

Expressing the Past Tense – EL IMPERFECTO

Why do we use the Imperfect? What does it mean?

- Telling time in the past
- Giving background information
- Describing in the past & telling what things were like in the past
- Stating age in the past
- Stating what “used to” happen
- Stating what “was happening”
- Stating what “was going to” happen
- Stating what happened repeatedly in the past
- Stating what “would happen”
- Stating what always happened
- Expressing feelings, states, beliefs or general thoughts in the past

Regular Conjugation of the Imperfect

Remove the AR, ER, or IR and add the following endings:

	AR Verbs	ER & IR Verbs
Yo	-ABA	-ÍA
Tú	-ABAS	-ÍAS
Él, Ella, Usted	-ABA	-ÍA
Nosotros	-ÁBAMOS	-ÍAMOS
Vosotros	-ABAIS	-ÍAIS
Ellos, Ellas, Ustedes	-ABAN	-ÍAN

EXAMPLE VERBS:

Hablar

Hablaba
 Hablabas
 Hablábamos
 Hablabais
 Hablaban

Comer

Comía
 Comías
 Comía
 Comíamos
 Comíais
 Comían

No stem changes in the IMPERFECT, at all.

Irregular Verbs in the Imperfect: THERE ARE ONLY THREE!!!

	SER	IR	VER
Yo	ERA	IBA	VEÍA
Tú	ERAS	IBAS	VEÍAS
Él, Ella, Usted	ERA	IBA	VEÍA
Nosotros	ÉRAMOS	ÍBAMOS	VEÍAMOS
Vosotros	ERAIS	IBAIS	VEÍAIS
Ellos, Ellas, Ustedes	ERAN	IBAN	VEÍAN