

Perfecting the Past Exercises

Exercise 1

Add the correct verb and its conjugation.

- 1, You seem to be tired. = Pareces _____ cansado.
- 2, This chair is really old. = Esta silla _____ muy vieja.
- 3, It's a good computer. = _____ un buen ordenador/computadora.
- 4, He is married. = Él _____ casado.
- 5, He is a married man. = _____ un hombre casado.
- 6, Jorge is quite slim these days. = Jorge _____ bastante delgado estos días.
- 7, I can see her. She's running. = La puedo ver. _____ corriendo.
- 8, The building is in ruins. = El edificio _____ en ruinas.
- 9, It's broken at the moment. = _____ roto en este momento.
- 10, It's interesting that you say that. = _____ interesante que digas eso.

Exercise 2

Add the correct verb and its conjugation:

- 1, The church is in the town centre. = La iglesia _____ en el centro.
- 2, It's not just good food, it's really tasty too. = No sólo _____ buena comida sino que _____ muy buena también.
- 3, Where is this Friday's concert? = ¿Dónde _____ el concierto de este viernes?
- 4, It looks like she is ill today. = Parece que _____ enferma hoy.
- 5, He is a bit of a strange man. = _____ un hombre un poco raro.
- 6, What time are you here tomorrow? = ¿A qué hora _____ aquí mañana? (tú)
- 7, This fruit is rotten. = Esta fruta _____ podrida.
- 8, The sky is cloudy today. = El cielo _____ nublado hoy.
- 9, It's nine o'clock on the dot. = _____ las nueve en punto.
- 10, My grandparents are elderly. = Mis abuelos _____ mayores.

Exercise 3

- 1, ¿Con quién _____ ayer? = Who did you talk with yesterday? (hablar/tú)
- 2, Me _____ a Málaga el mes pasado. = I went off to Malaga last month.(ir)
- 3, ¿Dónde lo _____? = Where did they put it? (poner)
- 4, Él me _____ que no lo _____. = He told me that he didn't do it. (decir, hacer)
- 5, _____ casi toda la mañana. = We waited nearly the whole morning. (esperar)

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- 6, _____ una operación hace tres semanas. = I had an operation three weeks ago.
(tener)
- 7, Ellos _____ a visitarme a las cuatro. = They came to visit me at four. (venir)
- 8, ¿_____ hacerlo? = Were you able to do it? (poder/usted)
- 9, De repente _____ Carlos con cara de pocos amigos. = Suddenly Carlos came in with a miserable face. (entrar)
- 10, _____ cuatro años en escribir mi primer libro. = It took me four years to write my first book. (tardar)

Exercise 4

- 1, Mientras mi amiga _____ (hacer) los ejercicios, yo _____ (salir) a tomar un café.
Whilst my friend did the exercises, I went out to have a coffee.
- 2, Juan _____ (hablar) con el conductor mientras yo _____ (buscar) cambio.
Juan was talking with the driver whilst I was looking for change.
- 3, Mientras el marido _____ (estar) en el trabajo su mujer _____ (hacer) la compra y _____ (pagar) las facturas.
Whilst the husband was in work his wife did the shopping and paid the bills.
- 4, El otro día _____ (pensar) en ti y en lo que _____ (ir) a comprarte.
The other day I was thinking about you and about what I was going to buy you.
- 5, ¡Qué día! Primero no _____ (funcionar) mi ordenador, luego se me _____ (romper) el router. Total que _____ (tener) que llamar a un técnico.
What a day! First my computer wasn't working, then the router broke down on me. In the end I had to call a technician.
- 6, Carlos _____ (llegar) tarde, no me _____ (pedir) perdón y luego, ¿qué _____ (hacer)? _____ (llamar) a un amigo para quedar el fin de semana. Vaya tío..
Carlos came late, he didn't say sorry to me and then, what did he do? He called a friend to arrange to meet up at the weekend. What a guy.
- 7, ¿Lo _____ (hacer) cuando _____ (estar) en el jardín? (tú)
Did you do it when I was in the garden?
- 8, Mientras Guillermo _____ (asearse), _____ (ponerse) a preparar el desayuno.
Whilst William got washed, I set about preparing the breakfast.
- 9, Yo _____ (pasar) mucho miedo mientras el avión _____ (aterrizar) durante la tormenta.

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I got really frightened whilst the plane was landing during the storm. *

10, Él me _____ (contar) mentira tras mentira y yo lo _____ (mirar) con cara de: '¿me estás tomando el pelo o qué?'

He was telling me lie after lie and I was looking at him with the face of: 'Are you joking me or what?'

Exercise 5

Little Red Riding Hood

One day, Little Red Riding hood left 1. _____ the house and closed 2. _____ the door behind her. The sun was shining 3. _____ and the birds sang 4. _____ in the trees. She walked 5. _____ to the road and checked 6. _____ her basket twice. In her basket there were 7. _____ lots of nice things for her Granny.

She walked 8. _____ for half an hour toward the woods which were 9. _____ near her village and as she walked 10. _____ she felt 11. _____ a little frightened because she was 12. _____ all alone. It was getting dark 13. _____ so she started 14. _____ to walk quickly.

Suddenly a wolf appeared 15. _____ in front of her and said: 16. _____ Little girl, where are you going to? Little Red Riding hood didn't answer 17. _____ the wolf. Rather, she turned around 18. _____ and ran home 19. _____.

Exercise 6

Caperucita Roja

Un día, Caperucita Roja 1. _____ (salir) de la casa y 2. _____ (cerrar) la puerta tras ella. 3. _____ (brillar) el sol y los pájaros 4. _____ (cantar) en los árboles. Ella 5. _____ (caminar) a la calle y 6. _____ (revisar) su cesta dos veces. En su cesta 7. _____ (haber) muchas cosas bonitas para su abuelita.

Ella 8. _____ (andar) media hora hacia el bosque que 9. _____ (estar) cerca de su pueblo y mientras 10. _____ (andar) 11. _____ (tener) un poco de miedo porque 12. _____ (estar) a solas. 13. _____ (oscurecer) así que 14. _____ (empezar) a andar rápidamente.

De repente 15. _____ (aparecer) un lobo en frente de ella y 16. _____ (decir): Niña, ¿adónde vas? Caperucita Roja no le 17. _____ (contestar) al lobo. En vez de eso, 18. _____ (darse) la vuelta y 19. _____ (correr) a casa.

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Exercise 7

Superman

Superman lived 1. _____ (vivir) on the planet Krypton. His parents were 2. _____ (ser) good people but they were worried 3. _____ (preocuparse) about the planet. One day they decided 4. _____ (decidir) to take action and save their son. They put 5. _____ (poner) their son into a spaceship and sent him off 6. _____ (enviar) into outer space.

The space ship was going 7. _____ (ir) all the way to planet earth. During the journey Superman felt 8. _____ (sentirse) alone and scared. After what seemed like a long time, the spaceship crashed 9. _____ (chocar) to the earth. Fortunately, Superman was 10. _____ (estar) fine.

As it happened, an elderly couple were walking 11. _____ (andar) close by when the craft landed 12. _____ (aterrizar) and they went 13. _____ (ir) to see what was happening. 14. _____ (pasar)

In the broken spacecraft they found 15. _____ (encontrar) Superman and took him 16. _____ (llevar) home.

Life with his new parents was 17. _____ (ser) very tranquil and a little boring and Clark Kent, which was 18. _____ (ser) his name on earth, wanted 19. _____ (querer) to do something exciting. What else was 20. _____ (ser) strange was 21. _____ (ser) that every time he saw 22. _____ (ver) a telephone box, he felt 23. _____ (sentirse) all tingly.

Exercise 8.

1, Lo _____ cuando era joven. = I **knew** him when I was young.

2, José no _____ ir con nosotros y se quedó en casa. = Jose didn't **want** to come with us and he stayed home.

3, En ese momento _____ que la quería. = In that moment he **knew/realised** that he loved her.

4, Cuando era niña _____ hablar en español pero ya se me ha olvidado todo. = When I was a girl I **could** speak in Spanish but now I've forgotten everything.

5, La lavadora no funcionaba así que _____ que usar la de la vecina. = The washing machine wasn't working so I **had to** use the neighbour's.

6, Para aprobar todos los exámenes Francisco _____ estudiar mucho más pero no _____ hacerlo así que _____ que repetir el año. = To pass all of the exams Francisco **needed** to study a lot more but he didn't **want to** do it so he **had to** repeat the year.

7, _____ que me ibas a decir esto, pero no sé cómo. = I **knew** you were going to say this to me, but I don't know how.

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- 8, Cuando era joven _____ visitar los Estados Unidos y por fin, el año pasado _____ realizar ese sueño. = When I was young I **wanted** to visit the United States and finally, last year I **was able** to achieve that dream.
- 9, Se _____ mientras trabajaban en el extranjero. = They **met** one another whilst they were working abroad.
- 10, Esa mañana _____ que hacer mogollón de cosas en el centro pero por la nieve no _____ salir de la casa. = That morning I **had** to do a mountain of things in the town centre but because of the snow I **couldn't** leave the house.

Exercise 9.

- 1, ¿_____ con Javi sobre el fin de semana? = Did you speak with Javi about the weekend? (hablar/tú)
- 2, No sé lo que me _____ el hombre. _____ tanto ruido. = I don't know what the man was saying to me. There was so much noise. (decir/haber)
- 3, Ellos _____ ir a la boda pero al final no _____. = They wanted to go to the wedding but in the end they couldn't. (querer/poder)
- 4, ¿Dónde _____ Francisco? Intenta averiguar en qué calle _____ el concierto. = Where is Francisco? He's trying to discover what street the concert is in. (Ser or Estar?)
- 5, Y el hombre que _____ cuando _____ en Inglaterra, ¿dónde lo _____? = And the man who you used to know when you worked in England. Where did you meet him? (conocer/trabajar/usted)
- 6, Esas naranjas ya no valen. _____ podridas todas. = Those oranges are no good now. They are all rotten. (Ser or Estar?)
- 7, Mientras yo _____ el periódico mi mujer _____ una telenovela. = Whilst I read the newspaper my wife watched a soap opera. (leer/ver or mirar)
- 8, _____ más de una hora allí pero no _____ nadie. = I spent more than an hour there but nobody came. (pasar/venir)
- 9, En la universidad _____ que estudiar mucho todos los días. Sin embargo, _____ buenas notas. = In university I used to have to study a lot every day. However, I got good grades. (tener/sacar)
- 10, Cynthia _____ tan enfadada con Enrique que no habla con él. = Cynthia is so angry with Enrique that she's not talking to him. (Ser or Estar?)
- 11, La luz en la cocina no _____ durante toda la tarde. = The light in the kitchen didn't work for the whole evening. (funcionar)
- 12, Perdóname. _____ tarde ayer porque no _____ que _____ a tener una reunión. = Excuse me. I arrived late yesterday because I didn't know that we were going to have a meeting. (llegar/saber/ir)

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- 13, Creo que él me _____ que sí cuando realmente _____ decirme que no. = I think he said yes to me when he really wanted to say no. (decir/querer)
- 14, _____ personas muy buenas y últimamente veo que _____ muy contentos con lo ocurrido. = They are very good people and lately I notice that they are very happy with what's happened. (Ser or Estar?)
- 15, Unos _____ y otros se _____. Todo _____ caótico. = People were arriving and others were going. Everything looked chaotic. (llegar/irse/parecer)
- 16, Mientras los camareros _____ la comida todos _____ de los eventos del día. = Whilst the waiters brought the food everyone talked about the events of the day. (traer/ hablar)
- 17, Te _____ ayer pero no _____ el teléfono. = I called you yesterday but you didn't pick up your phone. (llamar/coger or contestar)
- 18, ¡El tío ese! Me _____ veinte Wasaps la semana pasada. _____ quedar conmigo pero cada vez le _____ que no. ¡Qué pesado! = That guy! He sent me twenty Whatsapps last week. He wanted to meet up with me but each time I said no to him. How annoying! (enviar/querer/decir)
- 19, Ayer _____ todo el día y no _____ salir de casa ni una vez. = Yesterday it rained all day and we couldn't even leave the house once. (llover/poder)
- 20, La mujer _____ cinco horas seguidas mientras su jefe _____ en la otra oficina. = The woman worked for five hours in a row whilst her boss was working in the other office. (trabajar/trabajar)

Exercise 10.

- 1, _____ allí el día entero. = We were there the entire day.
- 2, Cuando _____ vivo _____ un hombre amable. = When he was alive he was a friendly man.
- 3, ¿Dónde _____ el coche? = Where was the car?
- 4, El ordenador _____ roto. = The computer was broken.
- 5, Ella _____ una persona muy deprimida. = She was a very depressed person.
- 6, Todo el día _____ divertido. = The whole day was fun.
- 7, Él _____ aquí durante/por un rato. = He was here for a while.
- 8, La casa _____ en ruinas. = The house was in ruins.
- 9, Ese día la chica _____ muy guapa. = That day the girl was really pretty.
- 10, Cuando lo conocía _____ una persona gorda. = When I met him he was a fat person.

