

Repaso

Preterite and imperfect

1 You already know that the **preterite** and the **imperfect** are used to talk about past events or situations.

2 Use the **preterite** to talk about something that happened

- on a specific occasion or a specific number of times

El verano pasado **viajé** a España y **acampé** cerca del Río Tajo.

- in a sequence of events

Cuando **llegué**, **busqué** alojamiento y **llamé** a mis amigos.

- for a specific period of time, even if it happened repeatedly

Pasé un mes en Cádiz y **fui** todos los días a la playa.

3 Use the **imperfect** to talk about

- what used to happen for an unspecified period of time

De niño, **viajaba** a España con mis padres todos los veranos.

- what people, places or things were generally like or to describe the setting

Mis abuelos **eran** muy activos y simpáticos.

En las playas **había** pocos turistas. Siempre **hacía** calor.

- how someone felt or what he or she liked or disliked

No me **gustaba** ir a la playa porque le **tenía** miedo al mar.

4 You can use the **preterite** to say what people, places or things were like, how people felt, and what they liked or disliked *in order to sum up a particular occasion*. Use it also to talk about someone's reaction, or to say that a state or condition changed.

¿Fuiste a Cádiz? ¿Qué tal **estuvo**?

Llevé a mi hermanito a la playa y no le **dio** miedo.

Ayer miré algunas fotos de España y **sentí** mucha nostalgia.