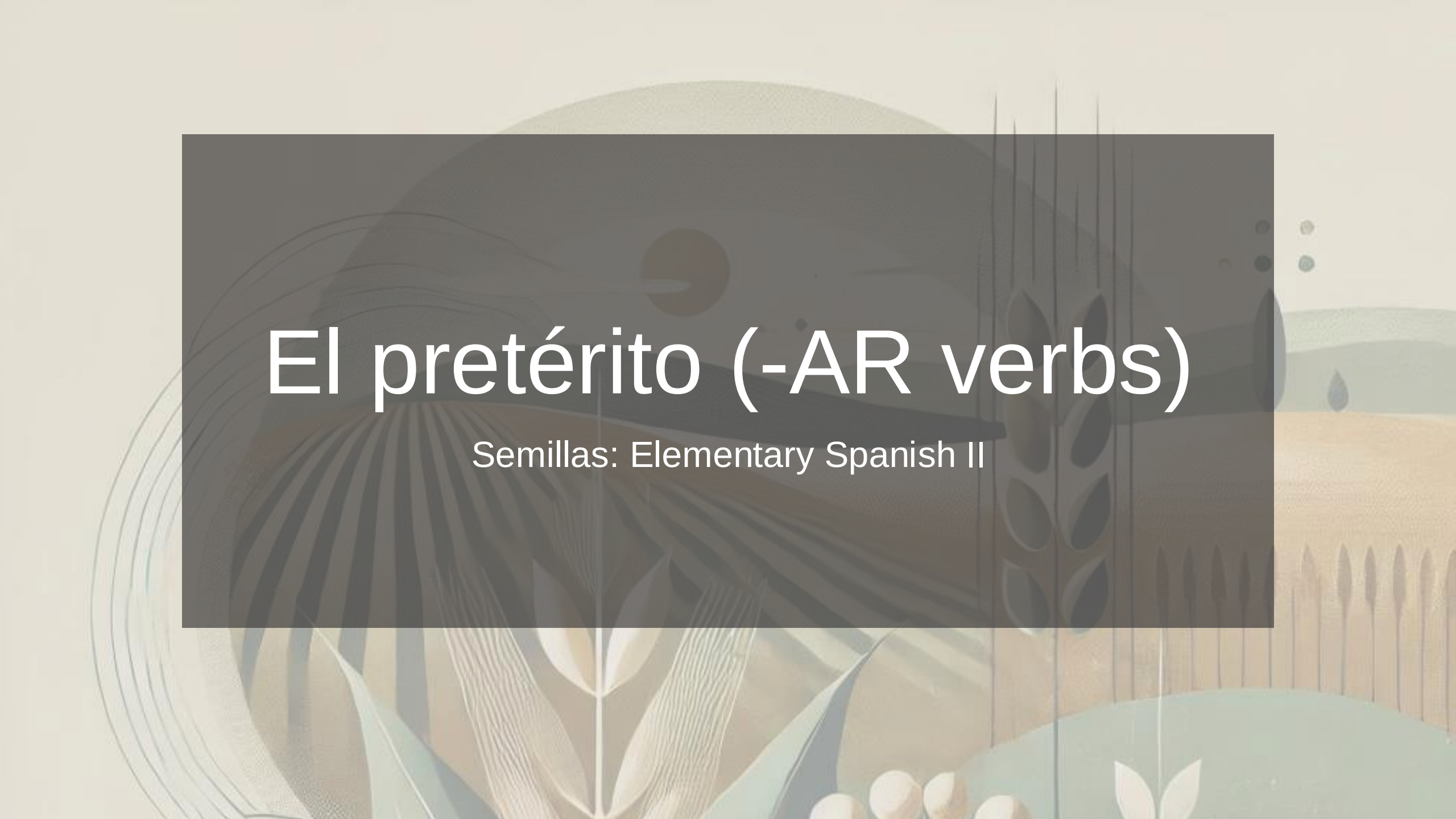




El pretérito (-AR verbs)

Semillas: Elementary Spanish II



What is *el pretérito*?

The **preterite** tense in Spanish is used to talk about completed actions in the past. These actions are viewed as **finished**, are often **associated with specific time expressions**, and/or **have a clear beginning or end**.

For example, “We won the game yesterday,” would use the preterite tense because it indicates a single completed action at a specified moment in the past.

Remember that we have already learned another way to talk about the past.

We use the imperfect tense to talk about habitual or ongoing actions, unspecified time periods, or descriptions of scenes in the past.



How do we form *el pretérito* with –AR regular verbs?

Paso 1. Take off the –AR ending of an infinitive verb

- Hablar-> habl-

Paso 2. Add the appropriate ending based on the subject

-AR Verbs	
Yo habl é	Nosotros habl amos
Tú habl aste	Vosotras habl asteis
Ella habl ó	Ellos habl aron

When do we use *el pretérito*?

To describe a **completed action with a specific duration of time in the past.**

Los estudiantes practicaron el chelo por una hora.
The students practiced the cello for an hour.



