

**Spanish**

## **Describe a Special Day [1 / 3]**

**- How to use the preterite tense with reflexive verbs**

Señor Malhi



**[a]**

**alto**



**a**gosto

[**a**]

c**a**sa

n**a**da

[nothing]

**a**mar

[to love]

c**a**ma



despertarse

ducharse

peinarse

afeitarse

vestirse

lavarse



## Using verbs reflexively

Most verbs can be used reflexively. The reflexive use of an infinitive verb is indicated by the **-se** at the end: e.g. **lavar** (to wash); **lavarse** (to wash oneself).

Use the reflexive pronoun **me** to mean you do an action to yourself:

**Hablo**

**I speak**

**Me hablo**

**I speak to myself**

Put **me** in front of the verb. This is the same for all tenses:

**Hablé**

**I spoke**

**Me hablé**

**I spoke to myself**



# Using verbs reflexively in the preterite

In the past (preterite) also use **me** in front of the verb.

Use the 'I' endings for the preterite: **-ar** verbs → stem+ **é**, **-er/-ir** verbs → stem+ **í**

I woke up.

Me desperté

I got dressed.

Me vestí

**Don't forget  
your accents on  
your verb  
endings!**

**We often leave out '(to) myself' in English. Ask 'Is this something I do *to* or *for myself*?' to check if you need to use the reflexive pronoun '*me*' in Spanish.**



# Translation Practice

Copy the sentences below and translate them into English.

- 1.** Ayer me desperté a las ocho de la mañana.
- 2.** La semana pasada me duché temprano.
- 3.** El diciembre pasado me vestí con ropa roja.
- 4.** El mes pasado me afeité en el cuarto de baño.
- 5.** El sábado pasado me peiné para ir a la catedral.



# Respuesta

1. Yesterday I woke up at 8 in the morning.
2. Last week I showered early.
3. Last December I got dressed in red clothes.
4. Last month I shaved in the bathroom.
5. Last Saturday I brushed my hair to go to the cathedral.





## Using Reflexive Verbs in the Preterite Tense

1. “Vestirse” means ‘ to get oneself dressed ’
2. “Lavarse” means “ to wash oneself ”.
3. When conjugating reflexive verbs, put “se” at the front.
4. “*Me desperté*” is :  
I woke up
5. ‘*Me afeité*’ is:  
I shaved

