PolyPhrase LANGUAGES

Learn Spanish B2 – Pretérito Indefinido vs. Imperfecto

55 words

#	WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE SENTENCE (WORD BY WORD)
Pretérito indefinido: irregular verbs			
1	**fui** (ir) pretérito indefinido	I went	**Fui a la boda aunque no tenía ganas porque mi** (I went to the wedding although not I had desire because my) **hermana insistió** (sister insisted) *I went to the wedding even though I didn't feel like it, because my sister insisted.*
2	**fue** (ser) pretérito indefinido	it was	**La conferencia fue mucho más interesante de lo** (The conference was much more interesting than the) **que habíamos imaginado** (what we had imagined) *The conference was much more interesting than we had imagined.*
3	**tuve** (tener) pretérito indefinido	I had	**Tuve que pedir un préstamo para que no nos** (I had to ask for a loan so that not from us) **quitaran la casa** (they took the house) *I had to take out a loan so that they wouldn't take our house away.*
4	**dijo** (decir) pretérito indefinido	he said	**Me dijo que me llamaría en cuanto supiera** (To me he said that me he would call as soon as he knew) **algo** (something) *He told me he would call me as soon as he knew anything.*
5	**puso** (poner) pretérito indefinido	he put (se puso: he became)	**El profesor se puso furioso cuando vio que** (The teacher himself he put furious when he saw that) **nadie había hecho la tarea** (nobody had done the homework) *The teacher got furious when he saw that nobody had done the homework.*
6	**pidieron** (pedir) pretérito indefinido	they asked	**Nos pidieron que llegáramos media hora antes** (Us they asked that we arrived half hour earlier) **para firmar los documentos** (to sign the documents) *They asked us to arrive half an hour early to sign the documents.*
7	**durmió** (dormir) pretérito indefinido	he slept	**Después de la cirugía mi padre durmió casi doce** (After of the surgery my father slept almost twelve) **horas seguidas** (hours straight) *After the surgery, my father slept almost twelve hours straight.*
8	**trajo** (traer) pretérito indefinido	she brought	**Ella trajo un pastel que había horneado la noche** (She brought a cake that she had baked the night) **anterior** (before) *She brought a cake that she had baked the night before.*

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9	**leyó** (leer) pretérito indefinido	he read	**El juez leyó la sentencia sin que nadie se atreviera a interrumpirlo** The judge read the verdict without that nobody (refl.) dared to interrupt him *The judge read the verdict without anyone daring to interrupt him.*
10	**hice** (hacer) pretérito indefinido	I did	**Hice todo lo posible pero no logré convencerlos de que se quedaran** I did all the possible but not I managed convince them of that (refl.) they stayed *I did everything I could, but I couldn't convince them to stay.*
11	**vino** (venir) pretérito indefinido	he came	**Nadie vino a la junta así que tuvimos que cancelarla** Nobody came to the meeting so that we had to cancel it *Nobody came to the meeting, so we had to cancel it.*
12	**dio** (dar) pretérito indefinido	he gave	**Mi jefe me dio la noticia antes de que se hiciera oficial** My boss me gave the news before of that (refl.) it became official *My boss gave me the news before it became official.*
13	**cupo** (caber) pretérito indefinido	it fit	**La maleta no cupo en la cajuela así que tuvimos que dejarla** The suitcase not it fit in the trunk so that we had to leave it *The suitcase didn't fit in the trunk, so we had to leave it behind.*
14	**tradujo** (traducir) pretérito indefinido	she translated	**Ella tradujo el contrato en una sola tarde sin cometer un solo error** She translated the contract in a single afternoon without making a single mistake *She translated the contract in a single afternoon without making a single mistake.*
Pretérito imperfecto: background and habits			
15	**hablaba** (hablar) pretérito imperfecto	she used to speak	**Mi abuela hablaba náhuatl con sus hermanas cuando no quería que la entendiéramos** My grandmother used to speak Nahuatl with her sisters when not she wanted that her we understood *My grandmother spoke Nahuatl with her sisters when she didn't want us to understand her.*
16	**comíamos** (comer) pretérito imperfecto	we used to eat	**Los domingos comíamos con toda la familia por más lejos que viviéramos** The Sundays we used to eat with all the family for more far that we lived *On Sundays we ate with the whole family, no matter how far away we lived.*

