

Historic and historical

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Many educated English speakers confuse (confunden) these two words. They are different. Examine these examples:

- The defeat (la derrota) of the Spanish Armada was in 1588.
- Admiral Nelson's assault (asalto) on Santa Cruz de Tenerife in 1797 was unsuccessful (infructuoso).

These are **historic** events (acontecimientos históricos), events of special significance (importancia) in the history of Spain and Great Britain.

Now examine these two sentences (oraciones):

- Elections for the Canarian Parliament were held in May 2015.
- Zapatero, the former Spanish prime minister, published his autobiography last week.

Neither of these events is of any particular consequence or world changing - hence they are historical. They are facts, historical facts.