

Lesson 12

PRETERIT TENSE (Definite Past)

VOCABULARY

el amigo	friend (masculine)	encontrar (ue)	to meet; to find
la amiga	friend (feminine)	pagar	to pay, to pay for
el cigarro	cigar	barato	cheap
la comida	meal; dinner	caro	expensive
la cuenta	bill	español(-a)	Spanish
el mozo (mesero)	waiter	ayer	yesterday
la propina	tip	bastante	enough
el restaurante	restaurant	demasiado	too much
costar (ue)	to cost	lentamente	slowly
charlar	to talk	por lo común	generally

Gracias. Thanks. **De nada.** Not at all. You're welcome.
Muchas gracias. Many thanks. **No hay de qué.** Don't mention it.

I. PRETERIT TENSE. The preterit tense is used to Express an action completed ni a definite past time. (*I ate lunch at six o'clock and then went to church.*)

The preterit endings are:

First conjugation (ar)

Second (er) and Third (ir) Conjugations

–é –amos
–aste –asteis
–ó –aron

–í –imos
–iste –isteis
–ió –ieron

The second and third conjugations are closely related in all tenses; in the preterit tense they have exactly the same endings.

II. PRETERIT TENSE of **cerrar** (1st conj.), **pagar** (1st conj.) **volver** (2nd conj.), AND **escribir** (3rd conj.)

cerré	pagué	volví	escribí
cerraste	pagaste	volviste	escribiste
cerró	pagó	volvió	escribió
cerramos	pagamos	volvimos	escribimos
cerrasteis	pagasteis	volvisteis	escribisteis
cerraron	pagaron	volvieron	escribieron

Why is the **u** necessary in **pagué**? It is there to make the *g* say its hard sound /g/.

III. **Al** + INFINITIVE. The infinitive phrase, *on* + present participle (*on hearing, on learning, etc.*) is expressed in Spanish by **al** + infinitive.

EXERCISES

A. COMEMOS EN UN RESTAURANTE

Note: In this and the next two lessons the same title “Comemos en un restaurante” will be used for the Spanish exercise. Observe how limited we are in this article in expressing ideas and in describing events because of lack of vocabulary, and how helpful a few new words are in Lesson 13. The treatment of this theme is much facilitated in Lesson 14 by the introduction of the imperfect (past) tense.

Por lo común nuestra familia come en casa porque no **tenemos** bastante dinero para **pagar** comidas y **dar** propinas en un restaurante. Mis padres **dicen** que cuesta demasiado.

Pero ayer – yo no **sé** por qué – **comimos** en un restaurante española, que no está lejos de donde **vivimos**.

Encontramos a unos amigos; papá **charló** con sus amigos y mamá **charló** con sus amigas; yo **charlé** con mi hermana.

Mis padres no **comieron** mucho, porque **encontraron** a sus amigos y **hablaron** con ellos. También **comieron** muy lentamente; siempre se come lentamente en los restaurantes españoles. Mi hermana y yo no **charlamos** mucho, pero **comimos** demasiado.

Cuando las comidas **son** caras, los padres, por lo común **comen** poco; cuando todo está barato, **comen** mucho.

Después de **comer**, mi padre **fumó** un cigarro y **charló** un poco con el mozo. Al fin **pagó** la cuenta.

Al **dar** al mozo una propina, mi padre le **dijo** (said): - Se **come** muy bien aquí. – Muchas gracias – **dijo** el mozo. – No hay de qué – **dijo** mi padre.

Entonces **volvimos** a casa.

B. *Written work.* 1. I am going to pay for the meal. 2. Generally Spanish is spoken in a Spanish restaurant, isn't it? 3. Why did you talk with the waiter? 4. I know him very well. 5. I always give him a tip when I eat there. 6. He always says to the waiter, “The food is very good here.” 7. I smoked a cigar and then returned home. 8. I want to meet (**conocer**) your friend. 9. Did your sister eat too much? 10. Occasionally we meet them in the city. 11. I listened and understood everything because he spoke slowly. 12. Can you tell me where there is a Spanish restaurant?

C. *Oral work.* 1. I paid it. 2. I ate too much. 3. Who ate too much? 4. He spoke slowly. 5. It costs too much. 6. It cost enough. 7. She paid (for) the meal. 8. I am going to pay for it. 9. Where did you meet her? 10. I wrote to her. 11. They wrote it. 12. What did he write to you?

D. *10-minute quiz; 5% for each correct answer.*

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| 1. Thank you very much. | 11. It is very expensive. |
| 2. Don't mention it. | 12. It is very cheap. |
| 3. I wrote it. | 13. I have enough. |
| 4. I ate it. | 14. It costs too much. |
| 5. I bought it. | 15. It cost too much. |
| 6. Who ate it? | 16. I'm going home. |
| 7. Who wrote it? | 17. everybody |
| 8. generally | 18. twice |
| 9. from time to time | 19. I know her. |
| 10. for example | 20. I give it to them. |

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