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)

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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 _____

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