCRIBIR	BEBER
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			
PRONOUNS	APRENDER	ENTENDER	CORRER
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			
PRONOUNS	VENDER	VIVIR	ABRIR
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			