

Laika -- Mecano

Procedure:

1. Review: Preterite verbs indicate a completed activity (definite beginning and definite ending) while Imperfect verbs provide background information. (age, weather, time, physical description) Listen to a song with a very pronounced theme that uses many preterite and imperfect verbs.
2. Introduce the song: Tell students that it is a popular song in Spain by the group Mecano. The first time the song is played the students should just listen to the sounds, the tone, the rhythm, etc., to try to figure out what the mood of the song is and what the song might be about.
3. Play the song one all the way through. Afterwards, ask for some opinions about the mood and some hypotheses about what the song might be about.
4. Tell the students that the song will be played again and this time they should try to listen for various Preterite/Imperfect verbs. Encourage students to use their Preterite/Imperfect graphic organizers as a reference guide.
5. Play song “Laika” by the group Mecano.
6. After playing the song a second time, distribute the lyric sheets. Tell the students that the song will be played 2x and they are to try to fill in the blanks with the Preterite/Imperfect verbs that they hear.
7. Play song 2x.
8. After the song has been played 2x, go through the song and have the students tell what verbs they wrote down in each of the blanks. If no one gets the correct answer on any one of the blanks, play that section of the song again—let the students guess again. If they still have questions, give them the answer—play the song again so that they can hear the lyrics.
9. Read the song lyrics together, discussing what they mean. Ask students if their hypotheses were correct.
10. Follow –up activity: Students write a journal entry in which they describe: Laika’s journey into space. They must use at least 15 Preterite and Imperfect verbs. The Imperfect verbs could be used to describe age, time of day, weather conditions while the Preterite verbs are used to describe specific things that happened.