

Level A2: Elementary / Elemental

Storytelling & Past Experiences (Indefinido vs. Imperfecto)

1. Reading Comprehension: Un fin de semana en Granada

In Level A2, you expand into telling stories and describing past experiences. Read the snippet below and observe how two past tenses work together:

El sábado pasado **fui** a Granada con mis amigos. **Hacía** un día sol y calor. Mientras **caminábamos** por el barrio del Albaicín, de repente **empezó** a llover. Por suerte, **encontramos** una tetería acogedora y **tomamos** un té con dulces árabes.

Last Saturday I went to Granada with my friends. It was a sunny and warm day. While we were walking through the Albaicín neighborhood, suddenly it started to rain. Luckily, we found a cozy tea shop and had tea with Arab sweets.

2. Key Past Tenses Decoded: Indefinido vs. Imperfecto

One of the biggest hurdles for English speakers is knowing when to use which past tense. Here is our simple breakdown:

Aspect	Pretérito Indefinido (Completed Action)	Pretérito Imperfecto (Background / Habit)
Function	Specific, finished actions in the past.	Descriptions, ongoing states, or habits.
English Equivalent	"I went", "it started", "we found"	"It was", "we were walking", "used to do"
Key Triggers	<i>Ayer, el año pasado, de repente, el sábado...</i>	<i>Siempre, mientras, antes, cada verano...</i>
From Text	fui, empezó, encontramos	hacía, caminábamos

3. Essential Time Connectors for Storytelling

Connect your thoughts naturally

Use these connectors to transition smoothly between completed events and background details:

- **Mientras** (While) + Imperfecto: *Mientras cenábamos, hablábamos del viaje.*
- **De repente** (Suddenly) + Indefinido: *De repente, sonó el teléfono.*
- **Cuando** (When) + Indefinido: *Llegamos al hotel cuando cerraban la recepción.*

4. Quick Practice Challenge

Choose the correct past tense: "Ayer a las 8:00 _____ (llover) mucho, pero a las 9:00 _____ (salir) el sol."

A) llovió / salía

B) llovía / salió

C) llovía / salía



Teacher's Note for Adult Learners: Don't worry about perfect conjugation tables! In our lessons, we practice telling your own personal stories (travels, past jobs, weekend memories) so these tenses become second nature.

Sample snippet from **Spanish Camino**. Ready to boost your fluency?

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