If you are learning Spanish, you know the struggle: you can “recognise” a tense, but you need to **use** it. This cloze activity turns part of the lyrics of “La Bicicleta” into a focused exercise designed for learners of Spanish in the **preterite**. You will practise the **learn Spanish preterite** forms by filling in missing verbs as you read.

What you will practise

This activity targets the **preterite** because the lyrics contain completed actions, feelings, and events that are expressed as “finished” in Spanish grammar terms. As you complete the blanks, you will practise the exact verb forms you need.

Directions

1. Read the lyrics excerpt below once without filling anything in.
2. Go back to the start and complete each blank with the correct verb from the word bank.
3. Use the context to decide which verb fits, then choose the right **preterite** form.
4. After you finish, check your answers using the completed version.

Cloze activity: preterite verbs missing (learn Spanish preterite)

Instructions: Each blank is a verb in the **preterite**. Fill in one verb per blank.

Lo ___ porque te quiero tanto,
Ese rato ___ mi corazón,
Latiendo por ti, latiendo por ti.

___ mi corazón, luchando por ti,
La que yo ___ donde te escribí.

Llévame en tu bicicleta, Óyeme Carlos,
Llévame en tu bicicleta, Que algún día ___ esta ironía.
Después no querrá irse pa’ Barcelona.

Word bank (verbs)

Choose from these verbs. Remember: you must use the correct **preterite** form.

- **estar**
- **latir**
- **luchar**
- **guardar**
- **escribir**
- **ver**
- **aplaudir**

Note: One verb in the word bank does not appear in this excerpt (so you practise choosing carefully based on meaning).

Completed version (answers)

Lo **entendí** porque te quiero tanto,
Ese rato **estaba** mi corazón,
Latiendo por ti, latiendo por ti.

estuvo mi corazón, luchando por ti,
La que yo **guardé** donde te escribí.

Llévame en tu bicicleta, Óyeme Carlos,
Llévame en tu bicicleta, Que algún día **verás** esta ironía.
Después no querrá irse pa’ Barcelona.

Quick grammar help: recognising the preterite

In Spanish, the **preterite** often shows that something happened and is treated as complete. In this lyrics-based exercise, the missing forms are designed to make you think about actions and states that are presented as finished or as specific moments.

Common patterns you are practising here

- **guardar** → **guardé** (yo form)

- **escribir** → **escribí** (yo form)
- **luchar** (contextual use in the excerpt)
- **estar** in short, moment-based context (preterite forms)
- **ver** in a “sometime later” event expressed through the lyric’s grammar

Why this works for learners

Melodic repetition helps, but grammar practice needs structure. A cloze (fill in the blanks) forces your brain to actively choose the right verb forms. That is exactly how you move from “I know it” to “I can use it”.

Try a second round

To really lock in your command and truly **learn Spanish preterite verbs**, repeat the exercise but this time:

- cover the completed version,
- try again from scratch,
- and then check only the verbs you missed.

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