

Directed Writing

As preparation you should identify key verbs which can be used frequently. There are not many basic verbs which you need, but it is important to know them well.

Given that the Directed Writing part requires you to use mainly the past tense it is important to learn the PRETERITE and the IMPERFECT tenses of these basic verbs.

You will probably mainly use the “I” and “we” form of the verb. Likewise you will need to refamiliarise yourself with the uses of the imperfect tense and preterite tense.

It is worth bearing in mind the time phrases you could add in to make the examiner know that you are aware of when to use each tense.

e.g. El año pasado + preterite

Un día + preterite

But:

Todos los días + imperfect

Description + imperfect

Over the next few pages you will find a series of possible sentences which you could learn and then use in a Directed Writing essay.

In each section you will work through sentences which focus on a specific verb, but which require you to select the correct tense.

Translate the sentences in each section and try to learn them before you move on to the next one.



Ir – To go

Preterite: Fui – I went

Fuimos – We went

Imperfect: Iba – I was going / I used to go / I went (every day)

Ibamos – We were going / We used to go / We went

1. Last year I went to the south of Spain. _____

2. In the summer I went to Barcelona in Spain. _____

3. I went on holiday to my pen-friend's in Spain. _____

4. We went to Spain in a luxury coach. _____

5. My parents and I went to all the museums. _____

6. One day we went to the football stadium. _____

7. Every day we went to the beach. _____

8. At night I went to discos or to the bars with my brother. _____



Alojarse – To stay

Preterite: Me alojé
I stayed

Imperfect: Me alojaba
I was staying

Preterite: Nos alojamos
We stayed

Imperfect: Nos alojábamos
We were staying

1. We stayed in a four star hotel. _____

2. I stayed in a bed and breakfast. _____

3. I stayed with a family in a house in the outskirts. _____

4. We stayed there for two weeks. _____

5. I stayed with my pen-friend and her family. _____

6. We stayed in a local campsite. _____

7. We all stayed with our pen-friends' families. _____

8. I stayed in a youth hostel with other school pupils. _____



Comer – To eat

Preterite: Comí – I ate

Imperfect: Comía – I ate (every day)

Preterite: Comimos – We ate

Imperfect: Comíamos – We ate

1. I ate in a typical Spanish restaurant one night. _____

2. One night I ate a typical meal of paella, gazpacho and flan. _____

3. Every day we ate in one of the many restaurants. _____

4. I ate lots of many new dishes during my stay. _____

5. My friends and I ate fast food all the time. _____

6. We always ate in our apartment because it was cheaper. _____

7. I ate lots of seafood while I was there. _____

8. Every morning I ate bread and jam. _____



Beber – To drink

Preterite: Bebí – I drank

Imperfect: Bebía – I drank

Preterite: Bebimos – We drank

Imperfect: Bebíamos – We drank

Viajar – To travel

Preterite: Viajé – I travelled

Imperfect: Viajaba – I travelled

Preterite: Viajamos – We travelled

Imperfect: Viajábamos –
We travelled

1. I drank wine with my meal at my friend's house. _____

2. We drank coffee in the city square every day. _____

3. I drank a lot of water because it was so hot. _____

4. We travelled from Scotland to Spain by coach. _____

5. I travelled with the other people from my class. _____

6. My friends and I travelled by bus and ferry. _____

7. I travelled with my family. _____



Ser - To be

Preterite: Fue – It was
(ONCE)

Imperfect: Era - It was
(DESCRIPTION)

Fueron – They were

Eran – They were

1. One of the museums I visited was very boring. _____

2. The cathedral was spectacular. _____

3. The food was very tasty and good. _____

4. The hotel was very clean and big. _____

5. They journey was very long and tiring. _____

6. The family was very friendly and welcoming. _____

7. My pen-friend was fun and was kind. _____

8. My holiday was very good and much fun. _____



Visitar – To visit

Preterite: visité – I visited

Imperfect: visitaba – I visited
(repeatedly)

Preterite: visitamos – we visited **Imperfect:** visitábamos –
we visited

1. I visited lots of interesting museums. _____

2. We visited the Prado Art Gallery in Madrid. _____

3. One day my friends and I visited a small fishing village. _____

4. Every day we visited a church which was very boring. _____

5. I visited lots of tourist attractions with my parents. _____

6. One day we visited a typical mountain village. _____

7. During the holiday I visited many interesting places. _____

8. One night we visited an old castle. _____



Estar – To be

Preterite: Estuvo – It was
(ONCE)

Estuve – I was

Estuvieron – They were

Imperfect: Estaba – It was
(DESCRIPTION)

Estaba – I was

Estaban – They were

1. The hotel was near the beach. _____

2. Before I left I was very nervous. _____

3. I was very sad when I had to come home. _____

4. Our apartment was in the town centre. _____

5. When I was in Spain I spoke a lot of Spanish. _____

6. After the journey we were all tired. _____

7. When we arrived all the shops were closed. _____

8. My exchange partner's school was far from her house. _____

Gustar – To like

Preterite: Me / Nos gustó
I / We liked (singular)

OR Me / Nos gustaron
I / We liked (plural)

Imperfect: Me / Nos gustaba
I / We liked (singular)

OR Me / Nos gustaban
I / We liked (plural)

1. I liked my stay in Spain. _____

2. I liked the family with whom I stayed. _____

3. My family and I liked the area we were in. _____

4. We liked all the museums that we visited. _____

5. In general I liked the food. _____

6. In the afternoons I liked to walk around the old part. _____

7. We liked the theme parks a lot. _____

8. At night I liked to go to typical restaurants. _____



Tener – To have

Preterite: Tuve – I had

Tuvimos – We had

Tuvo – It had

Imperfect: Tenía – I had

Teníamos – We had

Tenía – It had

*Use the **preterite** if it was something which was completed, but the **imperfect** if it is describing what the room had, or if describing how you were using a “tener” phrase.*

1. Our apartment had air conditioning and a large balcony. _____

2. I was very nervous before leaving. (tener nervios) _____

3. We had to speak a lot of Spanish. _____

4. We had lots of free time to do what we wanted. _____

5. We were very sleepy on the first night. (tener sueño) _____

6. The town had an open-air swimming pool which was great. _____

7. I had to buy many presents for all my friends. _____

8. We visited a church which had three towers. _____

