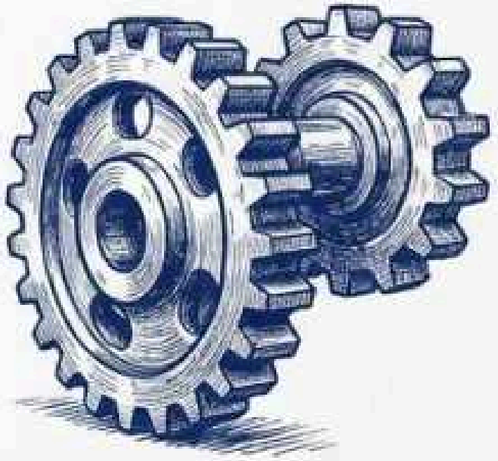
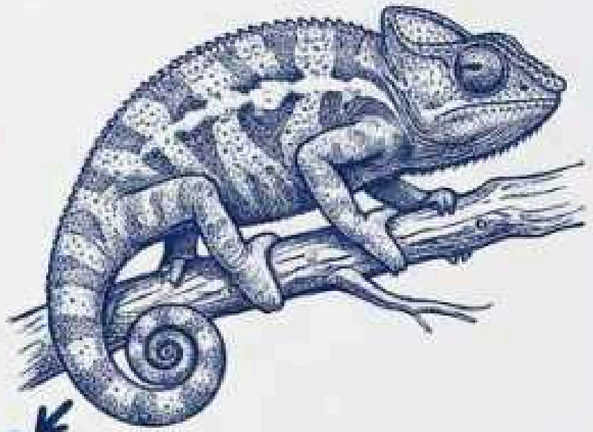
Welcome Back to the Past

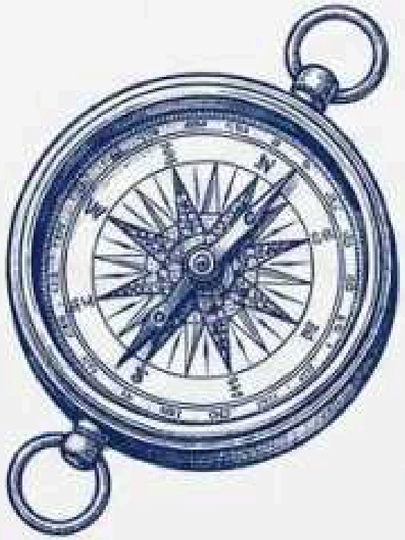
¶ 1.1



Two tenses colliding



Verbs that shift meaning



Choosing the path
(Preterite vs. Imperfect)