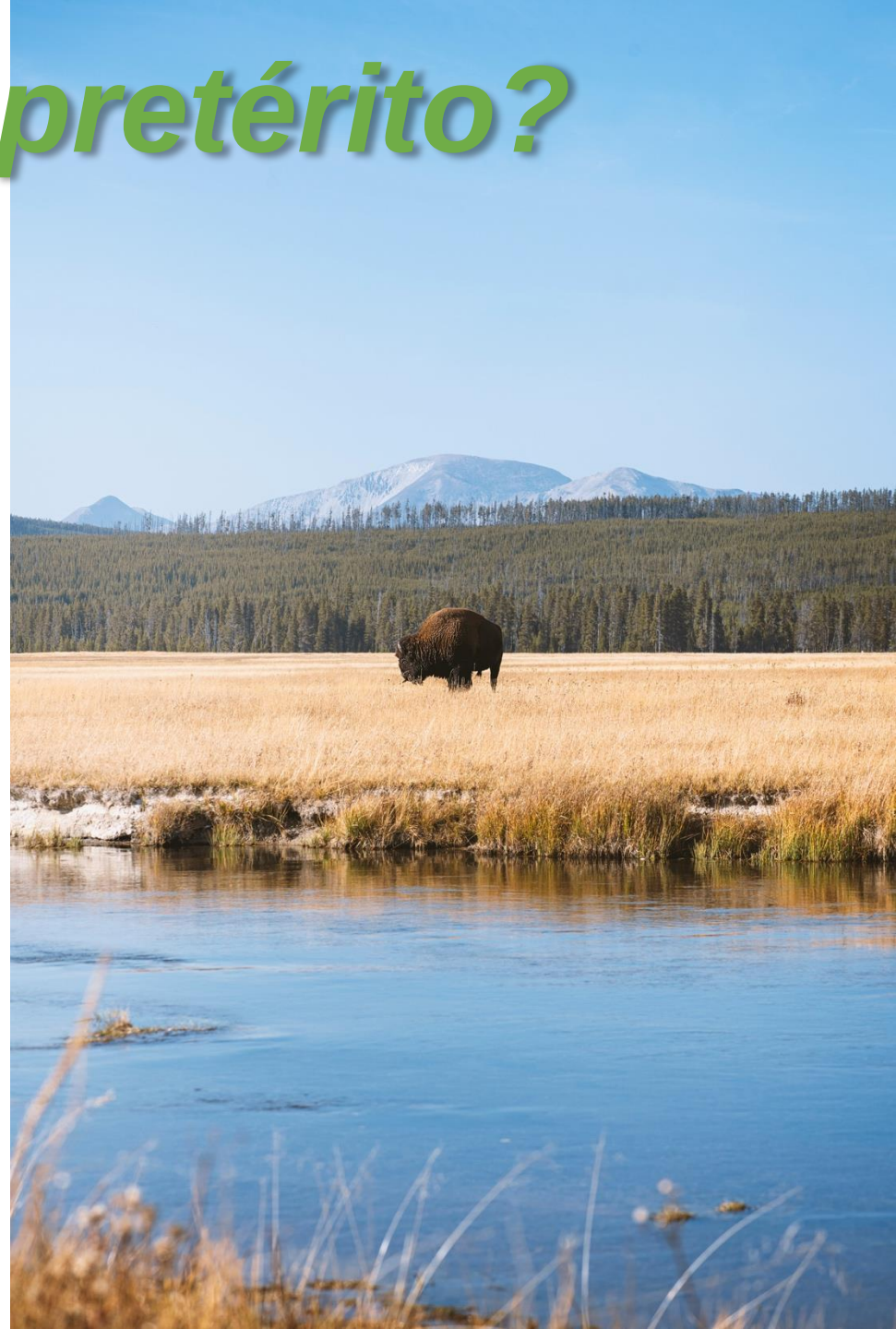


When do we use *el pretérito*?

To talk about a **completed action with a specific time expression.**

El año pasado mi familia y yo viajamos a Yellowstone.

Last year my family and I traveled to Yellowstone.





(Some) time expressions



ayer - yesterday

anoche - last night

el otro día - the other day

la semana pasada - last week

el mes pasado - last month

el año pasado - last year

hace un año – a year ago

en 1986 – in 1986

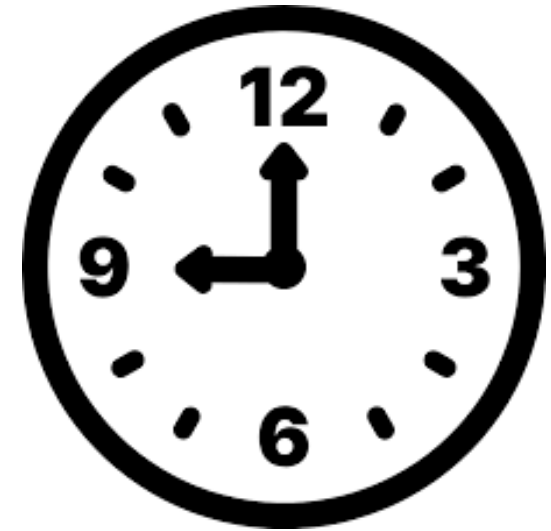
Create two more time expressions using the ones on the left.

When do we use *el pretérito*?

To talk about **an action with a clear beginning or end** in the past.

El torneo empezó a las nueve.

The tournament started at 9:00 .





Preterite verbs with spelling changes

Some verbs in the preterite have spelling changes to maintain consistent pronunciation.

All verbs that end in –ZAR, –CAR, and –GAR have a **spelling change only in the yo form**.

-ZAR	
empecé	empezamos
empezaste	empezasteis
empezó	empezaron

-CAR	
practiqué	practicamos
practicaste	practicasteis
practicó	practicaron

-GAR	
pagué	pagamos
pagaste	pagasteis
pagó	pagaron

Some more examples

El equipo **celebró** después de ganar el partido.

The team celebrated after winning the game.

Los miembros del grupo de Mariachi **tocaron** en la plaza por dos horas.

The members of the Mariachi group played in the plaza for two hours.

Jugué al golf con mi abuelo anoche. (*note the spelling change in the yo form)

I played golf with my grandpa last night.

