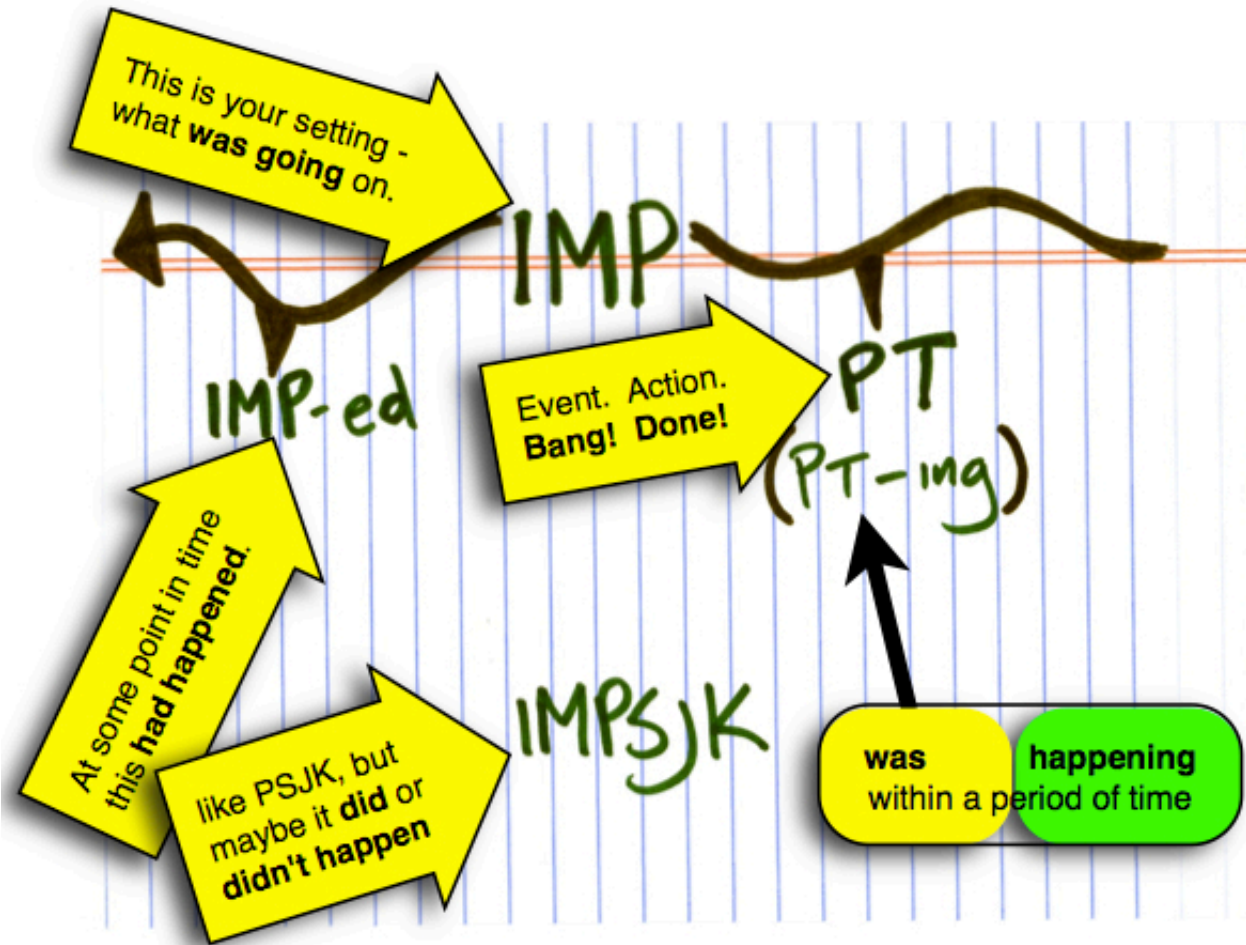
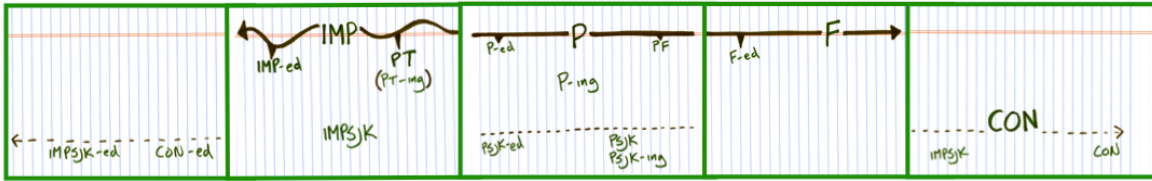


THE PAST TENSE BOX



Everyone tells stories.