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Exercise 11

- 1, _____ a tu casa esta mañana pero tú no _____. ¿Dónde _____? = I went to your house this morning but you weren't there. Where were you? (ir/estar/estar)
- 2, Él _____ el alcalde de la ciudad. = He was the mayor of the city. (ser)
- 3, ¿Qué tal _____ la fiesta el viernes? _____ muy bien, gracias. = How was the party on Friday? It was really good, thanks. (estar/estar)
- 4, La puerta _____ cerrada con llave y no _____ entrar. = The door was locked and I couldn't get in. (estar/poder)
- 5, Melisa _____ muy nerviosa y no _____ salir de casa. = Melisa was very anxious and didn't want to leave the house. (estar or ser?/querer)
- 6, Ella _____ feliz durante un tiempo. = She was happy for a while. (ser or estar?)
- 7, Mientras _____ en la casa de mi amigo me _____ cuenta de que siempre _____ puesta la tele. = Whilst I was in my friend's house I noticed that they always had the TV on. (estar or ser/?darse cuenta/tener)
- 8, Lo que _____ que _____ tarde. = What happened was that he came late. (pasar/ser or estar?/llegar)
- 9, El restaurante _____ en la costa y _____ allí cada fin de semana. = The restaurant was on the coast and we would eat there every weekend. (ser or estar?/comer)
- 10, Las fiestas de mi juventud _____ muy buenas y siempre _____ gente muy diversa allí. = The parties of my youth were very good and there was always diverse people there. (ser or estar?/haber)

Exercise 12

- 1, La gente _____ poco a poco. = People were arriving little by little. (llegar)
Or
La gente _____ poco a poco.
- 2, El político _____ mucho tiempo. = The politician was talking for a long time. (hablar)
or
El político _____ mucho tiempo.
- 3, El otro día yo _____ en ti mucho. = The other day I was thinking about you a lot. (pensar)
or
El otro día yo _____ en ti mucho.
- 4, En el viaje _____ durante cinco horas sin parar. = On the journey I was driving for five hours without stopping. (conducir Esp.or manejar. Am. L)

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or

En el viaje _____ durante cinco horas sin parar.

5, El pobre hombre _____ se y _____ se una y otra vez mientras _____ al médico. = The poor man was standing up and sitting down over and over again whilst he waited for the doctor. (levantarse/sentarse/esperar)

or

El pobre hombre se _____ y se _____ una y otra vez mientras _____ al médico.

Exercise 13.

1, _____ tres hombres en la calle. No sé que _____. = There were three men in the street. I don't know what they were doing. (haber/hacer)

2, Esa semana _____ cinco fiestas en la misma calle. = That week there were five parties in the same street.

3, Hoy, en Paris _____ un secuestro en pleno centro de la ciudad. = Today in Paris there was a kidnapping right in the centre of the city.

4, ¿Cuántas cosas _____ en la caja? = How many things were there in the box?

5, En mi barrio ayer _____ unos tipos muy sospechosos mirando en todos los coches. = Yesterday in my neighbourhood there were some very suspicious guys looking in all of the cars.

6, _____ un problema muy grande pero ya lo hemos resuelto. = There was a very big problem but we have resolved it now.

7, Cuando _____ joven _____ muchas tiendas pequeñas en la calle principal de mi pueblo. = When I was young there were lots of small shops in the main street of my town. (ser/haber)

8, _____ seguro de que _____ más de 50 dólares en mi cartera. = I'm sure that there were more than 50 dollars in my wallet. (ser or estar/haber)

9, En Madrid hoy _____ una manifestación en el centro. = In Madrid today there was a demonstration in the city centre.

10, _____ muchísima gente en la manifestación y a la policía le _____ controlarlos. = There were a massive amount of people in the demonstration and it was difficult for the police to control them. (haber/costar)

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Exercise 14.

- 1, ¿Qué _____ con el ketchup? = What have you done with the ketchup?
(hacer/tú)
- 2, Lo _____ en la despensa ayer. = I put it in the pantry yesterday. (poner)
- 3, ¿Alguna vez _____ esa salsa picante? = Have you ever tried that spicy sauce?
(probar/tú)
- 4, Sí, la _____ el otro día. Me _____ la boca durante una hora. = Yes, I tried it the other day. My mouth burned for an hour. (probar/quemar)
- 5, ¿_____ conocer Perú? = Have you been able to visit (know) Peru?
(poder/usted)
- 6, Sí. _____ en Lima dos semanas. La ciudad _____ preciosa. = Yes. I was in Lima for two weeks. The city was beautiful. (estar/ser)
- 7, ¿_____ el trabajo que les _____? = Have you done the work I gave you all? (hacer/dar/ustedes)
- 8, No. No _____ porque el jueves _____ un fuego en nuestro despacho. = No. we haven't been able to because on Thursday there was a fire in our office.
(poder/haber)
- 9, ¿Qué _____ hoy? ¿Algo rico? = What have you eaten today? Something nice?
(comer/tú)
- 10, A medio día me _____ una ensalada que _____ muy rica. = At lunchtime I ate a salad that was really tasty. (comer/estar)

Exercise 15

Change these sentences from the Present Perfect to the Pluperfect along with the other verbs that go from Present to Past.

- 1, Él ya me **ha contado** lo que **pasa** en su trabajo. = He has already told me what is happening in his workplace.
Past. Él ya me _____ lo que _____ en su trabajo. = He had already told me what was happening in his workplace.
- 2, Francisco dice que **ha terminado** su curso. = Francisco says that he has finished his course.
Past. Francisco _____ que _____ su curso. = Francisco said that he had finished his course.
- 3, ¿Qué **ha pasado** esta tarde? = What has happened this afternoon?
Past. ¿Qué _____ esa tarde? = What had happened that afternoon?
- 4, ¿Alguna vez la **ha conocido**? = Has he ever met her?
Past. ¿Alguna vez la _____? = Had he ever met her?

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5, **Creo** que no lo **han visto** nunca. = I think that they have never seen it.

Past. _____ que no lo _____ nunca. = I used to believe that they had never seen it.

Exercise 16.

- 1, Ella _____ enferma esta semana. = She is ill this week. (Ser or Estar?)
- 2, Ella _____ enferma durante tres días. = She was ill for three days. (Ser or Estar?)
- 3, ¿ A qué hora _____ el técnico? = What time did the technician arrive? (llegar)
- 4, Mientras _____ pensando en ti me _____. = Whilst I was thinking of you, you called me. (estar/llamar)
- 5, Cuando _____ en Marruecos _____ el cuscus todos los viernes. = When I lived in Morocco I ate couscous every Friday. (vivir/comer)
- 6, ¿Le _____ lo de problema con la luz? = Have you told him the thing about the problem with the electricity? (contar/usted)
- 7, _____ a tu hermano el otro día. Qué alto _____ de repente. = I saw your brother the other day. He's so tall suddenly. (ver/ser or estar?)
- 8, Mi ordenador no _____ porque se _____ el router. = My computer wasn't working because the router had broken. (funcionar/romperse)
- 9, Javi me _____ que su padre le _____ un coche por su cumpleaños. = Javi said to me that his father had given him a car for his birthday. (decir/regalar)
- 10, ¿Me puedes decir dónde _____ toda la santa noche? = Can you tell me where you have been all the freaking night? (ser or estar?/tú)

Exercise 17.

Try filling in the gaps with the correct verb and conjugation in this little story. This time, we won't give you the English as a guide.

José María (1) _____ (llegar) temprano a la reunión. Ya (2) _____ (haber) mucha gente en la sala de conferencias y se (3) _____ (sentirse) un poco incómodo. (4) _____ (tener) un poco de hambre porque no (5) _____ (desayunar).

En un rincón (6) _____ (haber) café y galletas en una mesa, así que se (7) _____ (tomarse) una taza de café y se (8) _____ (comerse) un par de galletas. Después de eso se (9) _____ (sentarse) en una silla en la segunda fila y (10) _____ (sacar) su cuaderno y bolígrafo de su maletín. Ahora se (11) _____ (sentirse) un poco mejor.

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Exercise 18

Choose the right conjugation for these verbs that change meaning between Preterite and Imperfect.

- 1, Nosotros no _____ hablar más con Roberto. (querer/and we didn't speak with him again.)
- 2, Cuando yo _____ más joven _____ teclear con las dos manos pero por falta de la práctica ya no puedo. (ser or estar?/poder)
- 3, Esa mañana yo _____ que hacer muchas cosas pero al final, no _____ nada.(tener/hacer)
- 4, Antes yo no _____ nada sobre el asunto luego, hace poco, _____ la verdad. (saber/saber)
- 5, Ellos lo _____ cuando él _____ sólo quince años. (conocer/tener/meeting for the first time.)
- 6, Sí, esa máquina _____ rota un buen rato. (ser or estar?/ and now it's not broken.)
- 7, En el pasado mi hijo _____ ir a vivir en España pero nunca _____ realizar su sueño. (querer/poder)
- 8, _____ a un hombre de Australia cuando _____ en Inglaterra. (conocer/trabajar)
- 9, ¡Yo lo _____! _____ que él _____ a hacer algo raro. (saber/saber/ir).
- 10, ¿Recuerdas que te _____ a tomar algo conmigo pero no _____ nada? (invitar/querer/and you didn't have anything)

Exercise 19.

Try your hand at translating this little story in the past. Don't worry too much about getting everything exactly the same as we have. There are many ways to say the same thing. Just focus more on getting the verbs right more than anything else. We have helped you by adding the verbs you should use.

He was (ser or estar?) a tall man and he had (tener) black hair and blue eyes,

something that wasn't (ser or estar?) very common in that area. He lived (vivir) in a

small village but didn't talk (hablar) to the local people. Most of his neighbours thought

(pensar) he was (ser or estar?) a strange man.

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One day he left (salir) his house and went (ir) to the town centre to do the shopping.

(hacer la compra) In the main street he saw (ver) one of his neighbours but he didn't

want (querer) to speak to him so he went (entrar) into a butcher's shop nearby.

There were (haber) lots of different types of meat there. He ordered (pedir) a beef steak

and some sausages, then he left (salir) the shop. Now he felt (sentirse) happy. He had

(tener) his meat and the neighbour wasn't there (ser or estar?) anymore. With his bag

in his hand, he went (volver) back home, switched on the telly and spent (pasar) the rest

of the day in the house. He had had (haber/tener) enough of being outside.

Exercise 20.

Choose the correct tense for each of the following sentences.

1, Cuando yo _____ niño _____ mucho tiempo con mis abuelos. (ser or estar?/pasar)

2, El presidente _____ en Hawai pero luego su familia se _____ a EEUU cuando _____ once años. (nacer/mudarse/tener)

3, Ellos me _____ que yo _____ mis llaves en el probador de la tienda. (decir/dejar)

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- 4, ¿Dónde _____ tu español? ¡Es fenomenal! (aprender)
- 5, Mientras José _____ la maleta en el dormitorio yo _____ unos bocadillos para el viaje. (hacer/preparar)
- 6, Ayer _____ con alguien de la compañía que se hace cargo de mi página web. No me _____ nada. (hablar/ayudar)
- 7, Toda esta semana _____ zumo natural y me siento fenomenal. (beber)
- 8, ¿Qué te _____ ayer? ¿_____ cansada? (pasar/ser or estar?)
- 9, El otro día _____ la radio y un hombre _____ que es posible que el próximo presidente de EEUU sea mujer. (escuchar/decir)
- 10, Le _____ una carta hace una semana y hoy me _____ que _____ ayer. (enviar or mandar/decir/llegar)

Exercise 21.

Add the correct 'was/were' equivalent to the following sentences. Each sentence will be in the past and will contain at least one 'was/were'. Where it is possible to do so, use the *Past Progressive option*: e.g. Estar + ando/iendo.

- 1, El martes pasado _____ todo el día. (llover)
- 2, Cuando yo _____ en la iglesia _____ a Marta. (Ser or Estar?/ver)
- 3, Él me _____ que la policía _____ justo a tiempo. (decir/llegar)
- 4, El chaval ése _____ enfrente de mi casa toda la mañana. (Ser or Estar?)
- 5, _____ una casa muy grande pero _____ en malas condiciones. (Ser or Estar?)
- 6, El actor que _____ el otro día, ¿cómo se _____ ?(morir/llamarse)
- 7, Durante la película yo me _____ de miedo. (morirse)
- 8, Recuerdo que ese día el ordenador _____ y no _____ por qué. (pitar/saber)
- 9, ¿Cuánto tiempo _____ tú? (esperar)
- 10, Cuando _____ a Elena _____ bastante enferma. (ver/Ser or Estar?)

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Exercise 22.

Now it's your turn to translate some entire sentences. Buena suerte.

1, The food is very tasty.

2, She was here half an hour ago.

3, While I was working it was raining.

4, She helped me a lot.

5, We were eating and drinking and there was music.

6, Carlos opened the door and came in.

7, When you lived in Spain, where did you used to work? (usted)

8, I tried but I couldn't do it.

9, She didn't want to do it so I did it.

10, As he drank his tea he thought of his wife who was in another country.

