Imperfect Tense

The general format of an imperfect tense verb in Italian is formed by removing the infinitive ending (-are, -ere, or -ire) from the verb and adding the imperfect endings: -vo, -vi, -va, -vamo, -vate, -vano. These endings are attached to the stem of the verb, which is the infinitive minus the final -re.

Here's a breakdown:

1. **Identify the infinitive:** For example, parlare (to speak), vedere (to see), dormire (to sleep).

2. **Remove the infinitive ending (-are, -ere, or -ire):** This leaves you with the verb stem. For the examples above, the stems are parl-, ved-, and dorm-.

3. **Add the imperfect endings:**
   - **-vo**: (for io - I)
   - **-vi**: (for tu - you)
   - **-va**: (for lui/lei/Lei - he/she/formal you)
   - **-vamo**: (for noi - we)
   - **-vate**: (for voi - you all)
   - **-vano**: (for loro - they)

Example with parlare (to speak):
- io parl-avo (I was speaking/used to speak)
- tu parl-avi (you were speaking/used to speak)
- lui/lei/Lei parl-ava (he/she/formal you were speaking/used to speak)
- noi parl-avamo (we were speaking/used to speak)
- voi parl-avate (you all were speaking/used to speak)
- loro parl-avano (they were speaking/used to speak)

Note: The verb essere (to be) is irregular in the imperfect tense.