

1. Preterite vs Imperfect: The preterite and imperfect both refer to past time, but express different ways of looking at past actions and events. The imperfect tense refers to actions going on in the past without any reference to its beginning or end. The preterite tense refers to an action that the speaker sees as completed in the past or as having happened once.

IE: *Cuando yo estaba en México, hablaba español.* When I was in Mexico, I spoke Spanish.

Ayer hablé español con María. Yesterday I spoke Spanish with Maria.

Spanish speakers must select one of these two aspects of past time- imperfect or preterite- for every past action they refer to. English often does not distinguish between these two aspects of time.

2. Práctica- Practice: Decide whether to use preterite or imperfect for these sentences.

1. The plane arrived late. _____
2. Suddenly, the door opened. _____
3. The kids used to study in the library. _____
4. Paula was reading when her friends arrived. _____
5. I closed the windows because it was raining. _____

3. Break out Rooms- Conversation Practice: Talk about important events in your past using the prompts/topics below (or more!). Think of – where, with who, feelings, etc. to describe the events.

Los eventos importantes de tu vida~

El nacimiento (o el nacimiento de un niño)

El bautismo

El primer día de la escuela (o la Universidad)

Un partido atlético importante

Un espectáculo de baile o teatro

Los días festivos

Una boda

Aprender a hacer algo por primera vez

Viajar a otros lugares

Una actividad extracurricular

4. Los Irregulares-The irregulars: Translate the following irregular verbs in the past tense listed.

1. I dedicated (preterite): _____
2. I played soccer last night. _____
3. I ate lunch at my friend's house yesterday. _____
4. They got dressed for the party last night. _____
5. He slept late yesterday. _____
6. We went to the zoo last weekend. _____
7. Did you give her the ticket? _____
8. They saw lightening last night. _____
9. When I was a child, I went to school. _____
10. They saw the moon every night last summer. _____

5. El Vocabulario – Vocabulary: Feliz Navidad Vocabulary

<i>Feliz Navidad</i>	Merry Christmas
<i>Papá Noel</i>	Santa Claus
<i>los regalos</i>	the gifts/presents
<i>árbol de Navidad</i>	Christmas tree
<i>un muñeco de nieve</i>	a snowman
<i>el reno</i>	the reindeer
<i>el calcetin</i>	the stocking
<i>una estrella</i>	the star
<i>las galletas</i>	the cookies
<i>Feliz año nuevo</i>	Happy New Year
<i>cascabeles</i>	jingle bells
<i>Felices Fiestas</i>	Happy Holidays
<i>alegría</i>	joy
<i>la posada</i>	the shelter/inn

6. Práctica- Practice: Translate the sentences using imperfect or preterite.

1. Did you buy your Christmas gifts yet? _____
2. Did you listen to Christmas music yet? _____
3. Did you get a Christmas tree last year? _____
4. They baked Christmas cookies every year. _____
5. Jingle Bells was her favorite Christmas song. _____
6. He loved building a snowman every winter. _____
7. The kids believed in Santa Claus. _____

7. Additional Conversation Breakout: *Piensa mucho en tu niñez. Describe lo que hacías cuando eras niño(a). Ejemplos: deportes, quehaceres, libros favoritos, hermanos, mascotas, pasatiempos, comida favorita, música favorita, etc.*

(*Or any conversations using preterite or imperfect – past tenses; Including asking about past holiday celebrations/traditions/events, or weekend events/plans.)

8. Optional Culture Lesson: Las Posadas~ (Culture images on the PPT visual are available to screen share while describing this holiday.) Christmas is a very important holiday in Spanish speaking countries, like Mexico and Guatemala. Mexicans and Guatemalans celebrate many of the same things that we do on this holiday, but one important fiesta (party) that they celebrate, which we do not, is *Las Posadas*. *Posada* means shelter or inn. *Las Posadas* commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made looking for a “posada” where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus. Every December from the 16th to the 24th a fiesta (party) is held at someone’s house in the neighborhood. Families, especially children, dress as shepherds, angels, and Mary or Joseph. Everyone sings songs and carry candles while reenacting the original events. During the fiesta there are drinks, food, candy, and fruit. Every posada ends with the breaking of a piñata and when it breaks children run happily to gather it’s contents- dulces (candy), juguetes (toys), and dinero (money).

In Argentina, the Christmas Eve Meal is typically held around 10-11:00PM outside on the barbeque due to beautiful summer weather in December. At midnight, fireworks are lit to welcome Christmas day! In Colombia, leading up to Christmas, Colombians celebrate “Las Novenas,” December 16-24th, with nine nights of gatherings and parties. They celebrate with family, friends, and neighbors. Puerto Ricans are known for their unforgettable “parrandas.” A parranda is when a small group of friends gather together to surprise another friend. It’s the Puerto Rican version of Christmas caroling. Christmas in Nicaragua begins officially on the 6th of December. On December 7th, Nicaraguans celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary. Thousands in the country sing hymns loudly as they go from house to house honoring the Virgin Mary.

Traditions of El Año Nuevo~ New Year’s is called *El año nuevo*. In Spain and Mexico, people celebrate on New Year’s Eve by eating twelve grapes, one at each stroke of the clock at midnight to wish good

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luck for each of the twelve months to come in the next year. The tradition of “las doce uvas de la suerte” (the 12 lucky grapes) is one hundred years old! In Ecuador, hiding money around the house is thought to bring prosperity. In Mexico, people gather with close friends and family to wish love and prosperity for the coming year. There is also a tradition of throwing a bucket of water out the window to signify throwing out the old year and welcoming the new year. Fireworks are also displayed at midnight to welcome good luck and celebrate.

El Día de los Reyes Magos- This is the holiday of Three Kings Day on January 6th. This holiday is celebrated by Latinos all over the world, particularly in Spain and Latin America, as a part of the Christmas story. Parades happen on the night of January 5th to start the celebration. Children leave their shoes out to be filled by the wise men when they visit on the night of the 5th (like stockings for Christmas). In current times, the Kings can place their gifts under the Christmas tree like Santa Claus does. La Rosca de Reyes is a popular treat eaten on January 6th during the celebration. The tradition is to hide a small muñequito (baby toy) inside the cake to symbolize baby Jesus. In Spain, whoever finds the baby is “king for the day”.

(If time) La Rosca de Reyes: This is the King’s Cake. Explain to the participants that it is an oval shaped sweet bread. There are candies on top that symbolize the crowns of kings. Screen share this short video for them to see how this popular treat is made. Note: It is in Spanish with English subtitles. https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=1K6Bla9u3-w
Ask if they would like to try this sweet bread.

9. Más Práctica: More Practice (if time):

1. I used to visit my grandma every day. _____
2. They were sick. _____
3. We used to travel to Mexico every winter. _____
4. He had a barbecue every weekend. _____
5. Last Friday, it was cold and windy. _____