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Exercise 23.

Fill in the gaps with the correct past tenses.

- 1, Quiero saber quién lo _____. = I want to know who did it.
- 2, Lo siento pero _____ que hacerlo, lo _____ y ya está. = I'm sorry but I had to do it, I did it and that's it.
- 3, Cuando mi mujer me _____ esta mañana no _____ coger el teléfono pero _____ que hacerlo porque me _____ como diez veces. = When my wife called me this morning I didn't want to pick up the telephone but I had to because she rang like ten times.
- 4, ¡Dios! _____ un accidente en el trabajo hoy. _____ que evacuar el edificio. _____ mucho miedo todos. = God! There was an accident in work today. We had to evacuate the building. We were all very frightened.
- 5, Yo _____ a ver a un amigo a decirle que _____ a recibir una carta del ayuntamiento. = I went to see a friend to tell him that he was going to receive a letter from the town hall.
- 6, El otro día _____ _____ al perro cuando, desde la nada, _____ un pastor alemán. Mi perro _____ tan asustado que se _____ corriendo. = The other day I was walking my dog when a German Shepherd appeared out of nowhere. My dog was so shocked that it ran off.
- 7, _____ las diez de la noche cuando me _____ desde el hospital. Tengo que decirte que casi me _____ del susto. = It was ten o'clock at night when they called me from the hospital. I have to say that I nearly died of fright.
- 8, Cuando _____ joven _____ sacarles dinero a mis padres con sólo una mirada. = When I was young I knew how to get money out of my parents with just a look.
- 9, ¿En qué _____ para hacer tal cosa? = What were you thinking about to do such a thing? (tú)
- 10, ¿Cómo se _____ usted después de ganar la medalla de oro? = How did you feel after winning the gold medal?

Exercise 24.

Translate the following text into Spanish.

Juan got up that morning with a headache.(levantarse) He felt a little dizzy. (sentirse).

_____The

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night before he had eaten a seafood dish in a restaurant and the prawns had smelled strange. (comer/tener un olor)

He looked at himself in the mirror.(mirarse) He was pale. (ser or estar?) It was a

Monday and he had to go to work (ser or estar?/tener) so he decided to shower (decidir)

and get dressed.

After getting dressed he made some toast and a coffee. (preparar) He ate the toast and

then felt better. (comer/sentirse). He was happy now. (ser or estar) He left the house at

seven and drove his car to the office.(salir/conducir or manejar) Another day had begun. (empezar)

Exercise 25.

It's detective time! Based on the differences of meaning that verbs can have between the Preterite and the Imperfect:

What can you know from the following statements (or not know)?

1, Mercedes estuvo muy enferma. = Mercedes was very ill.

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2, No podía hacerlo. = I couldn't do it.

3, Ellos tenían que hacer un montón de cosas. = They had to do a pile of things.

4, Yo no quise saber la verdad. = I didn't want to know the truth.

5, Fernando estaba aquí antes. = Fernando was here before.

6, Mario necesitó llamar a su madre. = Mario needed to call his mother.

7, La casa estuvo veinte años en ruinas. = The house was in ruins for 20 years.

8, Mari Paz estaba muy guapa. = Mari Paz was very beautiful.

9, Fue un buen hombre. = He was a good man.

10, Decían que no querían salir. = They were saying that they didn't want to go out.

Exercise 26.

Fill in the gaps with the correct verb conjugation.

1, Dijo que lo _____ treinta años. = He said that he had met him 30 years previously. (conocer/hacer)

2, A mi hermano le _____ dormir en la cama de nuestros padres cuando _____ niño. = My brother liked to sleep in our parents bed when he was a boy. (gustar/ser or estar?)

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3, _____ de llegar ellos cuando yo los _____. = They had just arrived when I saw them. (acabar/ver)

4, En esa época _____ cinco meses viviendo con nosotros. = At that time they had been living with us for five months. (llevar)

5, Me _____ una tapa de sepia y no me _____ para nada. = They gave me a sepia tapa and I didn't like it at all. (poner/gustar)

6, Antes me _____ la música flamenco pero ya no. = I used to like flamenco music before but not anymore. (gustar)

7, _____ diez años que no lo _____ = I hadn't seen him for ten years. (hacer/ver) *

* This sentence structure is different to the English. It's more like: it was making ten years that I wasn't seeing him.

8, ¿Cuándo te mudaste a España, ¿cuánto tiempo _____ viviendo en Francia tú? = When you moved to Spain how long had you spent living in France? (llevar)

9, Lo _____ una vez pero francamente no le _____. = He tried it once but frankly he didn't like it. (probar/gustar)

10, El postre _____ de llegar cuando los dos hombres _____ a pelearse. = The dessert had just arrived when the two men started to fight. (acabar/empezar)

Exercise 27. Ser Estar

1, You seem to be tired.

2, This chair is really old.

3, It's a good computer.

4, He is married.

5, He is a married man.

6, Jorge is quite slim these days.

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7, I can see her. She's running.

8, The building is in ruins.

9, It's broken at the moment.

10, It's interesting that you say that.

Exercise 28 Ser Estar

1, The church is in the town centre.

2, It's not just good food, it's really tasty too.

3, Where is this Friday's concert?

4, It looks like she is ill today.

5, He is a bit of a strange man.

6, What time are you here tomorrow? (tú)

7, This fruit is rotten.

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8, The sky is cloudy today.

9, It's nine o'clock on the dot.

10, My grandparents are elderly.

Exercise 29 Practise your Preterite

1, Who did you talk with yesterday? (hablar/tú)

2, I went off to Malaga last month. (ir/irse)

3, Where did they put it? (poner)

4, He told me that he didn't do it. (decir, hacer)

5, We waited nearly the whole morning. (esperar)

6, I had an operation three weeks ago. (tener)

7, They came to visit me at four. (venir)

8, Were you able to do it? (poder/usted)

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9, Suddenly Carlos came in with a miserable face. (entrar)

10, It took me four years to write my first book. (tardar)

Exercise 30

1, Whilst my friend did the exercises, I went out to have a coffee. (hacer/salir)

2, Juan was talking with the driver whilst I was looking for change. (hablar/buscar)

3, Whilst the husband was at work his wife did the shopping and paid the bills.
(estar/hacer/pagar)

4, The other day I was thinking about you and about what I was going to buy you.
(pensar/ir)

5, What a day! First my computer wasn't working, then the router broke down on me. In
the end I had to call a technician. (funcionar/romper/tener)

6, Carlos came late, he didn't say sorry to me and then, what did he do? He called a
friend to arrange to meet up at the weekend. What a guy. (llegar/pedir/hacer/llamar)

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7, Did you do it when I was in the garden? (hacer/estar/tú)

8, Whilst William got washed, I set about preparing the breakfast. (asearse/ponerse)

9, I got frightened whilst the plane was landing during the storm. (pasar/aterrizar)

10, He was telling me lie after lie and I was looking at him with the face of: 'Are you joking with me or what?' (contar/mirar)

Exercise 31.

Translate the following story.

Little Red Riding Hood/Caperucita Roja

One day, Little Red Riding hood left (salir) the house and closed (cerrar) the door after

her. The sun was shining (brillar) and the birds sang (cantar) in the trees. She walked (caminar/andar)

to the road and then checked (revisar) her basket twice. In her basket there were (haber)

lots of nice things for her Granny. She walked for half an hour toward the woods which

were (estar) near her village and as she walked, she felt (tener miedo) a little frightened

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because she was all alone (estar). It was getting dark (oscurecer) so she started to walk quickly.

Suddenly a wolf appeared (aparecer) in front of her and said: (decir) Little girl, where

are you going (ir) to? Little Red Riding hood didn't answer (contestar) the wolf. Rather,

she turned around (darse la vuelta) and ran (correr) home.

Exercise 32. Superman

Translate the following story.

Superman lived (vivir) on the planet Krypton. His parents were (ser) good people but

they were worried (preocuparse) about the planet. One day they decided (decidir) to

take action and save their son. They put (poner) their son into a spaceship and sent him

off (enviar) into outer space.

The space ship was going (ir) to planet earth. During the journey Superman felt

(sentirse) alone and scared. After what seemed (parecer) like a long time, the

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spaceship landed (aterrizar). Fortunately, Superman was (estar) fine.

An elderly couple were walking (andar) close by when the craft landed (aterrizar) and

they went (ir) to see what was happening. (pasar)

In the spacecraft they found (encontrar) Superman and took him (llevar) home.

Life with his new parents was (ser) very tranquil and a little boring and Clark Kent, which

was (ser) his name on earth, wanted (querer) to do something exciting. Another thing

that was (ser) strange was (ser) that every time he saw (ver) a telephone box, he felt

(sentirse) very agitated.

Exercise 33. Exercises on meaning changes from Preterite to Imperfect.

1, I **knew** him when I was young.

2, Jose didn't **want** to come with us and he stayed home.

3, In that moment he **realised** that he loved her.

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4, When I was a girl I **could** speak in Spanish but now I've forgotten everything.

5, The washing machine wasn't working so I **had to** use the neighbour's.

6, To pass all of the exams Francisco **needed** to study a lot more but he didn't **want to** do it so he **had to** repeat the year.

7, I **knew** you were going to say this to me, but I don't know how.

8, When I was young I **wanted** to visit the United States and finally, last year I **was able** to achieve that dream.

9, They **met** one another whilst they were working abroad.

10, That morning I **had** to do a mountain of things in the town centre but because of the snow I **couldn't** leave the house.

Exercise 34. Rounding up everything so far.

1, Did you speak with Javi about the weekend? (hablar/tú)

2, I don't know what the man was saying to me. There was so much noise. (decir/haber)

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3, They wanted to go to the wedding but in the end they couldn't. (querer/poder)

4, Where is Francisco? He's trying to discover what street the concert is in. (Ser or Estar?)

5, And the man who you used to know when you worked in England. Where did you meet him? (conocer/trabajar/usted)

6, Those oranges are no good now. They are all rotten. (Ser or Estar?)

7, Whilst I read the newspaper my wife watched a soap opera. (leer/ver or mirar)

8, I spent more than an hour there but nobody came. (pasar/venir)

9, In university I used to have to study a lot every day. However, I got good grades. (tener/sacar)

10, Cynthia is so angry with Enrique that she's not talking to him. (Ser or Estar?)

11, The light in the kitchen didn't work for the whole evening. (funcionar)

12, Excuse me. I came late yesterday because I didn't know that we were going to have a meeting. (llegar/saber/ir)

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13, I think he said yes to me when he really wanted to say no. (decir/querer)

14, They are very good people and lately I notice that they are very happy with what's happened. (Ser or Estar?)

15, People were arriving and others were leaving. Everything looked chaotic. (llegar/salir/parecer)

16, Whilst the waiters brought the food everyone talked about the events of the day. (traer/ hablar)

17, I called you yesterday but you didn't pick up your phone. (llamar/coger or contestar)

18, That guy! He sent me twenty Whatsapps last week. He wanted to meet up with me but each time I said no to him. How annoying! (enviar/querer/decir)

19, Yesterday it rained all day and we couldn't even leave the house once. (llover/poder)

20, The woman worked for five hours in a row whilst her boss was working in the other office. (trabajar/trabajar)

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Exercise 35. The WASs.

1, We were there the entire day.

2, When he was alive he was a friendly man.

3, Where was the car?

4, The computer was broken.

5, She was a very depressed person.

6, The whole day was fun.

7, He was here for a while.

8, The house was in ruins.

9, That day the girl was really pretty.

10, When I met him he was a fat person.

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Exercise 36 Mixing WAS with the past.

1, I went to your house this morning but you weren't there. Where were you?
(ir/estar/estar/tú)

2, He was the mayor of the city. (ser)

3, How was the party on Friday? It was really good, thanks.(estar/estar)

4, The door was locked and I couldn't get in. (ser or estar/poder)

5, Melisa was very anxious and didn't want to leave the house.(estar or ser/querer)

6, She was happy for a while. (ser or estar)

7, Whilst I was in my friend's house I noticed that they always had the TV on. (estar or ser/darse cuenta/tener)

8, What happened was that he came late. (pasar/ser or estar/llegar)

9, The restaurant was on the coast and we would eat there every weekend. (ser or estar/comer)

10, The parties of my youth were very good and there was always diverse people there.
(ser or estar/haber)

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Exercise 37.

Estaba/Estuvo hablando compared to Hablaba/Habló. Make the following sentences in both the past continuous and the regular Preterite/Imperfect.

e.g. Estaban comiendo or Comían / Estuvo esperando or Esperó.

1, People were arriving little by little. (llegar)

Or

2, The politician was talking for a long time. (hablar)

or

3, The other day I was thinking about you a lot. (pensar)

or

4, On the journey I was driving for five hours without stopping. (conducir Esp.or manejar. Am. L)

or

5, The poor man was standing up and sitting down over and over again whilst he waited for the doctor. (levantarse/sentarse/esperar)

or

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Exercise 38 The use of Había and Hubo.

Translate the following sentences choosing between Había and Hubo.