Time travel with hace



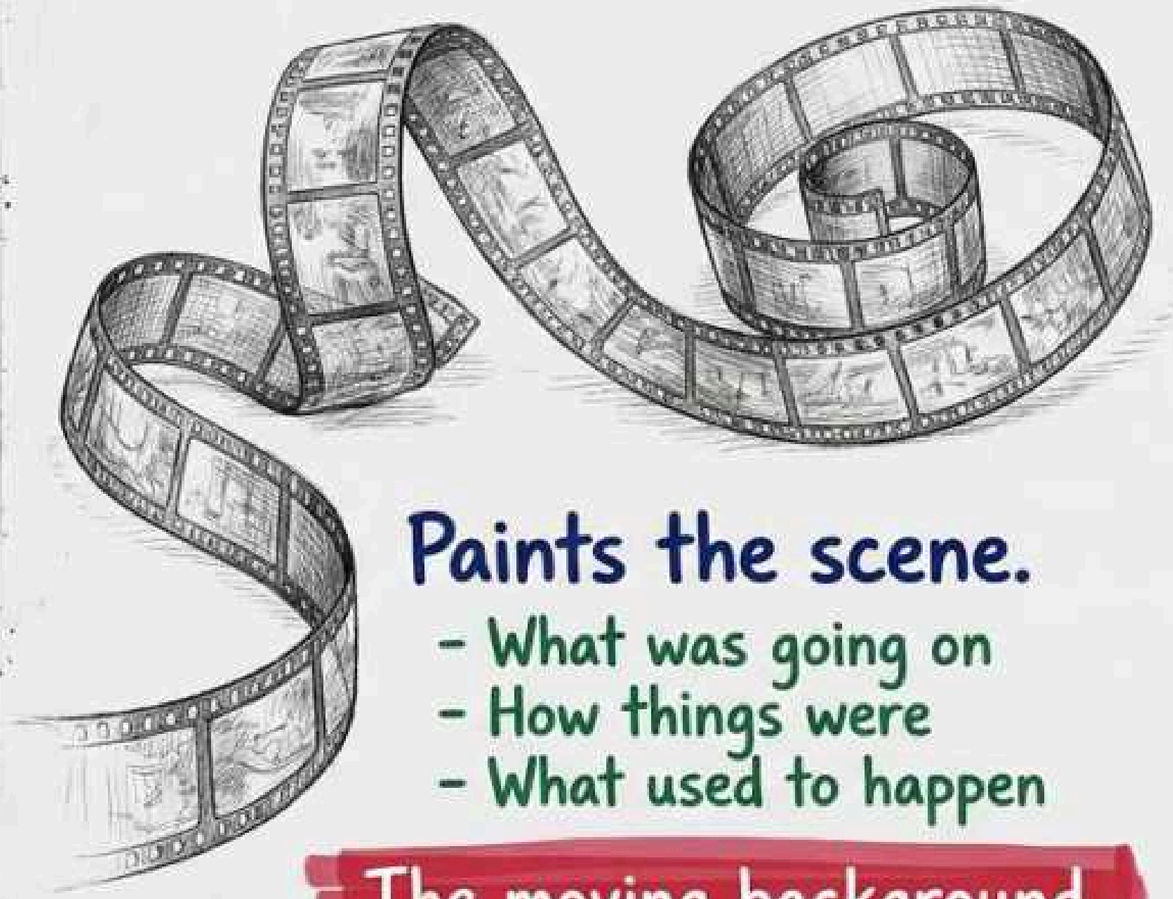


Objective: By the end, narrate a short story aloud.

The Central Metaphor: Film vs. Camera

¶ 1.2

(The Imperfect)

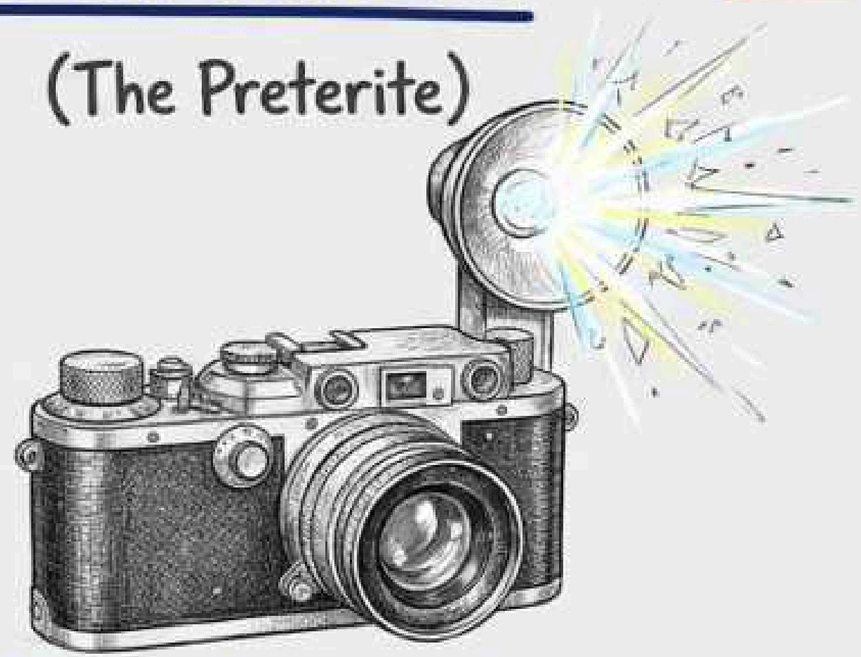


Paints the scene.

- What was going on
- How things were
- What used to happen

The moving background.

(The Preterite)



Reports events.

- Things that happened
- Were completed
- Moved the story forward

A series of camera clicks on top of the film.

