

THE IMPERFECT TENSE

Ch.1 Abordo

WHAT IS IT?

- The Imperfect Tense is the second type of simple past tense in Spanish.
- You have already learned the first type → Preterit Tense
 - The Preterit Tense is used for past events with a clear beginning and end.

WHEN DO WE USE IT?

- The Imperfect Tense is used to talk about:
 - Habitual & reoccurring things in the past
 - Descriptions, Characteristics, Conditions, Feelings in the past (ex. How someone was as a person)
 - Providing background information about the past (ex. “There was once a house on this street...”)
 - What someone was doing when interrupted by something else (ex. I was sleeping when he called.)
 - Time & Date in the past (ex. It was 1 o’clock.)
 - Age in the past (ex. I was 15 years old.)

THIS CHAPTER...

- We are only going to focus on using and practicing with the Imperfect conjugations.
- We are also going to only focus on what the Imperfect is stating in the past.
- In the next chapter, we will use both the preterit and the imperfect. ***Keep this in mind as you go through this chapter.

IMPERFECT TENSE – REGULAR VERBS CONJUGATIONS

- AR Verbs

- aba

- ábamos

- abas

- abais

- aba

- aban

- ER & IR Verbs

- ía

- íamos

- ías

- íais

- ía

- ían

ONLY 3 IRREGULAR VERBS IN THE IMPERFECT

Ser – to be

era

éramos

eras

erais

era

eran

Ir – to go

iba

íbamos

ibas

ibais

iba

iban

Ver- to see

veía

veíamos

veías

veíais

veía

veían

“HAY” – THERE IS, THERE ARE

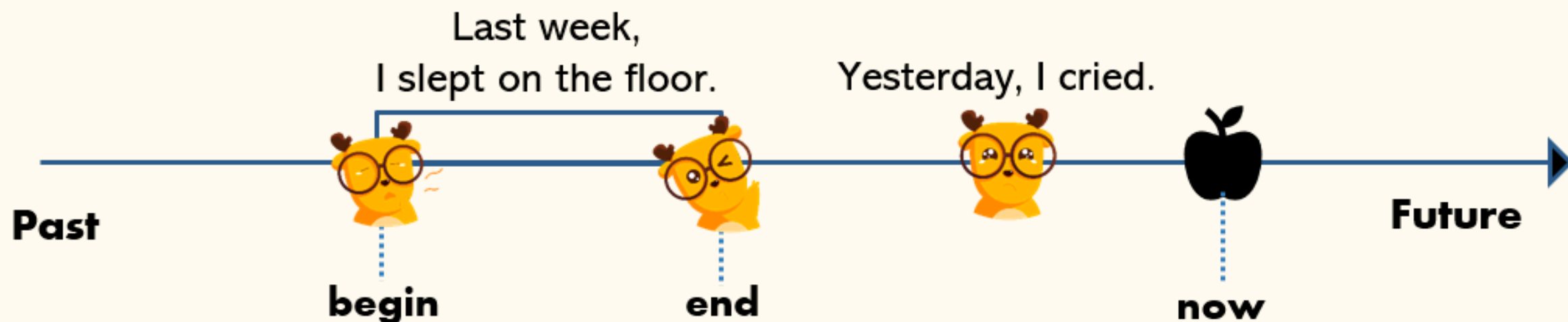
- Preterit Tense – hubo – there was/were
- Imperfect Tense – había – there was/were

EXAMPLES

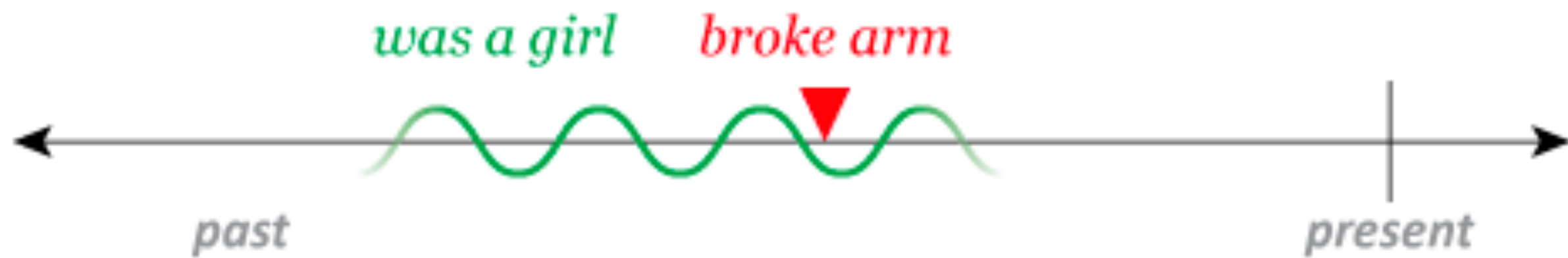
- I went to the store yesterday. → Fui a la tienda ayer. (preterit)
 - Happened one time, yesterday
- I went to the store every morning. → Iba a la tienda cada mañana. (imperfect)
 - Happened habitually for an indefinite period of time.
- He went to BCS last year. → Él fue a BCS el año pasado. (preterit)
- He used to go to BCS. → Él iba a BCS. (imperfect)
- We went to Cedar Point last summer → Fuimos a Cedar Point el verano pasado. (preterit)
- We used to go to Cedar Point every summer. → Íbamos a Cedar Point cada verano. (imperfect)
- *******Note the difference in what the preterit tense is stating versus what the imperfect tense is stating. Both are talking about the past BUT different type o actions******

PRETERITE VS. IMPERFECT

when to use Spanish preterite tense



LINGODEER



Preterite

- ✓ Complete Actions
- ✓ How Long it Occurred
- ✓ Interrupted Actions
- ✓ Took Place at Certain Time
- ✓ Beginning of an Event or Emotion
- ✓ Describe a Sequence of events

Imperfect

- ✓ Habitual, Repetitive Actions and Background
- ✓ Characteristics or Conditions
- ✓ It is progressive (ING's)
- ✓ What you Used to do
- ✓ Time or Age