

# The Preterite in Spanish Grammar

Preterito Indefinido	
AR	ER/IR
-é	-í
-aste	-iste
-ó	-ió
-amos	-imos
-asteis	-isteis
-aron	-ieron

Verbos regulares

## Grammar notes on the preterite with regular verbs

We use the preterite to talk about past events and facts that happened at a specific point in the time. In order to form the preterite we need to remember certain rules. Let's start first with the regular verbs. Regular verbs have three different endings in the infinitive form, so by applying this rule you can conjugate them all. Then we have the irregular verbs. The changes in these verbs not always follow a clear pattern and so you will need to memorize many of them.

## Regular Verbs - Verbos Regulares

	<b>hablar</b>	<b>comer</b>	<b>vivir</b>
yo	hablé	comí	viví
tú	hablaste	comiste	viviste
Ud., él, ella	habló	comió	vivió
nosotros(as)	hablamos	comimos	vivimos
vosotros(as)	hablasteis	comisteis	vivisteis
Uds., ellos, ellas	hablaron	comieron	vivieron

As you can see, the verbs ending in –ar have a set of endings, whereas the verbs ending in –er and –ir share the same set of endings.

Look at these examples of conjugation:

- Pedro habló (hablar) con María por teléfono ayer.  
*Pedro spoke with María on the phone yesterday.*
- Ellos comieron (comer) mucho anoche.  
*They ate a lot last night.*

***Note: In the preterite, the nosotros form of –ar verbs looks the same as in the present. The context will help you understand if a text or speech refers to the present or the past.***