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Preterite Endings: The Formula

¶ 1.3

Set A (-ar verbs)		Set B (-er / -ir verbs)	
hablar →	hablé	comer /vivir →	comí
	hablaste		comiste
	habló		comió
	hablamos		comimos
	hablaron		comieron

Looks identical to the present tense!

Share the exact same endings.

Say them aloud.

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Imperfect Endings & The Three Anomalies

¶ 1.4

The Universal Pattern

-ar	-er / -ir
hablaba	comía
hablabas	comías
hablaba	comía
hablábamos	comíamos
hablaban	comían

The Quarantine Zone (Irregulars)

ser → era

ir → iba

ver → veía

! Universal rule: Every other verb follows the pattern—even present-tense stem changers.

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Irregular Preterites: Stem + Ending Equation

¶ 1.5

[Irregular Stem] + [-e / -iste / -o / -imos / -ieron] = No Accents!

Stems Bank

The Twins: ir/ser = fu- (fui, fuiste, fue, fuimos, fueron)

tener = tuv- | hacer = hic-

decir = dij- | venir = vin- | poder = pud-



Remember: dijeron (NOT dijieron).

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Time Words as Viewpoint Clues

¶ 1.6

Preterite Clues

Concept: One finished event.

ayer
anoche
el lunes pasado
una vez
de repente

Imperfect Clues

Concept: Habit & background.

siempre
todos los días
cada verano
mientras
de niño
a veces

These words signal a viewpoint:
one finished event, or a habit and a background.

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Story Deconstruction (Part 1)

¶ 1.7



The Scene (Imperfect = Background Film):

Era una noche fría
(It was cold)

y llovía mucho.
(It was raining)

Yo estaba en casa y leía un libro.
(I was reading)

The Interruption (Preterite = Camera Click):

De repente, alguien llamó a la puerta.
(Someone knocked)

Classic pattern: imperfect background broken by a preterite event.

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Story Deconstruction (Part 2)

¶ 1.8



1. Events (Preterite)

Abrí la puerta y vi a mi hermano.

Opening and seeing are completed events moving the story.

2. Descriptions (Imperfect)

Estaba muy cansado, pero sonreía.

Tiredness and smiling are ongoing descriptions.

Pause & Retell: Retell this story aloud using at least one preterite and one imperfect.

Meaning-Changing Verbs (The Preterite Event) ¶ 1.9

The Preterite marks the exact moment a state changed.

Conocí a Ana → I met Ana (moment of meeting).

Supe la verdad → I found out the truth (moment of realization).

No quise ir → I refused to go (moment of decision).

Pude abrirlo → I managed to open it (moment of success).

Meaning-Changing Verbs (The Imperfect State) ¶1.10

The Imperfect describes the ongoing state, with no word on completion.



Conocía a Ana → I knew Ana.

Sabía la verdad → I knew the truth.

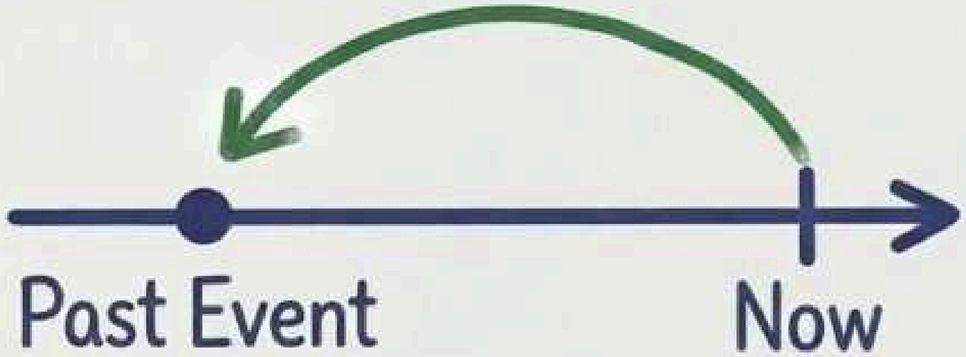
Quería ir → I wanted to go.

Podía abrirlo → I was able to open it (but did I?).

The choice of tense is meaning, not decoration.

Measuring Time: "Hace" Expressions

¶1.11



[Preterite Verb] + [Hace + Time]

Example: Llegué hace dos horas.
(I arrived two hours ago).

