

Introduction to the Preterite Tense: Regular Verb Timeline

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will conjugate regular -ar, -er, and -ir verbs in the preterite tense to describe completed past actions.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- string or yarn
- index cards
- tape
- markers
- ruler

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Tape a length of string across a wall or table to represent 'yesterday's timeline,' marking a start (morning) and end (night) point.
2. Write 5 things you actually did yesterday using regular preterite verbs, such as Estudié, Comí, or Escribí, on separate index cards, in Spanish.
3. Arrange and tape your cards along the timeline in the order the events happened.
4. On the back of each card, write the verb's infinitive form and identify whether it is -ar, -er, or -ir, plus the ending pattern used.
5. Create a reference chart conjugating one full regular verb from each category across all 6 pronouns in the preterite.

QUESTIONS

1. Conjugate 'hablar' for 'yo' in the preterite tense.
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2. Conjugate 'comer' for 'él' in the preterite tense.
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3. What is the key difference between present tense and preterite tense in meaning?
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4. Why does the 'yo' form of -ar verbs need an accent mark in the preterite, as in *hable*?
