

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 _____