1, There were three men in the street. I don't know what they were doing. (haber/hacer)

2, That week there were five parties in the same street. (haber)

3, Today in Paris there was a kidnapping right in the centre of the city.
(haber/secuestro)

4, How many things were there in the box? (haber)

5, Yesterday in my neighbourhood there were some very suspicious guys looking in all
of the cars. (haber/mirar)

6, There was a very big problem but we have resolved it now. (haber/resolver)

7, When I was young there were lots of small shops in the main street of my town.
(ser/haber)

8, I'm sure that there were more than 50 dollars in my wallet. (estar/haber)

9, In Madrid today there was a demonstration in the city centre. (haber)

10, There were a massive amount of people in the demonstration and it was difficult for
the police to control them. (haber/costar)

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Exercise 39. Present Perfect-Preterite-Imperfect

1, What have you done with the ketchup? (hacer/tú)

2, I put it in the pantry yesterday. (poner)

3, Have you ever tried that spicy sauce? (probar/tú)

4, Yes, I tried it the other day. My mouth burned for an hour. (probar/quemar)

5, Have you been able to visit (know) Peru? (poder/conocer/usted)

6, Yes. I was in Lima for two weeks. The city was beautiful. (estar/ser)

7, Have you done the work I gave you all? (hacer/dar/ustedes)

8, No. we haven't been able to because on Thursday there was a fire in our office.
(poder/haber)

9, What have you eaten today? Something nice? (comer/tú)

10, At lunchtime I ate a salad that was really tasty.(comer/estar)

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Exercise 40.

Translate these sentences into the Pluperfect (had eaten/había comido).

1, He had already told me what was happening in his workplace.

2, Francisco said that he had finished his course.

3, What had happened that afternoon?

4, Had he ever met her?

5, I used to believe that they had never seen it.

Exercise 41.

1, She is ill this week. (Ser or Estar?)

2, She was ill for three days. (Ser or Estar?)

3, What time did the technician arrive? (llegar)

4, Whilst I was thinking of you, you called me. (estar/llamar)

5, When I lived in Morocco I ate couscous every Friday. (vivir/comer)

6, Have you told him the thing about the problem with the electricity? (contar/usted)

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7, I saw your brother the other day. He's so tall suddenly. (ver/ser or estar?)

8, My computer wasn't working because the router had broken. (funcionar/romperse)

9, Javi said to me that his father had given him a car for his birthday. (decir/regalar)

10, Can you tell me where you have been all the freaking night? (ser or estar?/tú)

Exercise 42. Translate this story.

José María arrived early (llegar) to the meeting. There were (haber) already a lot of

people in the conference room and he felt (sentirse) a little uncomfortable. He was

quite hungry because he hadn't had breakfast (breakfasted/desayunar).

In a corner there were (haber) coffee and biscuits on a table so he had (tomarse) a cup

of coffee and he ate (comerse) a couple of biscuits. After that he sat (sentarse) on a

chair in the second row and took out (sacar) his writing pad and pen from his briefcase.

Now he was feeling (sentirse) a little better.

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Exercise 43.

Translate these sentences choosing the right conjugation for the verbs that change meaning between Preterite and Imperfect.

1, We didn't want to speak with Robert again (and we didn't)

2, When I was younger I knew how to type with two hands but because of lack of practice I can't anymore.

3, This morning I had to do lots of things but in the end I didn't do anything.

4, Before, I didn't know anything about the matter then, a little while ago I found out the truth.

5, They met him when he was just fifteen.

6, Yes, that machine was broken for a good while. (and now it's not broken.)

7, In the past my son wanted to go to live in Spain but he was never able to fulfil his dream.

8, I used to know a man from Australia when I worked in England.

9, I knew it! I knew that he was going to do something strange.

10, Do you remember that I invited you to have a drink with me but you didn't want anything? (and you didn't have anything/tú)

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Exercise 44.

Try your hand at translating this little story in the past.

He was (ser or estar?) a tall man and he had (tener) black hair and blue eyes,

something that wasn't (ser or estar?) very common in that area. He lived (vivir) in a

small village but didn't talk (hablar) to the local people. Most of his neighbours thought

(pensar) he was (ser or estar?) a strange man.

One day he left (salir) his house and went (ir) to the town centre to do the shopping.

(hacer la compra) In the main street he saw (ver) one of his neighbours but he didn't

want (querer) to speak to him so he went (entrar) into a butcher's shop nearby.

There were (haber) lots of different types of meat there. He ordered (pedir) a beef steak

and some sausages, then he left (salir) the shop. Now he felt (sentirse) happy. He had

(tener) his meat and the neighbour wasn't there (ser or estar?) anymore. With his bag

in his hand, he went (volver) back home, switched on the telly and spent (pasar) the rest

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of the day in the house. He had had (haber/tener) enough of being outside.

Exercise 45.

Translate into English, choosing the correct tense for each of the following sentences.

1, When I was a child I used to spend a lot of time with my grandparents.

2, The president was born in Hawaii but then his family moved to the mainland when he was eleven years old.

3, They told me that I had left my keys in the shop changing room.

4, Where did you learn/have you learnt your Spanish? It's phenomenal! (tú)

5, Whilst José packed the case in the bedroom I prepared some sandwiches (baguette kind) for the journey.

6, Yesterday I talked with someone from the company that looks after my web page. They didn't help me at all.

7, All this week I have drunk natural juice and I feel phenomenal.

8, What was wrong with you yesterday? Were you tired? (tú, female)

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9, The other day I listened to the radio and a man said that it's possible that the next president of the United States will be a woman.

10, I sent him a letter a week ago and today he has told me that it arrived yesterday.

Exercise 46.

Translate the following was/were sentences and where it is possible to do so, use *the Past Progressive option*: e.g. Estar + ando/iendo.

1, Last Tuesday it was raining all day. (llover)

2, When I was in the church I saw Marta. (Ser or Estar?/ver)

3, He said to me that the police arrived just in time. (decir/llegar)

4, That lad was in front of my house all morning. (Ser or Estar?)

5, It was a big house but it was in a bad condition. (Ser or Estar?)

6, The actor that died the other day, what was he called? (morir/llamarse)

7, During the film I was dying of fright. (morirse)

8, I remember that that day the computer was beeping and I didn't know why.
(pitar/saber)

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9, How long were you waiting? (tú)

10, When I saw Elena she was quite ill. (Ser or Estar?)

Exercise 47.

You've already translated these sentences but we would like you to do it again and notice just how much better you are the second time around.

1, The food is very tasty.

2, She was here half an hour ago.

3, While I was working it was raining.

4, She helped me a lot.

5, We were eating and drinking and there was music.

6, Carlos opened the door and came in.

7, When you lived in Spain, where did you used to work? (usted)

8, I tried but I couldn't do it.

9, She didn't want to do it so I did it.

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10, As he drank his tea he thought of his wife who was in another country.

Exercise 48.

Translate the following sentences.

1, I want to know who did it.

2, I'm sorry but I had to do it, I did it and that's it.

3, When my wife called me this morning I didn't want to pick up the telephone but I had to because she rang like ten times.

4, There was an accident in work today. We had to evacuate the building. We were all very frightened.

5, I went to see a friend to tell him that he was going to receive a letter from the town hall.

6, The other day I was walking my dog when a German Shepherd appeared out of nowhere. My dog was so shocked that it ran off.

7, It was ten o'clock at night when they called me from the hospital. I have to say that I nearly died of fright.

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8, When I was young I knew how to get money out of my parents with just a look.

9, What were you thinking about to do such a thing? (tú)

10, How did you feel after winning the gold medal? (usted)

Exercise 49.

You've done this once already. Here's your chance to ace it! Translate the following text into Spanish.

Juan got up that morning with a headache.(levantarse) He felt a little dizzy. (sentirse).

The night before he had eaten a seafood dish in a restaurant and the prawns had smelled strange. (comer/tener un olor)

He looked at himself in the mirror.(mirarse) He was pale. (ser or estar?) It was a

Monday and he had to go to work (ser or estar?/tener) so he decided to shower (decidir)

and get dressed.

After getting dressed he made some toast and a coffee. (preparar) He ate the toast and

then felt better. (comer/sentirse). He was happy now. (ser or estar) He left the house at

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seven and drove his car to the office.(salir/conducir or manejar) Another day had begun.
(empezar)

Exercise 50.

Translate the following sentences:

1, He said that he had met him 30 years previously. (conocer/hacer)

2, My brother liked to sleep in our parents bed when he was a boy. (gustar/ser or
estar?)

3, They had just arrived when I saw them. (acabar/ver)

4, At that time they had been living with us for five months. (llevar)

5, They gave me a sepia tapa and I didn't like it at all. (dar/gustar)

6, I used to like flamenco music before but not anymore. (gustar)

7, I hadn't seen him for ten years. (/hacer/ver)

8, ¿ When you moved to Spain how long had you spent living in France?
(mudarse/llevar)

9, He tried it once but frankly he didn't like it. (probar/gustar)

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10, The dessert had just arrived when the two men started to fight. (acabar/empezar)

Answer Section

Exercise 1

- 1, estar
- 2, es
- 3, Es
- 4, está
- 5, Es
- 6, está
- 7, Está
- 8, está
- 9, Está
- 10, Es

Exercise 2

- 1, está
- 2, es, está
- 3, es
- 4, está
- 5, Es
- 6, estás
- 7, está
- 8, está
- 9, Son
- 10, son

Exercise 3

- 1, hablaste
- 2, fui
- 3, pusieron
- 4, dijo, hizo
- 5, Esperamos
- 6, Tuve
- 7, vinieron
- 8, Pudo
- 9, entró
- 10, Tardé

Exercise 4

1, hacía, salí. We have a 'whilst' which triggers the Imperfect. Then we have the one-off option of going out.

2, hablaba, buscaba. In both verbs we have a was...ing which is typically the Imperfect.

3, estaba, hizo/hacía, pagó/pagaba We have another 'mientras' which triggers the Imperfect. Then, we have the choice of making the wife's actions solid, one-off and sequential = Preterite, or we can make have everything all blending together = Imperfect.

4, pensaba, pensé, iba. By using the Imperfect we create the idea of ongoing thoughts whereas the Preterite shows a one-time thought, Then, with '**was going to**' we have a clear Imperfect.

5, funcionaba, rompió, tuve. The computer 'was not working' which is a description but the act of the router breaking and the action of calling the technician is clearly Preterite.

6, llegó, pidió, hizo, llamó. Here we have a clear four sequence of events/actions which all are Preterite.

7, hiciste, estaba. It's more likely that we use the Preterite with a 'did you do it' question as the implication is that it was a one off action. We then have a 'when' which is doubling as the famous Spanish 'whilst'.

8, se aseaba, me puse. Here we have a 'whilst' = Imperfect. Then we have the action of setting about doing something.

9, pasé, aterrizaba. Here we have the action of getting frightened (Preterite) whilst the plane was landing (Imperfect)

10, contaba, miraba So, whilst he was doing one thing, Imperfect, the other person was looking at him at the same time. (Imperfect) We could also make 'miraba' into 'miré'

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which would make the listener understand that the person looked once. By using the Imperfect we are saying that the two actions were happening together and for about the same length of time.

Exercise 5

- 1, pret - she left just once/ action
- 2, pret - she closed the door once /action
- 3, imp - was...ing / description
- 4, imp - false preterite / pure description
- 5, pret - she walked to the lane once / action
- 6, pret - measurable /checked twice / action
- 7, imp - pure description / no action
- 8, pret - walked for half an hour / measured
- 9, imp - description with no action
- 10, imp - as / while/ ongoing description
- 11, imp - feelings are very difficult to pin down or to measure. (We'll come to this later.)
- 12, imp - she was alone / no action / only description
- 13, imp - was...ing / pure description / can't be measured
- 14, pret - she started / action / we start once
- 15, pret - appear / action / one time
- 16, pret - he said / one time / action
- 17, pret - answer someone once / action / even not answering is still action
- 18, pret - turn around / action / once
- 19, pret - ran home / solid block / completed / action

Exercise 6

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1, salió | 11, tenía |
| 2, cerró | 12, estaba |
| 3, Brillaba | 13, Oscurecía |
| 4, cantaban | 14, empezó |

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- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 5, caminó | 15, apareció |
| 6, revisó | 16, dijo |
| 7, había | 17, contestó |
| 8, anduvo | 18, se dio |
| 9, estaba | 19, corrió |
| 10, andaba | |

Exercise 7

- 1, Imperfect / vivía. We use imperfect because we are just describing what was happening.
- 2, Imperfect / eran. Again, this is a total description. We aren't measuring anything.
- 3, Imperfect / se preocupaban. We are describing how they were feeling.
- 4, Preterite / decidieron. This is an action. A decision that was taken once!
- 5, Preterite / pusieron. Again, this is an action. They put him in once.
- 6, Preterite / enviaron. He was sent off only once. A clear action.
- 7, Imperfect / iba. This is describing the direction of the ship. It was going to earth.
- 8, Imperfect / se sentía. This is describing his feelings. It's hard to measure feelings.
- 9, Preterite / chocó. This is action. It crashed once. Boom!
- 10, Imperfect / estaba. This is the photo description. We are not measuring being fine.
- 11, Imperfect / andaba. This is describing what was happening. The background.
- 12, Preterite / aterrizó. The craft landed once. It's a one off action.
- 13, Preterite / fueron. The couple went once. It's an action.
- 14, Imperfect / pasaba. We see '**was happening**' This is a sure sign of the imperfect.
- 15, Preterite / encontraron. They found him once. Totally measurable.
- 16, Preterite / llevaron. To take him home is one action. So it has to be Preterite.
- 17, Imperfect / era. This is describing. It's the photo thing again.
- 18, Imperfect / era. Again, this is a description of his name and it was ongoing.
- 19, Imperfect / quería. There was no action, just the description of a desire. (We will be covering the use of Querer in the Preterite a little later.)
- 20, Imperfect / era. This isn't action. It's a description of what used to happen.
- 21, Imperfect / era. This is the same as the above example. It always happened.
- 22, Imperfect / veía. Every time he saw it. This is an ongoing description.
- 23, Imperfect / se sentía. Description. If you can add 'used to' into the sentence and it makes sense, then it's very likely to be the Imperfect.

