

## Más sobre el pretérito y el imperfecto

More on the Preterite and the Imperfect

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Certain verbs can change meaning when used in the Preterite Tense.

- Saber            Present Tense = "to know"  
                      Preterite Tense = "found out"
- Querer          Present Tense = "to want"  
                      Preterite Tense = "tried"
- No Querer      Preterite Tense = "refused"

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Other verbs have different meanings based on which past tense is used.

Imperfect		Preterite	
conocer	<i>knew</i>	conocer	<i>met</i>
poder	<i>could do, was able</i>	poder	<i>accomplished, managed to do</i>
No poder	<i>couldn't do, wasn't able</i>	No poder	<i>couldn't do, tried and failed</i>

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To talk about intentions in the past, use the **Imperfect** of ir a + infinitive.

- **Iba a comprar** un coche nuevo, pero estaba muy caro.

*I was going to buy a new car, but it was very expensive.*

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To express action that **was going on** in the past, the **Imperfect Progressive** can be used.

- This tense is formed as follows:

Imperfect Tense of Estar			Present Participle (-ing form)	
estaba	estábamos		-Ar Verbs	end with "ando"
estabas	estabáis	-Er Verbs	end with "iendo"	
estaba	estaban	-Ir Verbs		

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## Examples

- **Estaba comiendo** cuando sonó el teléfono.  
*I was eating when the phone rang.*
- ¿Qué **estaban haciendo** al momento del crimen?  
*What were you (they) doing at the time of the crime?*

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