

Comparing the preterit and the imperfect:

Repeated action

Yo iba de compras todos los días.

Ellos me hablaban cada noche.

Completed action

Yo fui de compras ayer.

Ellos me hablaron anoche.

- The preterit is used to express actions that began and ended at a definite time in the past.
- The imperfect is used to express habitual, repeated, continuous actions in the past. It doesn't matter when the action began or ended.

The preterit happens, is done with and it is over. Certain verbs usually take the preterit: *empezar*, *terminar*, *llegar*, *salir*, *ask*, etc. You only have to do these things once!

Verbs of mental processes involve duration or continuation. Most of the time these verbs are used in the imperfect.

- *creer-to believe*
- *desear-to wish, hope*
- *querer-to want*
- *tener ganas de-to feel like*
- *pensar(ie)-to think*
- *preferir(ie)-to prefer*
- *poder(ue)-can, to be able to*
- *saber-to know (facts and information)*

ejemplos:

Ella sabía lo que preferíamos=She knew what we preferred.

Yo tenía ganas de salir=I felt like leaving.

Ud. creía que yo estaba enfermo.=You believed that I was sick.

Attachments

Español 2 Preterit Practice.docx

Español 2 Preterit Practice.docx

Put the verbs in the Preterit.doc

translate sents to preterit.doc