1. You have learned to conjugate Spanish verbs in the present tense, and know how to form them by dropping the -ar, -er and -ir of the infinitive and adding the appropriate endings to match the subject as outlined below: **The present tense tells what is happening at the present time.**

**-AR VERBS -ER VERBS -IR VERBS**

-o -amos -o -emos -o -imos

-as *-áis* -es *-éis* -es *-ís*

-a -an -e -en -e -en

-a -an -e -en -e -en

-a -an -e -en -e -en

2. Spanish has two past tenses -- the preterite and the imperfect. **The preterite tense records events in the past, while the imperfect tense describes people, places or events in the past.**

3. Preterite tense verbs are conjugated in the same way present tense verbs are conjugated, but with different endings. Note that some preterite tense verb endings have accent marks. The preterite tense verb endings are given below:

**-AR VERBS -ER VERBS -IR VERBS**

-é -amos -í -imos -í -imos

-aste *-asteis* -iste *-isteis* -iste *-isteis*

-ó -aron -ió -ieron -ió -ieron

-ó -aron -ió -ieron -ió -ieron

-ó -aron -ió -ieron -ió -ieron

***Note that the -er verb endings and the -ir verb endings are identical.***

***Note that the yo endings have accent marks.***

***Note that the usted, él and ella endings have accent marks on the letter “o.”***

***Note the similarities between the -ar endings and the -er/-ir endings which correspond to the same subject pronoun.***

For example, the tú endings are -aste and -iste, with the “a + ste” used with the -ar verbs and the “i + ste” used with the -er/-ir verbs; the ustedes, ellos and ellas endings are -aron and -ieron, with the “a + ron” again used with the -ar verbs and the “ie + ron” used with the -er/-ir verbs. Note that the nosotros ending for -ar verbs is the same in the present and preterite tense, while the -er and -ir verb ending is the same as the -ir present tense ending.

***Stem-changing verbs ending in -ar and -er are regular in the preterite***.

**PRETERITE CONJUGATION PRACTICE**

1. they hugged

2. she broke

3. I spoke

4. we ate

5. you [familiar] sold

6. you [formal] danced

7. I ran

8. he cooked

9. all of you studied

10. he played (a game)

11. you [familiar] sat down

12. I pushed

13. we looked for

14. all of you chose

15. she kissed

16. you [familiar] drank

17. they arrived

18. we learned

19. you [formal] took out (of)

20. I lost

21. he closed

22. all of you covered

23. you [familiar] threw away

24. they ate lunch

25. he opened