

Telling My Own Story

Applying the Imperfect & Preterite

Use the following questions to help you decide which of the two Spanish past tenses is the most appropriate for the parts of your own story.

Imperfect

Setting and Background Information

Where were you?
Who were you with?
Why were you there?
What was going on before the story starts?
What were you doing?
What were others doing?

Description and Imagery

What were you like at that time?
How old were you?
What were other people in your story like at that time?
What were things like at that time?

Background Action

What was going on when...
What were you doing when...

Weather and Time

What month, year or season was it?
What was the weather like?
What was the scenery like?
What time was it?

Emotions, Feelings, Thoughts and Conditions

How did you feel?
How did other people feel?
What did you think or believe?
What state were you in?
What state was something in?

When an
event
occurred

Preterite

Plot and Story Events

What started the story?
What happened in the story?
What did people in the story do?
What ended the story?
What resolved the problem in the story?

Dialogue

What did you or others in the story say?
How did people respond?

Starting and Stopping

What started?
When did it start?
What ended?
When did it end?
What interrupted things?

Changes and Reactions

What decisions were made?
What changes happened (mood, or otherwise)?
How do people react to things?