Exercise 8

- 1, conocía - this sentence could just as easily have 'used to' in it so, Imperfect.
- 2, quiso - José didn't want to go and he didn't. His want was carried out, so, Preterite.

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- 3, supo - this is a realisation moment, a finding out, so, Preterite.
- 4, podía - although we said 'could' we could easily use 'she used to be able' so, Imperfect.
- 5, tuvo - this was a need that was carried through as an action. She needed to use the neighbours machine and she did.
- 6, necesitaba, quiso, tuvo - Francisco was needing to study. He didn't act on that need so, Imperfect. He also didn't want to study and didn't, so Preterite action. That led to him having to repeat the year, an action, so Preterite.
- 7, Sabía - this knowing was an ongoing knowing that can't be measured. It wasn't a finding out, so Imperfect.
- 8, quería, pude - this person wanted to visit the US but didn't act on that want, so Imperfect. Then finally, they were able and did visit which is an action and so, Preterite.
- 9, conocieron - this was their first-time meeting so always, Preterite.
- 10, tenía, pude - the need to do lots of things wasn't acted upon, it was just a need, so, Imperfect. The person could not leave the house and didn't so, Preterite.

Exercise 9

- 1, Hablaste. A one off event about a specific thing.
- 2, decía, había. We have a '**was saying**' which is Imperfect and a photo description of the noise happening at the same time.
- 3, querían, pudieron. They had the intention of going = Imperfect but then they could not and did not = Preterite.
- 4, está, es. We have the location of Francisco = estar. Then we have the location of an event = ser.
- 5, conocía, trabajaba, conoció. We have a 'used to know' = Imperfect. Then 'worked' could easily be 'used to work' = Imperfect. Then the one-off act of meeting someone = Preterite.
- 6, están. We are talking about a state of rottenness = Estar. (They are in a terrible state).
- 7, leía, veía or miraba (mirar more LA/ver more Spain). Here we have two actions happening at the same time. It's also possible to use 'vio/miró' if you wanted to. However, if in doubt, get the Imperfect out.
- 8, Pasé, vino. Here we have a measured event (more than an hour) and the definitive action of 'nobody coming' = Preterite.
- 9, tenía, saqué/sacaba. We have a clear 'used to' here = Imperfect. Getting good grades could be Imperfect or Preterite. If we mean in general then we would use the Imperfect. If we are referring to the final result then we would use the Preterite.
- 10, está. Cynthia is in a state of anger = Estar.
- 11, funcionó. We have a clear measurement here = Preterite.
- 12, llegué, sabía, íbamos. Arriving late is a one-off event = Preterite. Not knowing something is general description = Imperfect. We have a '**were going**' = Imperfect.

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13, dijo, quería. He said 'yes'. This is a one-off, measurable action = Preterite. He wanted to say 'no' but didn't act on it. An intention only = Imperfect.

14, Son, están. We are using 'buenas' so we must use Ser. (Ser bueno/Estar bien). Remember, we only mix Estar with bueno to talk about tasty food or people. They are happy about something that has happened. This is a state = Estar.

15, llegaban, se iban, parecía. All three verbs are describing a scene, a photo, a snapshot in time. Lots of **were ing.** = Imperfect.

16, traían, hablaban/hablaron. Here we have the word 'mientras/whilst along with were...ing so a clear Imperfect. The second verb is not so clear. We have the Preterite in English but we could have just as easily said, 'were talking' instead of 'talked.' In this case, you decide. Both are correct. However, just remember the rule of 'if in doubt, get the Imperfect out'. You'll rarely go wrong.

17, llamé, cogiste or contestaste. (The verb coger is offensive in some countries in LA.) Here we have two clear actions. so, Preterite.

18, envié, quería, dije or decía. Here we have a very measurable amount of messages sent = Preterite. The guy wanted to meet up but didn't. This is just an intention and no action = Imperfect. The last one is interesting. If you wanted to communicate literally that you just said 'no' every time then you would use the Preterite. However, if you wanted to show an ongoing communication in general, you could use the Imperfect. By saying: le decía que no, the listener would understand that there was more communication going on than just 'no'.

19, llovió, pudimos. We measure the time it rained by saying 'all day' = Preterite. We weren't able and didn't leave the house. The intention/action was fulfilled =Preterite

20, trabajó, trabajaba. The woman's work was measured (5 horas) = Preterite. This happened whilst her boss was working in the other office. Only with the Imperfect can two things happen at the same time. If we made both verbs Preterite they would happen one after the other and not together.

Exercise 10

1, Estuvimos. We know we are talking about location and we are not describing where an event is, so it must be Estar. We check by making: 'están allí.' That sounds good. Then we have to look to see if there's a measurement. Yes! The entire day. So it has to be Preterite.

2, estaba, era. Was this a little difficult? So, we know that being alive is a state just like being dead, so for the first verb we should choose Estar. Then we are describing him being a friendly man. That's a characteristic, so we need to use Ser. So that would be; 'está vivo' and 'es amable'. That sounds great. Then, Preterite or Imperfect. Even though it may seem that saying 'when he was alive' is a measurement, it's not. In fact, we could also use the word 'whilst' which is a dead cert for the Imperfect. Remember, with the Preterite we can't do two things at the same time, or describe two things happening at the same time, which is what we are doing here. So, it has to be Imperfect. Then, when we say: 'He was a friendly man'. we are measuring nothing, we are just describing the photo. So, again, we plump for the Imperfect.

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3, estaba. So, we have another none event location, so we have to use Estar. (Getting the hang of the location thing?) Then, there isn't any kind of measurement in the sentence, so we will go for the Imperfect description. You may be thinking, ah, but the car isn't there now so it's over, and that's fine, you could use that, however, there's no more information and there is doubt so you will always choose the Imperfect.

4, estaba. The computer was in a state of brokenness so we know that we will choose Estar. Being broken is not what we expect to see. In present this is: 'está roto'. That sounds good. Then, there is nothing that we can measure in the sentence so, as a default we will go for the Imperfect.

5, era. Now in this sentence there is a chance that we get confused. We see 'depressed' and so we think 'state'. But, as you may have noticed, it's a bit of a trick sentence. We aren't saying that she was depressed. We are saying that she was a 'person who was depressed. So in present: 'Es una persona.' which sounds great. However, if we try Estar: 'Está una persona' it sounds strange. A person is not a state. Then we consider Preterite or Imperfect. Once again, there is no measurement, just a pure description so we choose the Imperfect.

6, fue. Did this one catch you out? Well, firstly we are saying that the day was fun. In present that would be: es divertido and what we are doing is describing the characteristic of the day. So we choose Ser. Then, we can see that yes, we are measuring the event by saying 'all day'. So, that's why we choose Preterite.

7, estuvo. Firstly we have another location, which is Estar. Then we use one of those hidden measurements which is 'a while'. So, that's why we choose Preterite.

8, estaba. Being in ruins is a state. (The house was in a terrible state of ruination.) So we will choose Estar. Then, because there is no measurement, only description, we will choose Imperfect.

9, estaba. Here we have that little exception the the Ser Estar rule when we talk about things being outside of the normal. What we weren't expecting. The girl being pretty that day indicates that this was outside of the normal and so we will use Estar. Then, although we say 'that day' we aren't measuring it clearly like when we say 'all day'. Rather we are just describing what was going on. So, that's why we use the Imperfect.

10, era. So, we have a characteristic here. The person was fat. That is how you knew them to be. So because of that we will use Ser. Then, we aren't measuring anything, we are simply describing the photo, so we will use the Imperfect.

Exercise 11

1, fui, estabas, estabas. 'I went' is clearly a one-off action which is Preterite. 'You weren't there' is pure description. We can't measure someone not being there, so we use the Imperfect. We ask 'where were you?' and that question shows that we have no more information. We cannot use the Preterite because we know nothing about the persons whereabouts. It's like asking: 'Where were you in that moment (frozen in time)?

2, era. Because we have no more information and don't know for how long, we use the Imperfect. If we used the Preterite (fue) it would seem either like a long, long time ago or that we had killed him off.

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3, estuvo, estuvo. Here we are talking about a one off party = Preterite. We have the adverb 'bien' in the answer so we know that we have to use the verb Estar. Without seeing the translation we could also easily add 'fue' = went in the gaps, but the English translation is clearly 'estuvo'.

4, Estaba, pude/podía. The door being locked is just a description. We have no information on how long for etc. = Imperfect. Because it was locked we can assume that the person didn't get in so we can use Preterite to show that they couldn't and didn't. If we used the Imperfect: 'no podía', then we are intimating that they probably got the door unlocked and got in.

5, estaba, quería/quiso. Firstly we are describing Melisa's state. It's pure description and as we have said, it's very difficult to measure feelings. So we choose the Imperfect. Then we can choose between two 'want' options. If we say: 'no quería' we are saying that she didn't want to but it's possible that she did. It was just an intention. If we say 'no quiso' we are saying that she refused to go out. She didn't want to and she didn't. do it.

6, Fue or estuvo. So, firstly we have a definite measurement of 'for a while', so we don't need to ponder. It's Preterite. However, we then have to decide if we are talking about her state of happiness or we are referring to her character. Was she happy in herself, as a person (fue) or was she in a happy mood for a while (estuvo)? Do you see how by choosing the verb or the conjugation, we communicate something different? Just out of interest, in Spain, if we used 'contenta' we would not be able to use SER. 'Fue contenta' isn't a possibility in Spain. 'Fue feliz' is used instead.

7, Estaba, di, tenían. So, we have the obvious trigger for the Imperfect in 'whilst', then we have a realisation moment, which is nice and easy and clearly Preterite. Then we are back to Description of this constantly switched on TV that can't be pinned down to time.= Imperfect.

8, Pasó, fue, llegó. If we look at this sentence as a whole we are talking about a very definitive one off event. Each of the events happened once (That is certainly my perception of the sentence. Is that yours too?) Thus we use Preterite in all three cases. However, you may be wondering about the Ser/Fue usage. We use SER because we are talking about an event that happened, not a state. Watch this logic: Something happened so, what happened was a thing. It was a thing. If we put that into present = It is a thing. That sentence in Spanish is: ES una cosa =So, we have to choose SER. If that logic is too much to take in, just know that the expression: 'Lo que pasó fue que...' is very fixed and one that you will hear everywhere!

9, estaba, comíamos. We choose Estar because we are talking about a non-event location. We then choose Imperfect because we are talking about a non-countable description. We choose Imperfect for eating there because this is a clear 'used to' kind of sentence.

10, eran, había. We choose Ser because we have used 'buenas' and we are not describing food so we must keep Ser and Bueno together. Then, we choose Imperfect because we are talking about repetitive parties, we aren't measuring but rather describing. We choose the Imperfect of Había for the same reasons. We are just describing the people in the various parties.

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Exercise 12

- 1, estaba llegando or llegaba. This is just a description of what was happening = Imperfect.
- 2, estuvo hablando or habló. We are measuring the politicians speech so = Preterite.
- 3, estaba pensando or pensaba. Because we have said, 'a lot', the impression is that the thinking was an ongoing thing happening over and over. So = Imperfect.
- 4, estuve conduciendo/manejando or conduje/manejé. Once again, we are clearly measuring this so= Preterite.
- 5, estaba levantándose y sentándose or se levantaba y se sentaba /esperaba. We use 'over and over again' which is an ongoing description/uncountable, so = Imperfect.

