



REGULAR VERBS - PRETERIT (#3) TENSE USE AND TIME DESIGNATORS

Tarea ID: TUTD/Ind-Pret(#3)

Goal:

To practice and naturalize the use of the **Preterit Tense (#3)**. It is used to express **SPECIFIC action completed in the past**.

Constructions to practice:

Sentences, positive and negative, in the Preterit (#3), along with Tense-appropriate Time Designators.

Prerequisites:

Conjugation Part 2 - Basic Tenses - Regular Verbs

Tarea: Conjugation - Regular Verbs - Preterit

Time Designators, Preterit (#3)

Additional Information:

Keep in mind the timing of the action. Specifying the time in your sentences will help you develop a sense for when this tense is appropriate.

Review and practice all the Time Designators. Note that they can be more or less precise, but they are all in the past.

Time Designators:

This Tarea is organized according to Time Designator types for multiple reasons. Recall from the lesson that Time Designators -

1. expand your vocabulary,
2. help you think of sentences which are true and real in your life,
3. help you make more meaningful sentences, which helps you learn faster,
4. help you develop an intuitive sense of timing for each Tense, and
5. help keep your sentences within the confines of your growing, yet limited, understanding of the language.

For all the above reasons, we highly recommend that you practice specifying a frequency and/or time with your sentences, whenever appropriate, to help you learn and use this Tense correctly.

As we noted in previous Tareas, however, a time specification is NOT a grammatical requirement. For example:

A	Hice la tarea en la biblioteca con mis amigas. <i>I did my homework at the library with my girlfriends.</i>
B	Tocaron la guitarra con un grupo de estudiantes en el parque. <i>They played the guitar with a group of students at the park.</i>
C	Mis amigas y yo fuimos a Tecate a cenar con mis primos en los viñedos. <i>My friends and I went to Tecate to have dinner with my cousins at the wineries.</i>

These are complete and correct sentences, without Time Designators. However, we strongly encourage you to use Time Designators as much as possible to accelerate your learning.

Study and practice the Time Designators first. Make sure you understand them. Then incorporate them into your sentences.

As you progress through the Tarea and get more comfortable, feel free to use more than one Time Designator to add clarity:

D	La boda fue el 25 de mayo, el viernes antepasado . <i>The wedding was the 25th of May, the Friday before last.</i>
E	Prendieron las luces navideñas el domingo, primero de diciembre, a las ocho de la noche . <i>They turned on the Christmas lights on Sunday, December 1st, at eight at night.</i>
F	Fue a ver a su papá el año pasado, a mediados de junio . <i>He went to see his dad last year, around mid-June.</i>
G	Estuvimos allí con ustedes el año pasado, desde fines de abril hasta mediados de mayo. <i>We were there with you last year, from the end of April until mid-May.</i>
H	Ayer llovió toda la tarde, desde la una hasta las seis . <i>Yesterday it rained all afternoon, from one until six.</i>
I	Los estudiantes empezaron a llegar ayer jueves . <i>The students started to arrive yesterday, Thursday.</i>
J	El accidente sucedió el martes pasado, a las dos de la tarde . <i>The accident happened last Tuesday at two in the afternoon.</i>
K	El pequeño país declaró su independencia en 1942, hace más de ochenta años . <i>The small country declared its independence in 1942, more than eight years ago.</i>

Note that the Preterit (#3) can refer to **Specific Events** in the very recent past, very distant past, or anytime in between:

L	Terminé mi tarea hace dos minutos . <i>I finished my homework two minutes ago.</i>
M	Anteayer fue el cumpleaños de Norma. <i>Norma's birthday was the day before yesterday.</i>
N	El semestre empezó a principios del mes, hace dos semanas . <i>The semester started at the beginning of the month, two weeks ago.</i>
O	Nos mudamos a Arizona el año pasado . <i>We moved to Arizona last year.</i>
P	Mi prima se graduó de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México hace 25 años . <i>My cousin (f) graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico 25 years ago.</i>
Q	FDR fue presidente de los Estados Unidos por 12 años, desde 1933 hasta 1945 . <i>FDR was president of the United States for 12 years, from 1933 until 1945.</i>
R	El Canal de Panamá se inauguró en 1914 . <i>The Panama Canal was inaugurated in 1914.</i>
S	Cristóbal Colón llegó a América en 1492 . <i>Christopher Columbus arrived in America in 1492.</i>
T	Sócrates nació en el año 469 A.C., hace casi dos mil quinientos años . <i>Socrates was born in 469 B.C., almost two thousand five hundred years ago.</i>
U	La Era Paleozoica empezó hace 542 millones de años . <i>The Paleozoic Era started 542 million years ago.</i>

