

# Imperfect Tense

## The Imperfect Tense in Spanish (El Pretérito Imperfecto)

The **imperfect tense** is used to talk about **past actions that were ongoing, habitual, or descriptive**, without focusing on when they started or ended.

### General Format:

Spanish verbs in the **imperfect** tense are conjugated by:

**[verb stem] + [imperfect ending]**

There are **only 3 irregular verbs**, so most verbs follow consistent rules.

### Endings for Regular Verbs:

**-AR verbs (e.g., *hablar* – to speak)**

Subject	Ending	Example
yo	-aba	hablaba (I was speaking / used to speak)
tú	-abas	hablabas
él/ella/usted	-aba	hablaba
nosotros/as	-ábamos	hablábamos
vosotros/as	-abais	hablabais
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-aban	hablaban

**-ER and -IR verbs (e.g., *comer*, *vivir*)**

Subject	Ending	Example: <i>comer</i> (to eat)	Example: <i>vivir</i> (to live)
yo	-ía	comía	vivía
tú	-ías	comías	vivías
él/ella/usted	-ía	comía	vivía
nosotros/as	-íamos	comíamos	vivíamos
vosotros/as	-íais	comíais	vivíais
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-ían	comían	vivían

## Examples in Sentences:

- **Cuando era niño, jugaba con mis amigos.**  
*(When I was a child, I used to play with my friends.)*
- **Siempre comíamos pizza los viernes.**  
*(We always used to eat pizza on Fridays.)*
- **Mi abuela vivía en el campo.**  
*(My grandmother used to live in the countryside.)*

## Irregular Verbs (Only 3!)

Ver b	yo form (imperfect)
ir	iba
ser	era
ver	veía