

## Preterit and Imperfect

**Preterit:** Specific, completed actions in the past

**Imperfect:** Ongoing actions, which include habits and processes

*I went to the beach last Saturday* would be **Fui a la playa el sábado pasado**. ← preterit form of *ir* (in this case *fui*) is used because the action is completed and was performed at a specific time.

Vs.

*As a child, I went/used to go to the beach every weekend*, which would be **De niño, iba a la playa todos los fines de semana**.

### SAFE WATERS

Common uses for preterit: **S.A.F.E.**

- S** — Specific instance
- A** — Action that interrupts another action
- F** — Focus on beginning or end of action
- E** — Enclosed amount of time

Common uses for imperfect: **W.A.T.E.R.S.**

- W** — Weather
- A** — Age
- T** — Time
- E** — Emotion
- R** — Repetitive action
- S** — Setting the scene

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