Make sure you understand each of the designators. Practice them first independently of the sentences. Then incorporate them into your sentences.

Context:

Think of activities that you and the people around you did and completed in the past. Tell your best friend about them.

1. Always use people and tasks which are or could be true in your life, house, and family (you may have to use your imagination a bit).
2. Grow your vocabulary by looking up any words you don't already know.
3. For 2psf, pretend you are talking to your best friend's grandmother.

Part 1: Specific Time Designators

Choose from the Specific Time Designators we studied in class to tell your best friend all the specific things people around you (including yourself) did, or didn't do. You may change the times, days, dates, months, etc.

Specific Time Designators:

a las tres de la mañana / tarde; a las ocho de la noche
at three in the morning / afternoon; at eight at night

antes / después de las cinco de la mañana
before / after five in the morning

el Día de las Madres / el Cinco de Mayo / el 2 de abril de 2021
on Mother's Day / on May 5th

en enero / en febrero / . . . / en diciembre; en 1492
in January / in February / . . . / in December

el primer / último día del mes
on the first / last day of the month

al principio del mes / año / milenio
at the beginning of the month year milenium

a principios del verano / invierno / trimestre / semestre
toward the beginning of the summer winter quarter semester

a mediados del mes / año / siglo
around the middle of the month year century

a fines de enero / febrero / . . . / diciembre
toward the end of January February December

al final del año escolar
at the end of the school year

anteayer *ayer* *hoy*
the day before yesterday yesterday today

ayer en/por la mañana / tarde / noche
yesterday morning afternoon evening

antenoché *anoche* *esta noche*
the night before last last night tonight

el domingo / . . . / sábado (ante)pasado
last Sunday / . . . / Saturday (before last)

la semana (ante)pasada
last week (before last)

el mes / año / siglo (ante)pasado
last month / last year / last century (before last)

Ejemplos:

1	1ps	El Cinco de Mayo (yo) fui al desfile con mi novio y sus padres. <i>On Cinco de Mayo I went to the parade with my boyfriend and his parents.</i>
2	2psi	La semana pasada (tú) estudiaste con Alejandra. <i>Last week you studied with Alejandra.</i>
3	2psf	Usted empezó a enseñar esta clase a principios del año pasado . <i>You started teaching this class around the beginning of last year.</i>
4	3ps	Este año llovió mucho en febrero y marzo . <i>This year it rained a lot in February and March.</i>

5	3ps	Mi sobrina nació el 21 de marzo de 2011. <i>My niece was born on March 21, 2011.</i>
6	1pp	Anoche (nosotros) salimos con los vecinos. <i>Last night we went out with the neighbors.</i>
7	1pp	Tuvimos que mudarnos a Tegucigalpa al fin del año escolar porque mi mamá cambió de trabajo. <i>We had to move to Tegucigalpa at the end of the school year because my mom changed jobs.</i>
8	2pp	Ustedes se fueron de vacaciones el sábado antepasado. <i>You (pl) left on vacation the Saturday before last.</i>
9	3pp	Antenoche Esther y Paula regresaron del antro a las cuatro de la mañana. <i>The night before last Esther and Paula came back from the nightclub at four o'clock in the morning.</i>
10	3pp	Todas vinieron a visitarme anteayer por la tarde. <i>They all came to visit me the day before yesterday, in the afternoon.</i>

Your turn:

11	1ps	
12		
13	2psi	
14	2psf	
15	3ps	
16	1pp	

17	2pp	
18	3pp	

Part 2: **hace** for **ago**

Spanish uses the verb **hacer** (to make) to construct the meaning of **ago**. It is similar to the way English uses the verb *to be* (it has been two weeks since...) to express "time since." For now, we will only use the Present (#1) construction - **hace**.

hace for ago

hace cinco minutos / dos horas / tres días
five minutes / two hours / three days ago

hace seis semanas / cuatro meses / siete años
six weeks / four months / seven years ago

hace unos minutos / varios días / algunas semanas
a few minutes / several days / some weeks ago

hace pocos meses / muchos años
a few months / many years ago

hace mucho / muchísimo / poco / poquito (tiempo)
long / very long / a short / a very short time ago

Ejemplos:

1	3ps	Rappi trajo la comida hace cinco minutos . Todavía está caliente. <i>Rappi brought the food five minutes ago. It's still hot.</i>
2	3ps	Desafortunadamente, esa tienda quebró hace pocos meses . <i>Unfortunately, that store went bankrupt a few months ago.</i>
3	1pp	Nos mudamos a Puebla hace más o menos veinticinco años . <i>Last week you studied with Alejandra.</i>
4	3pp	Ya están aquí. Llegaron hace dos o tres horas . <i>They're here already. They arrived two or three hours ago.</i>

Your turn:

5	1ps	
6		
7	2psi	
8	2psf	
9	3ps	
10		
11	1pp	
12	2pp	
13	3pp	
14		

Part 3: Frequency Designators

We learned in the lesson that most of the Frequency Time Designators are not appropriate for the Preterit (#3) because they imply repeated action.

Recall that the Preterit (#3) is used for Specific Events (NOT repetitive action) completed in the past.

None of the Specific Frequency Designators, and only three of the Non-Specific work with the Preterit.

Non-Specific Frequency Time Designators

siempre

always

nunca

never

jamás

never ever

Ejemplos:

1	1ps	Yo nunca te dije eso. <i>I never told you that.</i>
2	3ps	Mi abuelita siempre vivió en la casa donde nació. <i>My grandma always lived in the house where she was born.</i>
3	3ps	Jamás fumó un solo cigarrillo. <i>She never ever smoked a single cigarette.</i>

Your turn:

4	1ps	
5		
6		

7	2psi	
8		
9	2psf	
10	3ps	
11		
12	1pp	
13		
14	2pp	
15	3pp	
16		

Part 4: Range of Time Designators

We will now practice Range of Time Designators.

Range of Time

<i>entre las ocho y las diez de la noche</i> between eight and ten at night	
<i>entre el Día de Acción de Gracias y Navidad</i> between Thanksgiving and Christmas	
<i>entre primavera y verano</i> between spring and summer	<i>entre enero y marzo</i> between January and March
<i>de las nueve de la mañana a las cuatro de la tarde</i> from nine in the morning to four in the afternoon	
<i>de sol a sol</i> from sunup to sundown	<i>de lunes a viernes</i> from Monday to Friday
<i>de junio a julio</i> from June to July	<i>del 15 de abril al 2 de mayo</i> from April 15th to May 2nd

<i>toda la mañana / tarde / noche / semana</i> the entire morning / afternoon / evening-night / week	
<i>todo el día / mes / año / siglo</i> the whole day / month / year / century	
<i>todo el verano / invierno</i> the entire summer / winter	
<i>todo el fin de semana</i> the whole weekend	
New with the Preterit (#3):	<i>toda su vida</i> his/her/their entire life

Again, we encounter a bit of **Language Flexibility**. The definite article *la(s)* used with clock time is optional when used after the Prepositions *de* or *entre* in designating a Range of Time.

<i>de las seis a las nueve = de seis a nueve</i>
<i>entre la una y las dos = entre una y dos</i>

Duration Emphasis: Recall the alternative construction for emphasizing the duration of a Range of Time -

A Range of Time defined by
de . . . a . . .
from . . . to . . .
can also be expressed with
desde . . . hasta . . .
from . . . until / all the way to . . .
in order to **EMPHASIZE** the length of duration

A	<i>Practicaron de seis a nueve.</i> They practiced from six to nine.
B	<i>Practicaron demasiado, desde las seis de la mañana hasta las nueve de la noche.</i> They practiced too much, from six in the morning until nine at night.