Alternate: Hace dos horas que llegué.



[Present Verb] + [Desde hace + Time]

Example: Vivo aquí desde hace tres años.
(I have lived here for 3 years).

Measuring Past Time: Ongoing Actions

¶1.12



Fixed Point in Past

[Imperfect Verb] + [Desde hacía + Time]

Example: Vivía allí desde hacía dos años.
(I had been living there for two years).

[Llevar] + [Time] + [Gerund]

Example: Llevo tres años estudiando español.
(I have been studying Spanish for three years).

Say your own version of the llevar sentence aloud.

The Storyteller's Toolkit: Connectors

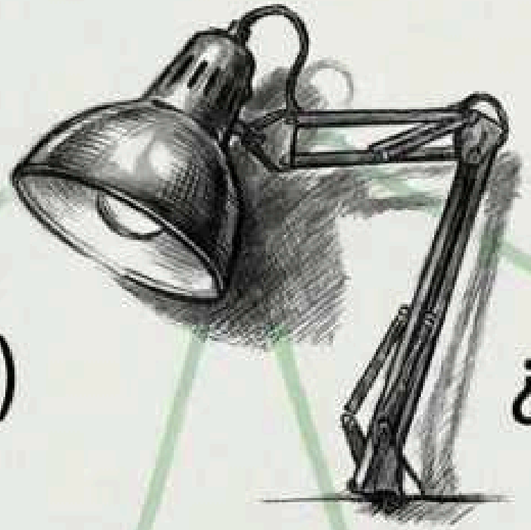
¶1.13



Primero me levanté → luego desayuné → y después salí de casa.

Interrogating the Past

¶1.14



Focus on the Event

¿Qué pasó? (What happened?)

Demands Preterite.

Practice: ¿Qué hiciste ayer?

Focus on the Nature/State

¿Cómo era? (What was it like?)

Demands Imperfect.

Practice: ¿Cómo eras de niño?

Practise with a partner or a mirror: ask both, then answer in full sentences.

Common Traps: "I Was" & "Used To"

¶1.15

"["I was"]"

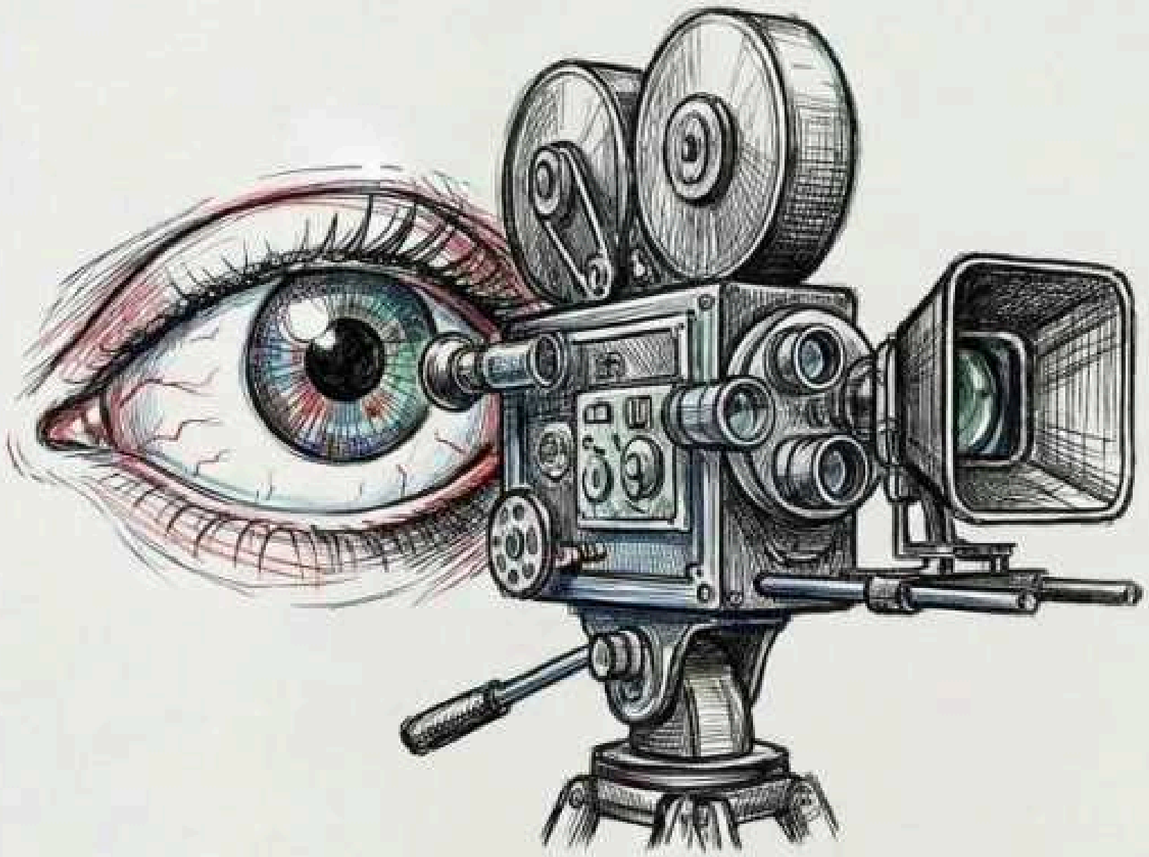
- Is the time limited/bounded? → **Estuve.**
  (e.g., Estuve en Madrid tres días.)
- Was it in progress when something else happened? → **Estaba.**
  (e.g., Estaba en Madrid cuando llamaste.)

