**Pretérito vs. Imperfecto**  
The **preterite** is typically used in the following situations:

* For actions that can be viewed as single events
* For actions that were repeated a specific number of times
* For actions that occurred during a specific period of time
* For actions that were part of a chain of events
* To state the beginning or the end of an action
* For actions that INTERRUPTED an ongoing action (the ongoing action is usually in the imperfect tense)

The **imperfect** is typically used in the following situations:

* For actions that were repeated habitually
* For continuous actions in the past
* For actions that “set the stage” for another past action
* For telling time or date
* For telling the weather (USUALLY)
* For telling location
* For stating one’s age
* For mental states like attitudes or desires (USALLY)
* For physical sensations or descriptions (USUALLY)
* To describe the characteristics people, things, or conditions

**SIMBA CHEATED ☹**

**Preterite Imperfect**  
**S** ingle actions **C** haracteristics/descriptions

**I** nterruption **H** ealth

**M** ain event **E** motion

**B** eginning action **A** ge

**A** rrivals, departures **T** ime

**E** ndless activity

**D** ate  
