

## Sequence of Events Acciones en una oración

There are many times in Spanish that a sentence will have more than one verb in the past. There are three different ways that this can happen.

### TWO VERBS IN THE PRETERITE TENSE:

**A sentence with two verbs in the preterite signifies that both actions are complete. The two verbs in the preterite move the story along because the actions are finished.**

El regalo llegó ayer y Elena lo abrió.      The gift arrived yesterday and Elena opened it.

Ana vino ayer y Paco la vio.                      Ana came yesterday and Paco saw her.

### TWO VERBS IN THE IMPERFECT:

**A sentence with two verbs in the imperfect signifies that there are two continual, habitual actions that happen simultaneously.**

Durante el verano, Verónica siempre iba a la playa, pero yo trabajaba.  
During the summer, Verónica always went to the beach but I worked.

Siempre comíamos un helado de vainilla cuando mirábamos la televisión.  
We always ate vanilla ice cream when we watched television.

### ONE VERB IN THE PRETERITE, ONE VERB IN THE IMPERFECT.

**A sentence with one verb in the imperfect and one in the preterite signifies that the continuing action is interrupted by a completed action.**

Yo leía un libro cuando mi amiga me llamó.  
I was reading my book when my friend called.

No fui a la escuela porque tenía un dolor de cabeza.  
I didn't go to school because I had a headache.