Exercise 13

- 1, Había, hacían. So here we are describing the three men in the street. It's not measurable so we will use the Imperfect. We use the Imperfect again to talk about what they were doing, which is a typical were...ing. = Imperfect.
- 2, hubo. We are using the Preterite here because we are specifically focussing on the five parties and nothing else. We could use Había, too, but our listener would be expecting more information to be added to the sentence.
- 3, hubo. Once again we are talking about a specific, one-off event in Paris. This is the focus of the sentence so we choose to use the Preterite.
- 4, había. We use the Imperfect here because we are simply describing what was in the box. We aren't talking about an event, rather an ongoing description.
- 5, había. This is pure description. We are talking about two things that are happening at the same time, 'being in the neighbourhood and looking in cars', so a classic Imperfect.
- 6, Hubo. This seems the obvious choice here. The sentence is totally focussed on the problem. It is measured because we say that it was resolved. So, we would use the Preterite. The Imperfect is also possible but if we use that our listener would be expecting more information...'and what happened?'
- 7, era, había. By now these kind of sentences are probably standing out as very obvious. We are talking about non-measurable descriptions. We can't answer the 'how long for?' or 'how many times?' questions so we use the Imperfect.
- 8, estoy, había. This is Imperfect because we are describing what there was in the wallet. There is no action and no measure of time.
- 9, hubo. Once again we have the one-off happening which fits beautifully with the Preterite.
- 10, había, costaba/costó. Here is an interesting sentence. Firstly, we are running two things together so we know that the first verb is description, setting the scene thus it's Imperfect. However, we then have a choice. If we use the Imperfect with the second verb, we are just describing what was happening between the police and the demonstrators. Perhaps they managed to control them, perhaps they didn't. It also gives the feeling, like the Morse Code, that they had to try and control the crowd many times.

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It was an ongoing struggle. However, if we use the Preterite we give the sense that the police tried once to control the masses and that for that period they had problems.

Exercise 14

- 1, has hecho.
- 2, puse. We use the Preterite because we are now talking about a specific action that happened yesterday.
- 3, has probado.
- 4, probé, quemé. Here we have two very clear, measurable actions.
- 5, Ha podido.
- 6, estuve, era. Here we have used estuve because we measure the stay. Then we describe the city with the Imperfect.
- 7, Han hecho, di. Although we use the PP to ask the general question, the act of giving them the work was a one off action and so we use the Preterite.
- 8, hemos podido, hubo. We use the PP to show that in the entire time up to this moment we haven't been able to do the job. However, we use Hubo/Preterite to talk about the one-off fire on Thursday.
- 9, has comido.
- 10, comí, estaba. Eating the salad was a one-off act/Preterite and then we describe the salad/Imperfect.

Exercise 15

- 1, había contado, pasaba. We use 'pasaba' because we have a clear 'was...ing' in the sentence.
- 2, dijo, había terminado. We use 'dijo' because we are referring to a one-off thing that he said.
- 3, había pasado.
- 4, había conocido.
- 5, Creía, habían visto. We have used the Imperfect in 'creía' because we have a clear 'used to'. In this sentence we could also use 'creo' if we wanted to say that we still believe that thing.

Exercise 16

- 1, está. Illness is a state, so we use Estar.
- 2, estuvo. We have to use Estar for the state of illness and the Preterite because we are measuring the time in the past.
- 3, llegó. He arrived once in a definitive, one off action, so we use the Preterite.
- 4, estaba, llamaste. We have a clear 'was...ing' and a specific moment so we use the Imperfect and we have the option to use the 'past progressive' (equally we could have said: 'pensaba en ti'. The ongoing event was interrupted with a phone call, so we use the Preterite.

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5, vivía, comía. Again we have an ongoing activity of living so we use the Imperfect. Then, we have an example of the 'false preterite' (ate). However, it's clear that we really mean 'used to eat' so we use the Imperfect.

6, ha contado. Here we have a clear 'have' told' so we simply use the Present Perfect.

7, Vi, está. We use the Preterite because we are talking about a one-off event of seeing the persons brother. We then use Estar to show that his tallness isn't what we expected. It's outside of our plan.

8, funcionaba, se había roto. We have a description with a clear 'was..ing' so we use Imperfect. Then, we have a 'had broken' which must be the Pluperfect.

9, dijo, había regalado. Here we have a one-off telling of information = Preterite. Then we have another had+Past Participle so we use the Pluperfect again.

10, has estado. We have a 'have been' so this is a sure-fire indicator of the Present perfect.

Exercise 17.

1. llegó. This is a one off action = Preterite.

2, había. This is a description thus Imperfect.

3, se sentía. Here we are describing feelings so we will use Imperfect.

4, Tenía. Once again, we are describing bodily feelings of hunger. It's very difficult to measure them. So we use the Imperfect.

5, había desayunado. Typically, we would use the Pluperfect 'had breakfasted' here. However, there is also the possibility of saying: 'he didn't breakfast.' No desayuné.

6, Había. Describing what there was = Imperfect.

7, se tomó. We are talking about a one-off action of having a coffee. = Preterite.

8, se comió. The same as the previous verb.

9, se sentó. One act of sitting down = Preterite.

10, sacó. One-off action of getting out his note pad.

11, se sentía. Back to describing feelings = Imperfect.

Exercise 18

1, quisimos. So, because we didn't want to and we didn't, we use the Preterite to show the refusal.

2, era, podía. Being you is a description so we use the Imperfect and we choose Ser because we are talking about what we expect. (when we are young we are young). Then, we are talking about something we 'used to be able to do' so we use the Imperfect.

3, tenía, hice. We use the Imperfect of Tener because we are talking about the 'intention only' of doing something. There was no action as we see in the second part of the sentence. We did nothing, which is still an action, so we use the Preterite of Hacer.

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4, sabía, supe. We are describing beforehand when we didn't know anything. We use the Imperfect to show that it was an ongoing 'not knowing'. Then, we discovered the truth, so we use the Preterite to show the moment of discovery.

5, conocieron, tenía. They met for the first time = Preterite. The boy, at that frozen moment in time was (having) 15 years old. So, it's an ongoing thing = Imperfect.

6, estuvo. We use Estar to show the state of brokenness then the Preterite to show that it was for a period of time and now it's fixed.

7, quería. pudo. We use the Imperfect of Querer to show that it was an unfulfilled intention. Then, we can use 'nunca pudo' to show that he never did it. If we wanted to show that the desire was still current we would have to change the sentence to the Present Perfect. (Siempre ha querido pero nunca ha podido.).

8, Conocí/conocía, trabajaba. We can use either the Preterite to mean that we met someone, or we use the Imperfect to show that we knew someone. We must use the Imperfect of Trabajar because we are talking about things happening 'whilst' working in England.

9, sabía, Sabía, iba. To know something in the past is the Imperfect, ongoing knowing. We use the Imperfect of IR because we want to say: 'was going' which is the only thing that fits in the sentence.

10, invité, quisiste. The inviting was a one off event so we would normally use the Preterite. Then, the person refused so we use the Preterite of Querer to show that refusal.

Exercise 19

Era un hombre alto y **tenía** el pelo negro y los ojos azules, algo que no **era** muy común en esa zona. **Vivía** en un pueblo pequeño pero no **hablaba** con la gente local. La mayoría de sus vecinos **pensaba** que **era** un hombre extraño.

Un día, **salió** de su casa y **fue** al centro a hacer la compra. En la calle principal **vio** a uno de sus vecinos pero no **quiso/quería** hablar con él así que **entró** en una carnicería cerca.

Había muchos tipos diferentes de carne allí. **Pidió** un filete de ternera (carne de res) y unas salchichas, luego **salió** de la tienda. Ahora se **sentía** contento. **Tenía** su carne y el vecino ya no **estaba** allí. Con su bolsa en la mano **volvió** a casa, **puso** la tele y **pasó** el resto del día en la casa. **Había tenido** suficiente de estar afuera.

Review of the translation.

How was your first attempt at some full sentences? Did you do well?

Did you notice that the whole first paragraph was pure description? We also had two uses of 'era' when we talked the man and the zone. Did you get them right? Think about both of the sentences in Present:

'es un hombre alto' and 'no es muy común'. As you can see in Present they are recognisable as being correct with Ser.

The second paragraph is entirely action, step by step, except for the possible 'quería/quiso' option. Clearly, if we wanted to talk about his desire not to talk to anyone,

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then we would use 'quería' but if we wanted to express his refusal to talk we would use 'quiso'.

In the third paragraph we have 'había'. We wouldn't use 'hubo' in this case simply because we are describing who was there. There was no action.

Notice that we also used 'se sentía' to show his feelings. Remember that we said earlier that feelings tend to be Imperfect because they are hard to measure. Also, notice the strange looking 'had had' that we use in English which in Spanish is 'había tenido'.

Exercise 20

1, era, pasaba. Once again we have the 'was young/a child' structure. Have you noticed the pattern of it being ser and Imperfect? It's like saying: 'When I used to be young.' With Pasar, the same applies. We really mean 'used to spend' as an ongoing, repetitive action.

2, nació, se mudó, tenía. We are only born once (unless you believe in reincarnation of course lol) in a one-off action, so we use the Preterite. The family moved in a one-off action, too. Finally, this happened 'while' he was 11 years old. So, we use Imperfect to describe what was going on in the background.

3, dijeron, había dejado or dejé. The people said a fairly clear statement so it would make sense to use the Preterite. It is also possible to use 'decían' to make the sentence into 'they were saying' rather than 'they said'. In Spain, most people would use 'había dejado/I had left' rather than 'dejé/ I left'. However, both are used depending on the region or country you visit.

4, aprendiste or has aprendido. Both are fine. If you use the Preterite, there is a feeling that the learning took place a while ago and that it's over. With the Present Perfect, the learning feels much more current and recent.

5, hacía, preparaba or preparé. We have the trigger 'mientras/whilst' which shows the background activity = Imperfect. Then we have the second activity which, if we use the Imperfect make the listener think that the two activities took a similar length of time to be done. However, if we use the Preterite, it sounds like the sandwich making was a quick job. Perhaps quicker than packing the cases. Does that make sense?

6, hablé or hablaba, ayudó or ayudaba. It's interesting that both the Preterite and the Imperfect are possible. It really depends on what you want to communicate. By using the Preterite it sounds like the conversation was short: 'you spoke to them, they didn't help'. However, with the Imperfect it sounds like a bit more of a lengthy conversation in which you were speaking and they weren't helping. Both options really are saying the same and your listener would understand perfectly whichever one you used.

7, he bebido. Here we have the typical 'this week' trigger which signals that we are still in the time frame we are talking about and so we use the Present perfect.

8, pasó or pasaba, estabas. Both the Preterite and Imperfect are possible with 'pasar'. It's like asking 'what happened' or 'what was happening'. However, describing the state of tiredness is done with the Imperfect. Remember, it's really hard to measure a feeling. Rather we are just describing.

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9, escuchaba, dijo, decía. We use the Imperfect to show a 'while I was listening'. We also have the choice of using the classic 'Imperfect/Preterite' to show what happened whilst you listened to the radio or the Imperfect/Imperfect. It's all down to what you want to say.

10, escribí, ha dicho, llegó. We have a one-off writing of a letter = Preterite. Then we are talking about today which we are still in = Present Perfect. We then talk about a one-off event that happened yesterday = Preterite.

Exercise 21.

1, estuvo lloviendo (or llovió). Because we say 'all day' we use the Preterite. Also, we can use the Past Continuous because we are talking about a real time event.

2, estaba, vi. This is the classic setting of the scene = Imperfect with the action of seeing Marta = Preterite.

3, estaba diciendo (or decía), llegó. We can use the Past Progressive in the Imperfect here if we want, or just the regular Imperfect to make the 'was saying' part. Also, it would be totally acceptable to use 'dijo'. However, this test is about 'was/were' so that's why we have chosen the Imperfect. Then, the one-off action of arriving is Preterite.

4, estuvo. We have a clear measurement here so we use the Preterite. We wouldn't use the Past progressive just because it would sound weird: 'estuvo estando'.

5, Era, estaba. Both descriptions. The first is describing the house and so we use Ser and the second is describing the state of the house = Estar.

6, murió, llamaba. His death was a one-off happening = Preterite. Then we have a clear 'used to be called' = Imperfect.

7, estaba muriendo (or moría). We have the trigger of a 'during' word which describes ongoing events = Imperfect.

8, Estaba pitando/pitaba (or pitó), sabía. If the beeping was ongoing we would use Imperfect. If it beeped only once we would use the Preterite. We need to use the Imperfect with Saber to show an ongoing 'not knowing'.

9, Estuviste esperando (or esperaste). Here we are asking for a time period of waiting so we do so with the Preterite.

10, vi, estaba. We have the Preterite action of seeing Elena and the Imperfect state description of her being ill. We are just describing what we saw, so we use Imperfect.

Exercise 22

1, La comida está muy rica/sabrosa. Remember that it's with food, drink and sexy people that we tend to use the Estar verb when we want to say 'tasty'.

2, Ella estuvo/estaba aquí hace media hora. Here we have the choice. If we mean that she was here and now she has gone, we will use Preterite. If we mean that she was here and we know no more about it, maybe she is or isn't here, we will use the Imperfect.

3, Mientras trabajaba llovía/estaba lloviendo. The sense of this sentence is that two things were happening at the same time so we use Imperfect. We can choose between

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the standard Imperfect or the continuous. Normally, in these sentences we don't hear two lots of continuous. e.g. Mientras estaba trabajando estaba lloviendo. (It's a bit long winded.)

