

## Spanish | The Preterit Tense

The Preterit Tense is the 'simple past tense' in Spanish, it describes a **completed** action or event - e.g. *He **bought** a book*. The formation of regular verbs in the Preterit Tense is also very easy, with only two sets of regular endings to remember.

### Regular Verbs

To form the Preterit Tense, simply take the stem off the infinitive and add the following endings - the stem is the verb minus its ending.

- For -AR verbs, take the AR off the end. **Then add the AR endings.**
- For -ER verbs, take the ER off the end. **Then add the ER endings.**
- For -IR verbs, take the IR off the end. **Then add the IR endings.**

(Note; the ER and IR verb endings are the *same*)

Form	AR Verbs	ER Verbs	IR Verbs
<b>Yo</b> (I)	é	í	í
<b>Tú</b> (You S.)	aste	iste	iste
<b>El / Ella</b> (He/She)	ó	ió	ió
<b>Nosotros/as</b> (We)	amos	imos	imos
<b>Vosotros/as</b> (You P.)	asteis	isteis	isteis
<b>Ellos/as</b> (They)	aron	ieron	ieron

### Note:

The we forms for **-ar** and **-ir** regular verbs (not **-er**) are identical in the present and preterit. **Hablamos** can be *we speak* or *we spoke*, depending on the context, and the same thing occurs with **vivimos**.