Overview

In this project, you will **interview a native Spanish speaker**, gather details about a personal story, and then create your own narrated story (*un cuento*) using the **imperfect** and **preterite** tenses. You will revise your work based on feedback, record your story, and participate in a class “truth or lie” activity.

Día 1: Choosing a Theme & Building Your Story

Step 1: Select ONE theme

Interview your Spanish speaker AND choose one theme for the story you will tell:

- **Your worst day**
- **Your best day**
- **A holiday**
- **A trip**
- **An interesting day**

Use your interview to gather ideas, vocabulary, and expressions you can use in your own version.

Step 2: Use the IMPERFECT to set the scene

Answer the following questions in Spanish using the **imperfect tense**. These details give background information and describe the setting of your story.

1. **¿Cuándo era?**
   (When was it? What was the general time or season?)
2. **¿Qué tiempo hacía?**
   (What was the weather like?)
3. **¿Dónde estabas?**
   (Where were you?)
4. **¿Cuántos años tenías?**
   (How old were you?)

5. **¿Cómo te sentías?**
   (How were you feeling?)

Step 3: Use the PRETERITE to describe what happened

Tell the main events using the **preterite** tense.

- **Tres cosas que hiciste.**
  (Three things you *did.*)
- **Tres cosas que pasaron.**
  (Three things that *happened.*)

Your goal is to create a short but complete story that combines background + actions.

Step 4: Give Peer Feedback

Respond to at least **two classmates' stories** with helpful feedback.

Your teacher will also send you **private feedback** on your draft.

Día 2: Revising, Rewriting & Recording

Step 5: Polish your presentation

Use the feedback you received to improve your story:

- Correct verb tenses
- Add details
- Improve transitions
- Clarify events
- Strengthen vocabulary

Step 6: Group Work — Truth or Lie

Form a group. Share your revised stories with each other.

Then:

- **One person in your group will change their story** so that it is **NOT true**.
- The other group members will keep their stories true.

Step 7: Record Your Story

Your story should be:

- Clear
- Well-organized
- In the past tenses
- 1–2 minutes long

Step 8: Truth-or-Lie Listening Activity

Listen to all the new stories posted by your classmates.

For **each recording**, comment:

1. Whether you think the story is **true** or **a lie**
2. **Why** you think so (give clues, language reasons, details, etc.)

Your teacher will later reveal:

- Which stories were true
- Which were lies

1. Student-Friendly Rubric (Novice

High → Intermediate Low)

Project: Un cuento – Interview + Story + Truth-or-Lie Recording

Categories (20 points total)

1. Use of Imperfect (5 points)

- **5** – Consistently uses the imperfect correctly to describe background (weather, feelings, age, location, time).
- **4** – Mostly correct; minor errors.
- **3** – Some correct uses; noticeable errors.
- **2** – Rarely correct or mixed with preterite.
- **1** – Incorrect or missing.

2. Use of Preterite (5 points)

- **5** – Three clear actions *you did* + three clear events *that happened*, with correct preterite forms.
- **4** – Mostly complete; minor tense errors.
- **3** – Some correct actions/events; frequent errors.
- **2** – Missing events or mostly incorrect.
- **1** – Incorrect or missing.

3. Story Organization (4 points)

- **4** – Well organized; uses transitions; easy to follow.
- **3** – Mostly organized; some transitions.
- **2** – Some disorganization; few transitions.
- **1** – Hard to follow.

4. Speaking & Pronunciation (3 points)

- **3** – Clear pronunciation; good pacing; understandable.
- **2** – Some errors but still understandable.
- **1** – Difficult to understand.

5. Creativity & Detail (3 points)

- **3** – Strong details; engaging storytelling.
- **2** – Some details; mostly clear.
- **1** – Minimal detail.

2. Interview Question Sheet for Talking With a Native Speaker

Part A: Background Questions (use for imperfect ideas)

Ask your interview partner these questions in Spanish:

1. **¿Cuándo era?** (What season/year/time was it?)
2. **¿Qué tiempo hacía?** (What was the weather like?)
3. **¿Dónde estabas?** (Where were you?)
4. **¿Cuántos años tenías?** (How old were you?)
5. **¿Cómo te sentías?** (How were you feeling?)
6. **¿Quién estaba contigo?** (Who was with you?)
7. **¿Qué era típico en ese momento?** (What was typical at that time?)

Part B: Main Events (preterite ideas)

Ask your interview partner:

1. **¿Qué hiciste tú?** (What did you do?)
2. **¿Qué pasó después?** (What happened next?)
3. **¿Cuál fue el momento más importante?** (What was the most important moment?)
4. **¿Hubo un problema o sorpresa?** (Was there a problem or surprise?)
5. **¿Cómo terminó todo?** (How did everything end?)

Part C: Vocabulary Support

Have the interviewee share useful expressions or cultural phrases you can use in your own story.

3. Bilingual Writing Frame (Spanish + English Support)

Choose a theme:

Your worst day ● Your best day ● A holiday ● A trip ● An interesting day

I. Background (Imperfect)

Use these sentence starters:

- **Primero, era…** *(First, it was…)*
- **Hacía…** *(It was [weather]…)*
- **Estaba en…** *(I was in…)*
- **Tenía ___ años.** *(I was ___ years old.)*
- **Me sentía…** *(I felt…)*

II. Main Events (Preterite)

Describe the actions:

- **Hice…** *(I did…)*
- **Pasó que…** *(It happened that…)*
- **Vi… / fui… / comí… / hablé…**
- **Después…** *(After that…)*

Write at least:

- **3 things YOU did**
- **3 things that HAPPENED**

III. Transition Words (required)

- **primero** – first
- **luego** – then
- **después** – after that

- **también** – also
- **por fin** – finally

4. Recording Checklist

Before Recording

✔ I revised using peer + teacher feedback
✔ I included imperfect + preterite correctly
✔ I used all 5 transition words
✔ My story is organized, clear, and 1–2 minutes

During Recording

✔ I speak clearly and at a steady pace
✔ I check that my camera and mic work
✔ I keep my notes nearby, but I don’t read word-for-word

After Recording

✔ I upload the correct video
✔ I listen to at least 3 classmates’ stories
✔ For each story, I comment:

- **True or lie?**
- **Why I think so**

5. Copy-and-Paste Template (Google Doc style)

Un Cuento – Story Project

Name:

Theme:

Part 1 – Imperfect (Background)

¿Cuándo era?
→

¿Qué tiempo hacía?
→

¿Dónde estabas?
→

¿Cuántos años tenías?
→

¿Cómo te sentías?
→

Part 2 – Preterite (Main Events)

Tres cosas que hice:
1.
2.
3.

Tres cosas que pasaron:
1.
2.
3.

Part 3 – Final Story (Paragraph Form)

Use transitions: *primero, luego, después, también, por fin*

→ Write story here:

Part 4 – Truth-or-Lie Guessing Log

Story	True or Lie?	Why I think so

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