What **did** you do last weekend?

What **were** you like as a kid?

I **was eating** cereal for four hours this morning. By noon, I **was twitching**.

In Spanish, The Past is made of two main tenses:

The **IMP**erfect - **IMP**,

and The Preterite - **PT**.

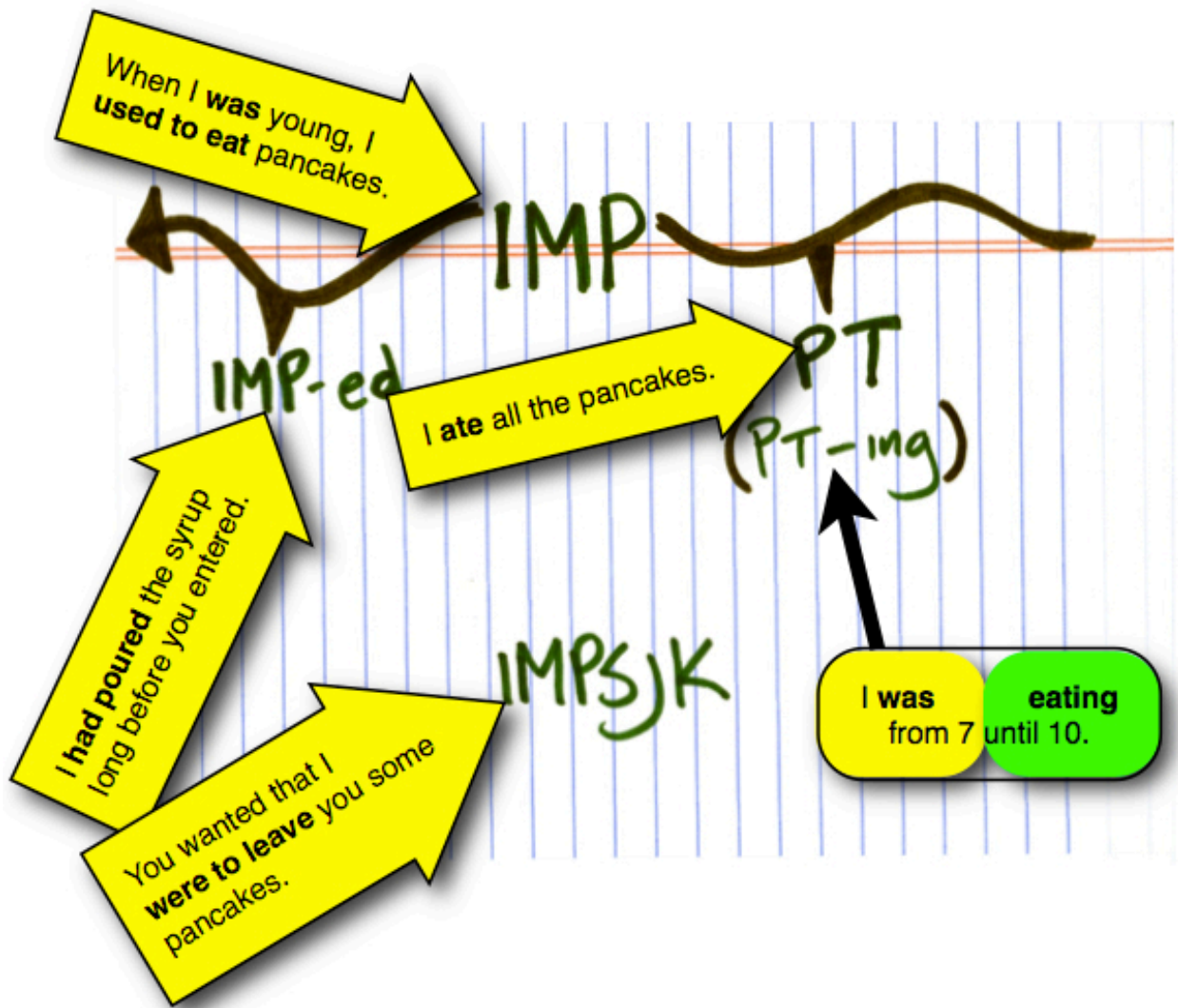
The **PT** is the 'main action' tense. "The gas station **exploded**."

