

HDHS #11: 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:

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

Aprendo español.
I am learning Spanish.

Aprendíó español.
He/She/You (formal) learned 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 esquíes.
They bought skis.

Tú rentaste un barquito.
You rented a small boat.

THE 3V RULE

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

leer → leí leíste **leió** leímos **leieron**
leyó leyeron

NOTE: Every "I" has an accent.

PRÁCTICA

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

PRONOUNS	COMER	BEBER	VIVIR
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			
PRONOUNS	ESCRIBIR	SALIR	VENDER
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			
PRONOUNS	COMPRENDER	PERDER	DECIDIR
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			
PRONOUNS	LEER	OÍR	CREER
yo			
tú			
él, ella, Ud.			
nosotros (-as)			
ellos, ellas, Uds.			
definition			