Ejemplos:

1	1ps	Qué bueno que descansé todo el fin de semana pasado. <i>It's good that I rested all of last weekend.</i>
2	2ps	No recuerdo precisamente. Creo que llegaste entre las tres y las cuatro. <i>I don't remember exactly. I think you arrived between three and four.</i>
3	3ps	Luisa nos llamó entre las once y la una para decirnos que no puede venir a la fiesta esta noche. <i>Luisa called us between 11 and 1 to tell us that she cannot come to the party tonight.</i>
4	3ps	Tío Vicente trabajó en el campo toda su vida. <i>Uncle Vincent worked in the fields all his life.</i>
5	1pp	Tuvimos que trabajar desde las seis de la mañana hasta las nueve de la noche. <i>We had to work from six in the morning until nine at night.</i>
6	2pp	El año pasado tomaron vacaciones muy largas, desde el Día de Acción de Gracias hasta el Año Nuevo. <i>Last year you (pl) took a very long vacation, from Thanksgiving until the New Year.</i>
7	3pp	Ayer los auditores estuvieron aquí todo el día haciéndonos todo tipo de preguntas. <i>Yesterday the auditors were here asking us all types of questions.</i>

Your turn:

8	1ps	
9		
10		
11	2psi	
12		

13	2psf	
14	3ps	
15		
16		
17	1pp	
18		
19	2pp	
20	3pp	
21		
22		

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Part 5: Relative (Fixed) Time Designators

Choose from the Relative (Fixed) Time Designators we studied in class to tell your best friend all the things people around you (including yourself) do, or don't do, on a regular basis. You may change the times, days, dates, or any of the events (Nouns).

Relative (Fixed) Time Designators:

antes de . . .
before . . .

and

después de . . .
after . . .

any time or date -

. . . las tres de la tarde
... three in the afternoon

. . . el sábado (pasado)
... (last) Saturday

. . . el 20 de Noviembre
... November 20th

. . . el invierno (pasado)
... (last) winter

. . . el fin de semana
... the weekend

. . . enero (pasado)
... (last) January

can be a named event (Noun) -

. . . Navidad / año nuevo
... Christmas / New Year's

. . . la boda
... the wedding

. . . tu cumpleaños/aniversario
... your birthday/anniversary

. . . el concierto
... the concert

. . . Semana Santa
... Holy Week

. . . la fiesta
... the party

Potential topics for this section are deliveries, deadlines, commitments, plans, tasks to be completed, etc.

Ejemplos:

1	1ps	Yo terminé las decoraciones tres días antes de la fiesta . <i>I finished the decorations three days before the party.</i>
2	2psi	¿Por qué no fuiste al gimnasio antes de la cena ? <i>Why didn't you go to the gym before dinner?</i>
3	2psi	Empezaste a trabajar en el hospital una semana después de tu cumpleaños . <i>You started work at the hospital one week after your birthday.</i>
4	2psf	Usted llegó al punto de reunión antes de las cuatro de la tarde . <i>You (formal) arrived at the meeting point before four in the afternoon.</i>
5	1pp	Nosotros terminamos nuestro proyecto antes del sábado pasado . <i>We finished our project before last Saturday.</i>
6	2pp	Ustedes vinieron después del 20 de Noviembre . <i>You (pl) came after November 20th (holiday).</i>

Your turn:

7	1ps	
8		
9		

10	2psi	
11		
12		

13	2psf	
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14	3ps	
15		
16		

17	1pp	
18		
19		
20	2pp	
21		
22	3pp	
23		
24		

Naturalization:

Once you have verified your sentences are correct, read each section out loud several times until you feel comfortable saying the sentences without reading them. Keep in mind the point of the repetitions is to establish speech patterns, which are necessary to become fluent.

Use your imagination each time to "experience the meaning." This will help reduce speech latency.

As you do your repetitions, be keenly aware of the timing of the action in the past.