



Using “antes” before a verb in infinitive (Easy quick start for Beginners)

This is a simple tool beginners can use to talk about the past in Spanish. It is not perfect, it is not pretty, but it is easy to learn and it works.

It is one easiest ways to talk about the past in Spanish without having to learn several conjugations.

It is simple, you only have to add the word for “before” in Spanish (which is “antes”) between a personal pronoun and a verb in infinitive.

Let’s see an example to see how it works.

- “Yo antes comer” - I eat before (This can be used to express the idea “I ate”.)
- “Yo antes vivir en Canadá” - I live in Canada before (It can be used to express the idea “I lived in Canada”.)
- “Yo antes visitar Francia” - I visit France before (This phrase can be used to express the idea “I visited France”.)
- “Yo beber café antes” - I drink coffee before (This can be used to express the idea “I drank coffee earlier.”)

Now let’s look at a few examples with additional variations:

- Let’s imagine you had lunch an hour ago, and someone asks you if you’d like to eat something. A simple way to answer could be: “No gracias, yo comer antes” (No thank you, I ate before)
- If you arrive to Lima’s airport after visiting Uruguay, and a Customs and Immigration agent asks you where you are coming from, you could say “yo antes visitar Uruguay” (I visited Uruguay before)
- If you meet a new friend in Mexico and he asks you where you lived before, you could answer by saying: “Yo antes vivir en California” (I lived in California Before)

Although these sentences are not perfect in terms of traditional grammar; native Spanish speakers can understand them without a problem.

This is simple and it constitutes an effective tool for beginners who want to speak basic conversational Spanish quickly. So give it a try!