"Used to" → Almost always signals the **Imperfect.**

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The Philosophy of Choice

¶1.16



Golden Rule: Do not choose the Preterite just because an action is in the past.

The Speaker's Viewpoint Controls the Tense:

- Do YOU see the action as finished and moving the story forward? → **Preterite.**
- Do YOU see the action as ongoing, repeated, or descriptive? → **Imperfect.**

Insight: The exact same event can take either tense, depending entirely on the point of your story.

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In Practice: Conversation Analysis

¶ 1.17

¿Qué hacías [ongoing] cuando te llamé [interruption] ayer?

Estaba [ongoing] cocinando. ¿Y tú?

Yo trabajaba [ongoing], pero salí [finished] a las seis.

¿Adónde fuiste? [finished]

Fui [finished] al cine con mi hermana.

Read aloud, then change details to match your own life.

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Narrative Synthesis: The Long Story

¶ 1.18

Scene/Description (Imperfect)

Cuando **era** niña, mi abuela **vivía** en un pueblo pequeño. Todos los veranos, yo **pasaba** allí un mes. Una mañana, mientras ayudaba en el jardín, **encontré** un gato debajo pajo de un árbol. **Estaba** asustado, pero no se **escapó**.

Habit (Imperfect)

Events (Preterite)

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The Mechanics of "Mientras" (While)

¶ 1.19

Mechanic 1: Parallel Tracks

Rule: Two simultaneous ongoing actions = Both Imperfect.

Mientras yo cocinaba, mi hermano ponía la mesa.

Mechanic 2: The Intersect

Rule: Long action interrupted by short event = Imperfect + Preterite.

Mientras cocinaba, sonó el teléfono.

Prompt: Make up a sentence of each kind.

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Nuance: Ser/Estar with Events

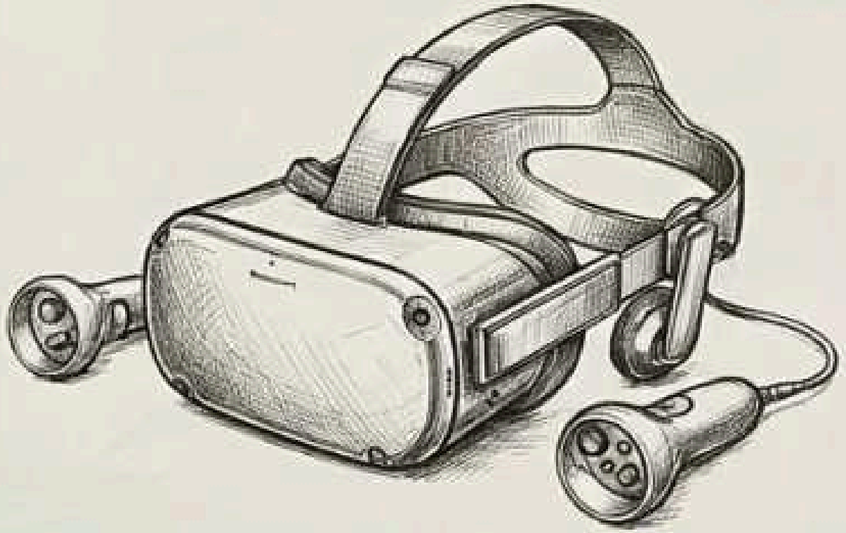
¶ 1.20



Looking back at the whole
(The Photograph)