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17	**vivía** (vivir) pretérito imperfecto	I lived	**Cuando vivía en Monterrey iba al gimnasio** When I lived in Monterrey I used to go to the gym **antes de que saliera el sol** before of that it came out the sun *When I lived in Monterrey, I used to go to the gym before the sun came up.*
18	**era** (ser) pretérito imperfecto	I was	**De niño era tan tímido que me escondía cada** As child I was so shy that myself I hid each **vez que llegaban visitas** time that they arrived visitors *As a child I was so shy that I hid every time visitors came.*
19	**íbamos** (ir) pretérito imperfecto	we used to go	**Todos los veranos íbamos a Oaxaca a menos** All the summers we used to go to Oaxaca to less **que mi padre tuviera mucho trabajo** that my father he had much work *Every summer we went to Oaxaca, unless my father had a lot of work.*
20	**hacía** (hacer) pretérito imperfecto	it was (weather)	**Hacía tanto calor que nadie quería salir hasta** It made so much heat that nobody wanted to go out until **que se metiera el sol** that (refl.) it set the sun *It was so hot that nobody wanted to go out until the sun went down.*
21	**solía** (soler) pretérito imperfecto	he used to	**Mi padre solía decir que el que no arriesga no** My father used to say that the one who not risks not **gana** wins *My father used to say that nothing ventured, nothing gained.*
22	**cocinaba** (cocinar) pretérito imperfecto	I was cooking	**Mientras cocinaba se me olvidó que había dejado** While I was cooking (refl.) to me it slipped that I had left **la plancha prendida** the iron on *While I was cooking, I forgot that I had left the iron on.*
23	**llovía** (llover) pretérito imperfecto	it was raining	**Llovía a cántaros pero aun así decidieron que** It was raining by pitchers but even so they decided that **el concierto siguiera** the concert it continued *It was pouring, but even so they decided the concert would go on.*
24	**había** (haber) pretérito imperfecto	there was, there were	**Había tanta gente en el metro que no pude** There was so many people in the subway that not I could **bajarme en mi estación** get off at my station *There were so many people on the subway that I couldn't get off at my stop.*

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25	**estaba** (estar) pretérito imperfecto	I was	**Estaba convencido de que alguien había entrado** (I was convinced of that someone had entered) **en la casa mientras dormíamos** (in the house while we were sleeping) *I was convinced that someone had broken into the house while we were sleeping.*
26	**sentía** (sentir) pretérito imperfecto	he felt	**Se sentía culpable como si todo hubiera sido** (Himself he felt guilty as if everything had been) **culpa suya** (fault his) *He felt guilty, as if everything had been his fault.*
27	**pensaba** (pensar) pretérito imperfecto	I was planning to	**Pensaba renunciar pero me ofrecieron un aumento** (I was planning to quit but me they offered a raise) **que no pude rechazar** (that not I could refuse) *I was planning to quit, but they offered me a raise I couldn't refuse.*
28	**trabajaba** (trabajar) pretérito imperfecto	she worked	**Mi madre trabajaba de noche para que pudiéramos** (My mother worked at night so that we could) **ir a una buena escuela** (go to a good school) *My mother worked nights so that we could go to a good school.*
Same verb, different meaning			
29	**supe** (saber) pretérito indefinido	I found out	**Supe la verdad cuando ya era demasiado** (I found out the truth when already it was too) **tarde para hacer algo** (late to do something) *I found out the truth when it was already too late to do anything.*
30	**sabía** (saber) pretérito imperfecto	I knew	**Yo ya sabía que la empresa tenía problemas** (I already knew that the company had problems) **pero preferí no decir nada** (but I preferred not to say anything) *I already knew the company was having problems, but I chose not to say anything.*
31	**conocí** (conocer) pretérito indefinido	I met	**Conocí a mi esposa en una boda a la que ni** (I met (a) my wife at a wedding to the which not) **siquiera quería ir** (even I wanted to go) *I met my wife at a wedding I didn't even want to go to.*
32	**conocía** (conocer) pretérito imperfecto	I knew (someone)	**No conocía a nadie en la ciudad cuando me** (Not I knew (a) nobody in the city when myself) **mudé** (I moved) *I didn't know anyone in the city when I moved there.*

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33	**pude** (poder) pretérito indefinido	I managed to	**Por fin pude hablar con el director después de** By end I managed to speak with the director after of **esperar toda la mañana** waiting all the morning *I finally managed to talk to the director after waiting all morning.*
34	**podía** (poder) pretérito imperfecto	I was able to	**Antes podía correr diez kilómetros sin cansarme** Before I could run ten kilometers without getting tired **pero ya no** but already not *I used to be able to run ten kilometers without getting tired, but not anymore.*
35	**quiso** (querer) pretérito indefinido	he wanted (no quiso: he refused)	**Le ofrecieron el ascenso pero no quiso dejar a** Him they offered the promotion but not he wanted to leave (a) **su familia** his family *They offered him the promotion, but he refused to leave his family.*
36	**quería** (querer) pretérito imperfecto	I wanted	**Quería decírtelo pero no encontraba el momento** I wanted to tell you it but not I found the moment **adecuado** right *I wanted to tell you, but I couldn't find the right moment.*
37	**tenía** (tener) pretérito imperfecto	I had	**Tenía la sensación de que alguien me estaba** I had the feeling of that someone me was **siguiendo** following *I had the feeling that someone was following me.*
38	**estuve** (estar) pretérito indefinido	I was	**Estuve a punto de renunciar pero al final me** I was at point of quitting but at the end myself **quedé** I stayed *I was about to quit, but in the end I stayed.*
39	**debí** (deber) pretérito indefinido	I should have	**Debí haberte escuchado cuando me advertiste del** I should have you listened when me you warned of the **peligro** danger *I should have listened to you when you warned me about the danger.*
40	**debía** (deber) pretérito imperfecto	I was supposed to	**Se suponía que debía entregar el informe el** (refl.) it was supposed that I had to hand in the report on **lunes pero nadie me avisó** Monday but nobody me told *I was supposed to hand in the report on Monday, but nobody told me.*