4, Ella me ayudó/ayudaba mucho. Here we have to decide if we mean a one-off event= Preterite or if we mean an ongoing help = Imperfect.

5, Nosotros comíamos y bebíamos (estábamos comiendo y bebiendo) y había música. This is a fairly clear descriptive sentence. It's describing a photo of the event with no measurable action = Imperfect.

6, Carlos abrió la puerta y entró. This is a nice and clear two action sentence = Preterite.

7, Mientras/cuando vivía en España ¿dónde trabajaba usted? Here we have a fairly easy Imperfect with the 'whilst' that triggers the Imperfect and the 'used to'.

8, Lo intenté pero no pude hacerlo. There is a possibility that we could also use the Imperfect here. I must say that to me the feel is more like two clear actions of trying and failing. However, everything depends on the intended communication. If you were trying and you couldn't do it and then you did finally do it, you would want to use the Imperfect.

9, Ella no quiso/quería hacerlo así que lo hice yo. Her not wanting to do it could be an intention =Imperfect or a refusal=Preterite. Then, as a one off action we use the Preterite.

10, Mientras bebía/tomaba su té pensó/pensaba en su mujer que estaba en otro país. We have the clear 'whilst' trigger for the Imperfect. However, if it was a one-off thought we would use the Preterite or if it was more like 'morse code' thinking we would use Imperfect.

Exercise 23

1, hizo/hacía. Typically we would use the Preterite here because it sounds like a one off event. However, it also depends on the context. If we are talking about an ongoing 'doing' then we could also use the Imperfect.

2, tuve/tenía, hice. My gut feel for this is that we use the Preterite. The tone of the sentence is very much that of doing something once. However, the context could also be about the need or intention behind the action = Imperfect. Then, I did it is a clear action. Do you see how so often it all depends on the context and what you want to say?

3, llamó, quise/quería, tuve, llamó. Once again, I would plump for Preterite throughout simply because these are all measurable actions and she had to phone 10 times thus the man refused to answer nine times. Refusal with Querer = Preterite.

4, Hubo, tuvimos, teníamos. We prefer to use Haber in the Preterite because as we have said earlier, an accident is very much a one off event and is the main theme of the sentence. Leaving the building is a one-off action. Being scared is a description or off and on 'Morse Code' of feelings so we use the Imperfect.

5, fui, iba. The person went just once = Preterite. Then we have a 'was going' which is a sure sign if the Imperfect.

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6, estaba paseando/paseaba, apareció, estaba, se fue. We have a scene setting, ongoing description of what was happening and other things were happening at the same time so we use the Imperfect whether that's the continuous or normal. A dog appeared once = Preterite. Then we talk about being shocked. That is a description/emotion. Then, the dog ran off in a one-off action = Preterite.

7, Eran, llamaron, morí. When we talk about time in the past we always use Ser in Imperfect. They called once= Preterite. We have the one-off 'I nearly died'.

8, era, sabía. Here we have the classic 'when I was young' which you have probably noticed is always 'cuando era joven'. Then, we talk about knowing in the past, rather than finding out, so we use the Imperfect.

9, pensabas. We choose the Imperfect here because we have a clear 'were...ing' in the sentence.

10, sentía. Remember that when we talk about feelings we tend to use the Imperfect because it's hard to measure them.

Exercise 24

Juan se **levantó** esa mañana con un dolor de cabeza. Se **sentía** un poco mareado. La noche anterior **había comido** un plato de mariscos y las gambas **tenían** un olor raro. Se **miró** en el espejo. **Estaba** pálido. **Era** un lunes y **tenía** que ir al trabajo así que **decidió** ducharse y vestirse.

Después de vestirse **preparó** unas tostadas y un café. Se **comió** las tostadas y luego se **sintió*** mejor. Ahora **estaba** contento. **Salió** de la casa a las siete y **condujo/manejó** su coche a la oficina. Otro día **había empezado**.

*Lots of students have questioned the use of the Preterite here. Let me tell you that when I wrote this the first time I wrote 'sentía'. Cynthia changed it to 'sintió'. This is why.

Normally, with feelings we use imperfect. In this case, however, we have a sequence of events. I ate, I felt better. How Cynthia described it was to say that the meaning was more like:

I ate it. It made me feel better. The 'feeling better' is more like an action, a result and so it sounds better in Preterite.

This is certainly not typical, but we wanted to leave it in to show that the rules that we give you apply most times and sometimes they don't. If you were to say to a native: 'y me sentía mejor.' they probably wouldn't even register it. However, if they were to say it they would probably choose the Preterite in this particular structure. So, a guide is: if an action makes you feel better, or worse, or something, you can use the Preterite.

Exercise 25

1, We know from the use of the Preterite that although Mercedes was ill, she is better now. We brought her illness to an end by using 'estuvo'.

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- 2, Because we use the Imperfect, what we know is that although there was some problem in doing whatever the 'it' was, it's quite possible that the person managed to do it in the end, although we don't know that for sure.
- 3, Although the people had lots of things to do we don't know if they actually did them. They were just things that were on their to-do list.
- 4, Here, because we have used the Preterite 'quise' we know that the person didn't get to know the truth. They refused to hear it. (And they remained forever in ignorance jeje)
- 5, Because we use the Imperfect, 'estaba' we know that Fernando was here but what we don't know is if he still is or not. He could be still here or he could be gone. There is no more information.
- 6, With the Preterite 'necesitó' we know for certain that Mario did call his mum. His need was carried out into action.
- 7, We know the house was in ruins and we also know, because of the Preterite, that it is no longer in ruins.
- 8, We know because of the use of ESTAR that Mari Paz had made a special effort to look pretty or she was just looking especially pretty at that time. We don't know if she is or if she isn't pretty normally.
- 9, Because we have used the Preterite 'fue' we know that he is no longer a good man. Our best guess, unless clarified by the speaker, is that the man is dead.
- 10, Because of the use of the Imperfect, 'no querían' we know that their intention was not to go out. However, we don't know if they did or not. They could well have changed their minds but there is no more information to know that one way or another.

Exercise 26

- 1, había conocido, hacía We have the clear 'had met' with is the Pluperfect tense and then we have the word previously, which in this context is the Imperfect past of 'hace'.
- 2, gustaba, era. Even though the English has a 'false preterite' 'liked', it's clear that we are referring to a 'used to' (he doesn't still sleep with his parents, or at least he shouldn't) so we use the Imperfect to show that it isn't a current like. Then, we use 'era' because it's the standard description of a characteristic of being young.
- 3, acababan, vi. We now know that 'had just' converts into the Imperfect in Spanish. Then, 'I saw them' suggests a one off action and so = Preterite.
- 4, llevaban. This sentence is really saying: 'they were carrying five months', so we use the Imperfect. The Preterite is not able to be used with Llevar.
- 5, pusieron, gustó. Giving a tapa is a one-off action = Preterite. Then, it's clear that the person didn't like it and still doesn't so we use the Preterite again of Gustar.
- 6, gustaba. Here we are really saying that we 'used to like' the music but now we don't so we use the Imperfect.
- 7, hacía, veía. As you can see in the 'spanglish' sentence we wrote below the actual English sentence, both verbs are in the Imperfect as they contain was...ing.

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8, llevabas. Again, because we are in the past we use the Imperfect of Llevar. It's like we are saying: How much time were you carrying living in France.

9, probó,gustó. He tried it once= Preterite. He didn't like it that one time and never tried it again so we can assume that he still doesn't like it = Preterite.

10, acababa, empezaron. So, as we are in the past with 'acabar' we use the Imperfect, which is like saying: the dessert was recently arrived. The men started to fight which is a one-off thing so, Preterite.

The following exercises have new numbers but you have already done them once. We will give the old number in brackets for you to be able to review the explanations in the earlier answers.

Exercise 27 (1)

- 1, Pareces estar cansado.
- 2, Esta silla es muy vieja.
- 3, Es un/una buen ordenador/computadora.
- 4, Él está casado.
- 5, Es un hombre casado.
- 6, Jorge está bastante delgado estos días.
- 7, La puedo ver. Está corriendo.
- 8, El edificio está en ruinas.
- 9, Está roto en este momento.
- 10, Es interesante que digas eso.

Exercise 28 (2)

- 1, La iglesia está en el centro.
- 2, No sólo es buena comida sino que está muy buena también.
- 3, ¿Dónde es el concierto de este viernes?
- 4, Parece que está enferma hoy.
- 5, Es un hombre un poco raro.
- 6, ¿A qué hora estás aquí mañana?
- 7, Esta fruta está podrida.
- 8, El cielo está nublado hoy.
- 9, Son las nueve en punto.
- 10, Mis abuelos son mayores.

Exercise 29 (3)

- 1, ¿Con quién hablaste ayer ?
- 2, Me fui a Málaga el mes pasado.

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- 3, ¿Dónde lo pusieron?
- 4, Él me dijo que no lo hizo.
- 5, Esperamos casi toda la mañana.
- 6, Tuve una operación hace tres semanas.
- 7, Ellos vinieron a visitarme a las cuatro.
- 8, ¿Pudo hacerlo?
- 9, De repente entró Carlos con cara de pocos amigos.
- 10, Tardé cuatro años en escribir mi primer libro.

Exercise 30 (4)

- 1, Mientras mi amiga hacía los ejercicios, yo salí a tomar un café.
- 2, Juan hablaba (habló-optional) con el conductor mientras yo buscaba cambio.
- 3, Mientras el marido estaba en el trabajo su mujer hizo (hacía-optional) la compra y pagó (pagaba-optional) las facturas.
- 4, El otro día pensé (pensaba-optional) en ti y en lo que iba a comprarte.
- 5, ¡Qué día! Primero no funcionaba mi ordenador, luego se me rompió el router. Total que tuve que llamar a un técnico.
- 6, Carlos llegó tarde, no me pidió perdón y luego, ¿qué hizo? Llamó a un amigo para quedar el fin de semana. Vaya tío.
- 7, ¿Lo hiciste cuando estaba en el jardín yo?
- 8, Mientras Guillermo se aseaba, me puse a preparar el desayuno.
- 9, Yo pasé mucho miedo mientras el avión aterrizaba durante la tormenta.
- 10, Él me contaba mentira tras mentira y yo lo miraba con cara de: '¿me estás tomando el pelo o qué?'

Exercise 31 (5)

Un día, Caperucita Roja salió de la casa y cerró la puerta tras ella. El sol brillaba y los pájaros cantaban en los árboles. Caminó/anduvo hasta la carretera/calle y luego revisó su cesta dos veces. En su cesta había muchas cosas ricas/buenas para su abuelita.

Anduvo(caminó (por) media hora hacia el bosque que estaba cerca de su pueblo y mientras andaba/caminaba tenía un poco de miedo porque estaba sola. Oscurecía así que empezó a andar rápidamente.

De repente un lobo apareció en frente de ella y dijo: Niña, ¿adónde vas? Caperucita Roja no le contestó al lobo. En vez de eso, se dio la vuelta y corrió a casa.

Exercise 32 (7)

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Superman.

Superman vivía en el planeta Krypton. Sus padres eran buenas personas pero estaban preocupados/se preocupaban por el planeta. Un día decidieron tomar acción y salvar a su hijo. Pusieron a su hijo en una nave espacial y lo enviaron al espacio exterior.

La nave iba al planeta Tierra. Durante el viaje Superman se sentía solo y tenía miedo. Después de lo que pareció un tiempo largo la nave aterrizó. Afortunadamente Superman estaba bien.

Una pareja mayor andaba cerca cuando la nave aterrizó y fueron a ver lo que pasaba. En la nave encontraron a Superman y lo llevaron a casa.

La vida con sus padres nuevos era muy tranquila y un poco aburrida y Clark Kent, que era su nombre en la Tierra, quería hacer algo ilusionante. Otra cosa que era extraña era que cada vez que veía una cabina telefónica se sentía muy agitado.

Exercise 33 (8)

- 1, Lo conocía cuando era joven.
- 2, José no quiso ir con nosotros y se quedó en casa.
- 3, En ese momento supo que la quería.
- 4, Cuando era niña podía hablar en español pero ya se me ha olvidado todo/me he olvidado de todo/he olvidado todo.
- 5, La lavadora no funcionaba así que tuve que usar la de la vecina.
- 6, Para aprobar todos los exámenes Francisco necesitaba estudiar mucho más pero no quiso hacerlo así que tuvo que repetir el año.
- 7, Sabía que me ibas a decir esto, pero no sé cómo.
- 8, Cuando era joven quería visitar los Estados Unidos y por fin, el año pasado pude realizar ese sueño.
- 9, Se conocieron mientras trabajaban en el extranjero.
- 10, Esa mañana tenía que hacer mogollón de cosas en el centro pero por la nieve no pude salir de la casa.

Exercise 34 (9)

- 1, ¿Hablaste con Javi sobre el fin de semana?
- 2, No sé lo que me decía (dijo-optional) el hombre. Había tanto ruido.
- 3, Ellos querían ir a la boda pero al final no pudieron.
- 4, ¿Dónde está Francisco? Intenta averiguar en qué calle es el concierto.
- 5, Y el hombre que conocía cuando trabajaba en Inglaterra, ¿dónde lo conoció?
- 6, Esas naranjas ya no valen. Están podridas todas.
- 7, Mientras yo leía el periódico mi mujer veía/miraba (vio/miró-optional) una telenovela.
- 8, Pasé más de una hora allí pero no vino (venía-optional) nadie.

