

El preterito y el imperfecto

Preterit and Imperfect

La diferencia...el imperfecto

- **Past tense – what you used to do, what things were like, or how things used to be.**
- **Repeated actions / more than once / all the time**

- Form the imperfect by removing the -ar, -er, or -ir infinitive ending and adding the imperfect endings below.

ar	er/ir
aba	ía
abas	ías
aba	ía
ábamos	íamos
aban	ían

Más información:

The yo and él/ella/usted forms are the same.
Context makes it clear who the subject is.

Ejemplos....

- De niño, vivía en un barrio en las afueras del pueblo.
- Jugaba con mis vecinos en el campo. Trepábamos a los árboles.
- Sabía mucho de las plantas y los animales. Quería **conocer el Amazonas**.

Irregulares.....

- Only three irregulars in the imperfect

Ser

Era

Eras

Era

éramos

Eran

Ir

iba

ibas

iba

íbamos

iban

Ver

veía

veías

veía

veíamos

veían

Ser

Ser - to describe what someone or something was generally like in the past.

era

eras

era

éramos

eran

Yo era un niño travieso pero mis padres eran muy pacientes.

I was a mischievous child, but my parents were very patient.

Haber

- **Haber - to say *there generally was/were* or *there used to be* in the past.**

Había

Siempre había mucha gente en casa.

There were always a lot of people at home.

Había tres gatos en la casa de mi abuela.

There were three cats at my grandmother's house.

Juntos.... in the same sentence.

- Use the imperfect to talk about *situations* in the past, such as *what things were like* or *what was going on*.
- The imperfect doesn't say anything about when the situation began or ended.

Los jeans costaban demasiado.

The jeans cost too much.

- **the preterite** – an event that began or ended while something else was going on, or that interrupted what was in progress.

El teléfono sonó mientras comíamos
pero nadie contestó.

*The phone rang while we
were eating but no one answered it.*

Practica...