Fue una fiesta muy divertida.

- Treats the party as a finished whole, a single completed event.



Describing the moment from within
(The VR Headset)

La fiesta era muy divertida.

- Describes how it was while you were actively there inside it.

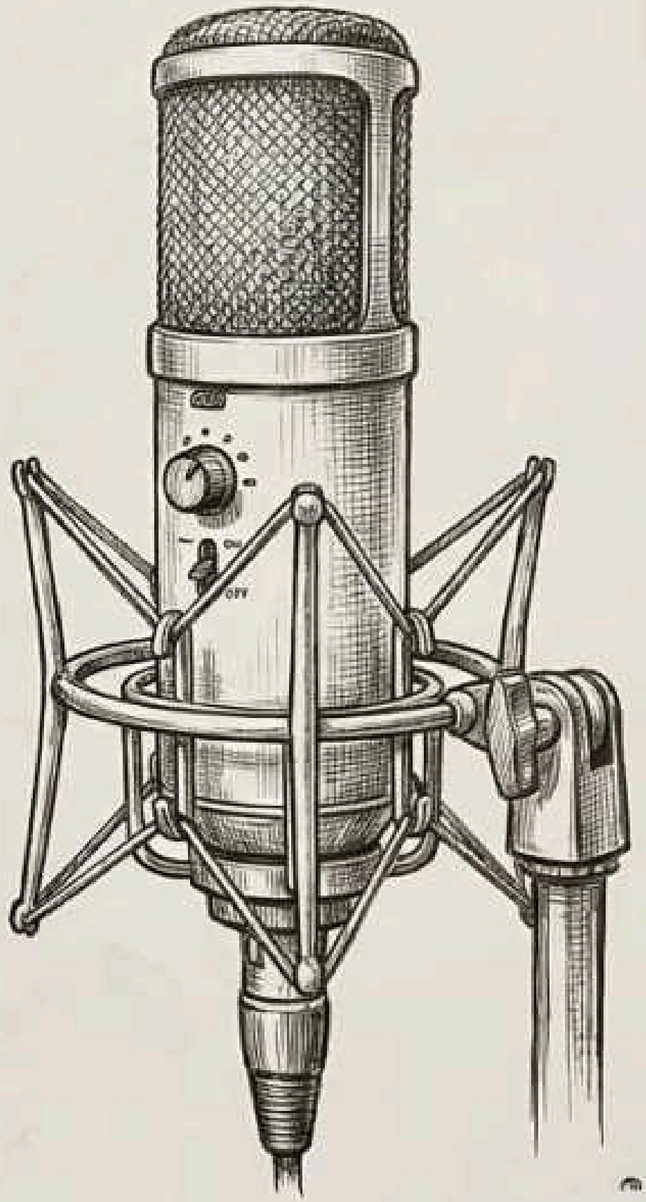
Synthesis: Both are natural; the choice depends on whether you look back at the whole or describe the moment.

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Application & Practice

¶ 1.21

- ❑ Task 1: Describe yesterday morning in exactly 5 sentences.
  - ❑ Include 2 background descriptions (Imperfect).
  - ❑ Include 3 events (Preterite).
- ❑ Task 2: Add one habit from your childhood (using de niño).
- ❑ Task 3: Record yourself speaking, listen back, and explicitly label each verb as “event” or “scene”.



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Coming Next: The Perfect Tenses

¶1.22

Teaser: What has happened, and what had already happened before something else?

[Haber (Helper Verb)] + [Past Participle] = The Perfect Tenses

Mastering this will make your Spanish sound incredibly natural.

See you in Lecture 2.

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