



Shortcuts to talk about the Past in Spanish (Part 2): Using verbs in present tense and words that talk about time

If you already know how to conjugate verbs in the present tense you can use them in conjunction with simple adverbs (such as yesterday, tomorrow, later) as well as simple phrases to talk about the past easily.

Let's look at a few examples:

- Yo estudio ayer en casa - I study yesterday at home.
- Yo hablo por teléfono en la mañana, antes de venir a la escuela - I speak on the phone in the morning, before I come to school
- Yo como en la escuela antes de regresar a casa - I eat at school before coming back home

Although this is not the way native speakers usually talk, it is a simplified way to refer to events that happened in the past without having to learn several verb conjugations in the past tense.

It's a shortcut you can use to express yourself when you are getting started. The important thing is that you have tools you can use to practice as you continue to improve your Spanish.

This is not about passing a test, it's about helping you to express yourself so you can improve and have fun as you go along.



Let's take a moment to go over a list of words that can be useful when talking about the past:

- Antes - Before
- Más temprano - Earlier
- Antes de venir aquí - Before coming here
- Antes de ir ahí - Before going there
- En la mañana - In the morning
- En la tarde - In the afternoon
- En la noche - In the evening
- Ayer - Yesterday
- La semana pasada - Last week
- El viernes pasado - Last Friday
- El mes pasado - Last month
- Hace seis meses - 6 months ago
- Hace tres días - 3 days ago
- Hace dos horas - 2 hours ago
- Hace veinte minutos - 20 minutes ago



Remember, this is a shortcut to get you started so you can express yourself in Spanish. Don't worry too much about speaking perfectly, focus on being able to communicate and practicing so you can get better with every phrase you say.

Now, let's look at a few examples:

- Yo desayuno antes de venir aquí - I eat breakfast before I come here
- Gracias, no lo necesito. Yo encuentro mi libro más temprano - Thank you, I don't need it. I find my book earlier
- Yo hablo con Jennifer antes de venir aquí - I talk to Jennifer before coming here
- Yo no pienso en eso antes de ir ahí - I do not think about it before going there
- Tengo dolor de cabeza en la mañana - I have a headache in the morning
- Yo veo un perro bonito ayer - I see a pretty dog yesterday
- Yo corro en el parque el mes pasado - I run in the park last month
- Yo encuentro mis llaves hace dos horas - I find my keys 2 hours ago

You can get access a free guide with the main conjugations of the 10 verbs most commonly used in conversational Spanish at <http://spanishforyourjob.com/topverbs/>

This guide will help you learn the 10 most common verbs in spoken Spanish so you can improve your Spanish faster. Remember, you can find it at: <http://spanishforyourjob.com/topverbs/>