

# The imperfect tense in Spanish

The Imperfect Tense – “used to \_\_\_\_\_” or “was \_\_\_\_\_ing”

1. Write in the endings for your reference:

	-AR verbs	-ER/-IR verbs
I		
You (sg)		
He/she/it		
We		
You (pl)		
They		

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2. Write the correct verb forms in Spanish:

nadar (to swim)	bailar (to dance)	esquiar (to ski)	jugar (to play)
leer (to read)	salir (to go out)	querer (to want)	preferir (to prefer)

- a. They used to swim \_\_\_\_\_
- b. I used to dance \_\_\_\_\_
- c. We were skiing \_\_\_\_\_
- d. He was playing \_\_\_\_\_
- e. She used to read \_\_\_\_\_
- f. We used to go out \_\_\_\_\_
- g. You (sg) used to want \_\_\_\_\_
- h. I used to prefer \_\_\_\_\_
- i. You (pl) were skiing \_\_\_\_\_
- j. They were playing \_\_\_\_\_
- k. We used to dance \_\_\_\_\_
- l. You (sg) were reading \_\_\_\_\_
- m. She was going out \_\_\_\_\_
- n. You (pl) were swimming \_\_\_\_\_
- o. I was playing \_\_\_\_\_
- p. He used to want \_\_\_\_\_

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**Work out whether the verb is an –ER, -IR or –AR verb + then select the correct ending.**

Write the sentences out in full in your exercise book.

1. Vivo en España = I live in Spain  
Viv\_\_\_ en Portugal = I was living in Portugal.
  
2. Como ensaladas y verduras porque soy vegetariano  
= I eat salads and vegetables because I am a vegetarian.  
Com\_\_\_ carne.  
= I was eating meat.
  
3. Leo periódicos. = I read newspapers.  
Le\_\_\_ novellas. = I was reading novels.
  
4. Ella tiene muchos problemas. = She has many problems.  
Ella ten\_\_\_ menos problemas. = **She** was having less problems.
  
5. Nosotros visitamos a nuestra abuela. = We visit our gran.  
Nosotros no visit\_\_\_\_\_ a nuestro abuelo. = **We** weren't visiting  
our granddad.
  
6. Ellos pasan la aspiradora = They do the hoovering  
Ellos no pas\_\_\_\_\_ la aspiradora = **They** weren't hoovering
  
7. Tú ves muchos programas de humor = You watch many comedy  
programmes.  
Tú v\_\_\_\_\_ un documental. = **You** were watching a documentary.
  
8. Mi madre lleva una falda. = My mother is wearing a skirt.  
Mi madre llev\_\_\_ un vestido = My **mother** was wearing a dress.

**Translate the following into Spanish. You may use a dictionary to help.**

- a) I used to live in Spain (vivir = to live)
  
- b) She was working in a restaurant (trabajar = to work)
  
- c) He was visiting Italy (visitar = to visit)
  
- d) They used to have a house in Spain. (tener = to have)
  
- e) She used to sing in a choir (cantar = to sing) ( a choir = un coro)

- f) I was living in Spain.
- g) She used to eat meat.
- h) We were reading novels.
- i) They were having problems.
- j) I used to visit my aunty.
- k) I used to do the hoovering.
- l) I was watching a horror film.
- m) I used to wear a hat.

**Building up complex sentences in the imperfect:**

**Complex sentences need to answer the questions:**

- when ?**
- what ?**
- where ?**
- with whom ?**
- why ?**

For example, write the following in Spanish:

- When:** When I was 10 years old \_\_\_\_\_
- What:** I used to play football \_\_\_\_\_
- Where:** in the street \_\_\_\_\_
- With whom:** with my brother \_\_\_\_\_
- Why:** because I used to have a lot of energy \_\_\_\_\_