

Los usos del pretérito

The preterit tense is used to express the past

Breaking/Interrupting action: I was cooking chicken when the

Yo cocinaba el pollo cuando el fuego fire began.

Simple-stated fact/one-time thing:

ayer
anoche

I went to the store.

Fui a la tienda.

Set amount of time:

por + duration
of time

Julio was a teacher for 5 years.

Julio fue profesor por 5 años.

Sequence of events:

We went to the store, bought ice cream,
and went home.

Fuimos al supermercado, compramos helado y
fuimos a casa.

the day
before
yesterday

*Helpful words/phrases: Cuando, de repente, inmediatamente, por & length of time (por cinco meses), ayer, anteayer, pasado (el año pasado)

when. suddenly immediately yesterday last

Felipe was my friend.