

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		

12

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 _____

16

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 _____