Telling a story with both tenses

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41	**decidimos** (decidir) pretérito indefinido	we decided	**Como seguía nevando decidimos quedarnos en** Since it kept snowing we decided to stay at **casa y ver películas** home and to watch movies *Since it kept snowing, we decided to stay home and watch movies.*
42	**acostumbré** (acostumbrarse) pretérito indefinido	I got used to it	**Al principio odiaba el tráfico pero con el tiempo** At the beginning I hated the traffic but with the time **me acostumbré** myself I got used *At first I hated the traffic, but over time I got used to it.*
43	**interrumpió** (interrumpir) pretérito indefinido	he interrupted	**Estábamos cenando tranquilamente cuando un** We were having dinner peacefully when a **vecino nos interrumpió** neighbor us interrupted *We were having dinner peacefully when a neighbor interrupted us.*
44	**sonó** (sonar) pretérito indefinido	it rang	**Justo cuando me estaba quedando dormido sonó** Just when myself I was falling asleep it rang **el teléfono** the phone *Just as I was falling asleep, the phone rang.*
45	**llegaste** (llegar) pretérito indefinido	you arrived	**Cuando llegaste ya nos habíamos ido porque** When you arrived already ourselves we had gone because **no contestabas el teléfono** not you were answering the phone *When you arrived, we had already left because you weren't answering your phone.*
46	**salíamos** (salir) pretérito imperfecto	we used to leave	**Siempre salíamos tarde del trabajo a menos** Always we used to leave late from the work to less **que el gerente estuviera de viaje** that the manager he was on trip *We always left work late, unless the manager was away on a trip.*
47	**caminaba** (caminar) pretérito imperfecto	I was walking	**Caminaba por el parque cuando de repente se** I was walking through the park when of sudden (refl.) **soltó una tormenta** it broke loose a storm *I was walking through the park when, suddenly, a storm broke out.*
48	**empezó** (empezar) pretérito indefinido	she started	**Empezó a llorar en cuanto le dimos la noticia** She started to cry as soon as to her we gave the news *She started crying as soon as we gave her the news.*
49	**esperábamos** (esperar) pretérito imperfecto	we were hoping	**Esperábamos que el vuelo saliera a tiempo pero** We were hoping that the flight it left on time but **lo cancelaron sin avisar** it they canceled without warning *We were hoping the flight would leave on time, but they canceled it without warning.*

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50	**ocurrió** (ocurrir) pretérito indefinido	it happened	**El accidente ocurrió mientras el conductor** The accident happened while the driver **miraba su celular** was looking at his cell phone *The accident happened while the driver was looking at his phone.*
51	**nevaba** (nevar) pretérito imperfecto	it was snowing	**Nevaba tanto que cerraron la carretera antes de** It was snowing so much that they closed the highway before of **que pudiéramos salir** that we could leave *It was snowing so hard that they closed the highway before we could leave.*
52	**rompí** (romper) pretérito indefinido	I broke	**Sin querer rompí el florero que mi suegra nos** Without wanting I broke the vase that my mother-in-law us **había regalado** had given *I accidentally broke the vase my mother-in-law had given us.*
53	**quedaba** (quedar) pretérito imperfecto	there was left	**Cuando por fin llegamos ya no quedaba ni** When by end we arrived already not there was left not even **un boleto** a ticket *When we finally arrived, there wasn't a single ticket left.*
54	**discutían** (discutir) pretérito imperfecto	they used to argue	**Mis vecinos discutían cada noche hasta que un día** My neighbors used to argue every night until that one day **se mudaron sin despedirse** themselves they moved without saying goodbye *My neighbors argued every night, until one day they moved out without saying goodbye.*
55	**creía** (creer) pretérito imperfecto	I thought	**Creía que ya habías terminado si no no te** I thought that already you had finished if not not you **habría llamado** I would have called *I thought you had already finished; otherwise, I wouldn't have called you.*