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- 9, En la universidad tenía que estudiar mucho todos los días. Sin embargo, saqué buenas notas.
- 10, Cynthia está tan enfadada con Enrique que no habla con él.
- 11, La luz en la cocina no funcionó durante toda la tarde.
- 12, Perdóname. Llegué tarde ayer porque no sabía que íbamos a tener una reunión.
- 13, Creo que él me dijo que sí cuando realmente quería decirme que no.
- 14, Son personas muy buenas y últimamente veo que están muy contentos con lo ocurrido.
- 15, Unos llegaban y otros se iban . Todo parecía caótico.
- 16, Mientras los camareros traían la comida todos hablaban (hablaron-optional) de los eventos del día.
- 17, Te llamé ayer pero no cogiste/contestaste el teléfono.
- 18, ¡El tío ese! Me envió veinte Whatsapps la semana pasada. Quería quedar conmigo pero cada vez le decía (dije-optional) que no. ¡Qué pesado!
- 19, Ayer llovió todo el día y no pudimos salir de la casa ni una vez.
- 20, La mujer trabajó cinco horas seguidas mientras su jefe trabajaba en la otra oficina.

Exercise 35 (10)

- 1, Estuvimos allí el día entero.
- 2, Cuando estaba vivo era un hombre amable.
- 3, ¿Dónde estaba (estuvo-optional) el coche?
- 4, El ordenador estaba (estuvo-optional) roto.
- 5, Ella era una persona muy deprimida.
- 6, Todo el día fue divertido.
- 7, Él estuvo aquí durante/por un rato.
- 8, La casa estaba (estuvo-optional) en ruinas.
- 9, Ese día la chica estaba (estuvo-optional) muy guapa.
- 10, Cuando lo conocí era una persona gorda.

Exercise 36 (11)

- 1, Fui a tu casa esta mañana pero tú no estabas. ¿Dónde estabas?
- 2, Él era (fue-optional) el alcalde de la ciudad.
- 3, ¿Qué tal estuvo la fiesta el viernes? Estuvo muy bien, gracias.
- 4, La puerta estaba cerrada con llave y no pude (podía-optional) entrar.
- 5, Melissa estaba muy nerviosa y no quería (quiso-optional) salir de la casa.
- 6, Ella estuvo (fue-optional) feliz durante un rato.
- 7, Mientras estaba en la casa de mi amigo me di cuenta de que siempre tenían puesta la tele.
- 8, Lo que pasó fue que él llegó tarde.

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- 9, El restaurante estaba en la costa y comíamos allí cada fin de semana.
- 10, Las fiestas de mi juventud eran muy buenas y siempre había gente muy diversa allí.

Exercise 37 (12)

1, La gente estaba llegando poco a poco.

Or

La gente llegaba poco a poco.

2, El político estuvo hablando mucho tiempo.

or

El político habló mucho tiempo.

3, El otro día yo estaba pensando mucho en ti.

or

El otro día yo pensaba mucho en ti.

4, En el viaje estuve conduciendo/manejando durante cinco horas sin parar.

or

En el viaje conduje/manejé durante cinco horas sin parar.

5, El pobre hombre estaba levantándose y sentándose una y otra vez mientras estaba esperando al médico.

or

El pobre hombre se levantaba y se sentaba una y otra vez mientras esperaba al médico.

Exercise 38 (13)

1, Había tres hombres en la calle. No sé que hacían.

2, Esa semana hubo cinco fiestas en la misma calle.

3, Hoy, en Paris hubo un secuestro en pleno centro de la ciudad.

4, ¿Cuántas cosas había en la caja?

5, En mi barrio ayer había unos tipos muy sospechosos mirando en todos los coches.

6, Hubo (había-optional) un problema muy grande pero ya lo hemos resuelto.

7, Cuando era joven había muchas tiendas pequeñas en la calle principal de mi pueblo.

8, Estoy seguro (de) que había más de 50 dólares en mi cartera.

9, En Madrid hoy hubo una manifestación en el centro.

10, Había muchísima gente en la manifestación y a la policía le costaba (costó-optional) controlarlos.

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Exercise 39 (14)

- 1, ¿Qué has hecho con el ketchup?
- 2, Lo puse en la despensa ayer.
- 3, Alguna vez has probado esa salsa picante?
- 4, Sí, la probé el otro día. Me quemó la boca durante una hora.
- 5, ¿Has podido conocer Perú?
- 6, Sí. estuve en Lima (por/durante) dos semanas. La ciudad era preciosa.
- 7, ¿Han hecho el trabajo que les di?
- 8, No. No hemos podido porque el jueves hubo un fuego en nuestro despacho.
- 9, ¿Qué has comido hoy? ¿Algo rico?
- 10, A medio día me comí una ensalada que estaba (estuvo-optional) muy rica.

Exercise 40 (15)

- 1, Él ya me había contado lo que pasaba en su trabajo
- 2, Francisco dijo que había terminado su curso.
- 3, ¿Qué había pasado esa tarde?
- 4, ¿Alguna vez la había conocido?
- 5, Creía que no lo habían visto nunca.

Exercise 41 (16)

- 1, Ella está enferma esta semana.
- 2, Ella estuvo enferma durante/por tres días.
- 3, ¿ A qué hora llegó el técnico?
- 4, Mientras estaba pensando en ti me llamaste.
- 5, Cuando vivía en Marruecos comía el cuscús todos los viernes.
- 6, ¿Le ha contado lo del problema con la luz?
- 7, Vi a tu hermano el otro día. Qué alto está de repente.
- 8, Mi ordenador no funcionaba porque se había roto el router.
- 9, Javi me dijo que su padre le había regalado un coche por su cumpleaños.
- 10, ¿Me puedes decir dónde has estado toda la santa noche?

Exercise 42 (17)

José María llegó temprano a la reunión. Ya había mucha gente en la sala de conferencias y se sentía un poco incómodo. Tenía bastante hambre porque no había desayunado.

En un rincón había café y galletas en una mesa, así que se tomó una taza de café y se comió un par de galletas. Después de eso se sentó en una silla en la segunda fila y sacó su cuaderno y bolígrafo de su maletín. Ahora se sentía un poco mejor.

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Exercise 43 (18)

- 1, Nosotros no quisimos hablar más con Roberto.
- 2, Cuando yo era más joven sabía teclear con las dos manos pero por falta de la práctica ya no puedo.
- 3, Esta mañana yo tenía que hacer muchas cosas pero al final, no hice nada.
- 4, Antes yo no sabía nada sobre el asunto luego, hace poco, supe la verdad.
- 5, Ellos lo conocieron cuando él tenía sólo quince años.
- 6, Sí, esa máquina estuvo rota (por/durante) un buen rato.
- 7, En el pasado mi hijo quería ir a vivir en España pero nunca pudo realizar su sueño.
- 8, Conocía a un hombre de Australia cuando trabajaba en Inglaterra.
- 9, ¡Yo lo sabía! Sabía que él iba a hacer algo raro.
- 10, ¿Recuerdas que te invité a tomar algo conmigo pero no quisiste nada?

Exercise 44 (19)

Era un hombre alto y **tenía** el pelo negro y los ojos azules, algo que no **era** muy común en esa zona. **Vivía** en un pueblo pequeño pero no **hablaba** con la gente local. La mayoría de sus vecinos **pensaba** que **era** un hombre extraño.

Un día, **salió** de su casa y **fue** al centro a hacer la compra. En la calle principal **vio** a uno de sus vecinos pero no **quiso/quería** hablar con él así que **entró** en una carnicería cerca.

Había muchos tipos diferentes de carne allí. **Pidió** un filete de ternera (carne de res) y unas salchichas, luego **salió** de la tienda. Ahora se **sentía** contento. **Tenía** su carne y el vecino ya no **estaba** allí. Con su bolsa en la mano **volvió** a casa, **puso** la tele y **pasó** el resto del día en la casa. **Había tenido** suficiente de estar afuera.

Exercise 45 (20)

- 1, Cuando yo era niño pasaba mucho tiempo con mis abuelos.
- 2, El presidente nació en Hawái pero luego su familia se mudó al continente cuando tenía once años.
- 3, Ellos me dijeron que yo había dejado mis llaves en el probador de la tienda.
- 4, ¿Dónde aprendiste/has aprendido tu español? ¡Es fenomenal!
- 5, Mientras José hacía la maleta en el dormitorio yo preparé (preparaba-optional) unos bocadillos para el viaje.
- 6, Ayer hablé/hablaba con alguien de la compañía que se hace cargo de mi página web. No me ayudó/ayudaba nada.
- 7, Toda esta semana he bebido zumo natural y me siento fenomenal.
- 8, ¿Qué te pasó/pasaba ayer? ¿Estabas cansada?
- 9, El otro día escuchaba la radio y un hombre decía/dijo que es posible que el próximo presidente de EEUU sea mujer.
- 10, Le envié/mandé una carta hace una semana y hoy me ha dicho/dijo que llegó ayer.

Perfecting the Past Exercises

Exercise 46 (21)

- 1, El martes pasado estuvo lloviendo/llovió todo el día.
- 2, Cuando yo estaba en la iglesia vi a Marta.
- 3, Él me dijo que la policía llegó justo a tiempo.
- 4, El chaval ése estuvo enfrente de mi casa toda la mañana.
- 5, Era una casa muy grande pero estaba en malas condiciones.
- 6, El actor que murió el otro día, ¿cómo se llamaba?
- 7, Durante la película yo me estaba muriendo/moría de miedo.
- 8, Recuerdo que ese día el ordenador estaba pitando/pitaba y no sabía por qué.
- 9, ¿Cuánto tiempo esperaste tú?
- 10, Cuando vi a Elena estaba bastante enferma. (ver/Ser or Estar?)

Exercise 47 (22)

- 1, La comida está muy rica/sabrosa.
- 2, Ella estuvo/estaba aquí hace media hora.
- 3, Mientras trabajaba llovía/estaba lloviendo.
- 4, Ella me ayudó/ayudaba mucho.
- 5, Nosotros comíamos y bebíamos y había música.
- 6, Carlos abrió la puerta y entró.
- 7, Mientras/cuando vivía en España ¿dónde trabajaba usted?
- 8, Lo intenté pero no pude hacerlo.
- 9, Ella no quiso/quería hacerlo así que lo hice yo.
- 10, Mientras bebía/tomaba su té pensó/pensaba en su mujer que estaba en otro país.

Exercise 48 (23)

- 1, Quiero saber quién lo hizo.
- 2, Lo siento pero tuve/tenía que hacerlo, lo hice y ya está.
- 3, Cuando mi mujer me llamó esta mañana no quería coger el teléfono pero tuve que hacerlo porque me llamó como diez veces.
- 4, ¡Dios! Hubo un accidente en el trabajo hoy. Tuvimos que evacuar el edificio. Teníamos mucho miedo todos.
- 5, Yo fui a ver a un amigo a decirle que iba a recibir una carta del ayuntamiento.
- 6, El otro día paseaba/estaba paseando al perro cuando, desde la nada, apareció un pastor alemán. Mi perro estaba tan asustado que se fue corriendo.
- 7, Eran las diez de la noche cuando me llamaron desde el hospital. Tengo que decir que casi me morí del susto.
- 8, Cuando era joven sabía sacarles dinero a mis padres con sólo una mirada.

Perfecting the Past Exercises

9, ¿En qué pensabas para hacer tal cosa?

10, ¿Cómo se sentía usted después de ganar la medalla de oro?

Exercise 49 (24)

Juan se **levantó** esa mañana con un dolor de cabeza. Se **sentía** mareado. la noche anterior **había comido** un plato de mariscos en un restaurante y las gambas **tenían** un olor raro. Se **miró** en el espejo. **Estaba** pálido. **Era** un lunes y **tenía** que ir al trabajo así que **decidió** ducharse y vestirse.

Después de vestirse **preparó** unas tostadas y un café. Se **comió** las tostadas y luego se **sintió** mejor. Ahora **estaba** contento. **Salió** de la casa a las siete y **condujo/manejó** su coche a la oficina. Otro día **había empezado**.

Exercise 50 (26)

1, Dijo que lo había conocido hacía treinta años.

2, A mí hermano le gustaba dormir en la cama de nuestros padres cuando era niño.

3, acababan de llegar ellos cuando yo los vi.

4, En esa época llevaban cinco meses viviendo con nosotros.

5, Me dieron una tapa de sepia y no me gustó para nada.

6, Antes me gustaba la música flamenca pero ya no.

7, Hacía diez años que no lo veía.

8, Cuando te mudaste a España, ¿cuánto tiempo llevabas viviendo en Francia tú?

9, Lo probó una vez pero francamente no le gustó.

10, El postre acababa de llegar cuando los dos hombres empezaron a pelearse.