The **IMP** is the 'was happening' tense. "I **was smoking**."

The **IMP** line is wavy because it's not so 'nailed down' as to when it happened. The **PT** happened at a certain time, so it hangs on the **IMP**.

● **IMP** ● **PT** **PT**
You were walking along the wavy line when you tripped and fell.

● **IMP** ● **PT**
I was smoking when the gas station exploded.



Remember: This box is to the left of the **P** box, so this is The Past. The **PT** hangs off the **IMP** because it happened at a certain point. Think of the **IMP** like a radio wave. Radio waves flow through objects, but there is a certain time at which they **hit** the walls of a building. The **PT** is the **hit**. The radio wave **was flowing** when it **hit** the wall.

PT-ing is an action that was going on and filled time.

IMP-ed also hangs off **IMP** because it **had happened** earlier in comparison to something else that **happened**. **IMP-ed** is to the left of the **PT** (further in The Past) because the **PT** event is closer to the **P**.

Notice that the **IMP** example doesn't fit the story that the rest of the examples make. This is not always the case. I did this so that you can see how the **IMP** can stand alone.

CHARTING THE IMPERFECT & THE IMPSJK

The **IMP**erfect is a great tense.

For starters, ER and IR verbs share the same endings.

Here's **COMER**:

yo	comía	nosotros	comíamos
tú	comías	vosotros	comíais
él		ellos	
ella	comía	ellas	comían
ud.		uds.	

Here's **VIVIR**:

yo	vivía	nosotros	vivíamos
tú	viviás	vosotros	vivíais
él		ellos	
ella	vivía	ellas	vivían
ud.		uds.	

Nice, right?

And for the AR verb endings, here's **HABLAR**:

yo	hablaba	nosotros	hablábamos
tú	hablabas	vosotros	hablabais
él		ellos	
ella	hablaba	ellas	hablaban
ud.		uds.	

No sweat. And there are only three irregulars! **SER**, **IR**, and **VER**! Let's call them S.I.V. That should make them easy to remember.

How many irregulars in The **IMP**?

Three. *S.I.V. Ser, Ir, and Ver.*

Great.

SER:

yo	era	nosotros	éramos
tú	eras	vosotros	erais
él		ellos	
ella	era	ellas	eran
ud.		uds.	

IR:

yo	iba	nosotros	íbamos
tú	ibas	vosotros	ibais
él		ellos	
ella	iba	ellas	iban
ud.		uds.	

VER:

yo	veía	nosotros	veíamos
tú	veías	vosotros	veíais
él		ellos	
ella	veía	ellas	veían
ud.		uds.	

So far, so good.

What about The **IMPSJK**?

In order to get The **IMPSJK** correct, you don't go hunting for the **yo** form in The Present. Instead, you go to the 3rd person plural (**ellos**) of the **PT**. This is where that chart comes in handy again. If you've memorized which page a verb is on, you know the rules for it and you know if any major change has happened to the verb in the **ellos** form.

Let's pick **DORMIR**. In the **ellos** form, dormir becomes **durmieron**. Notice the **u**. It'll be there the whole way through now, not just in the 3rd person plural.

yo	durmiera	nosotros	durmiéramos
tú	durmieras	vosotros	durmierais
él		ellos	
ella	durmiera	ellas	durmieran
ud.		uds.	

Here's **PRODUCIR**:

yo	produjera	nosotros	produjéramos
tú	produjeras	vosotros	produjerais
él		ellos	
ella	produjera	ellas	produjeran
ud.		uds.	

In the **ellos** form, producir not only has changed from **c** to **j**, but the **i** before the **j** was dropped: **produjeron**.

You've got to be kidding me.

Nope. No joke.

You spend time practicing your way through those three **PT** pages and you'll know this stuff like the inside of your taco. **Yo te prometo**.

Remember: