

Mio nonno parlava molto bene l'italiano.	My grandfather spoke Italian very well.
Mentre prendevamo il caffè è suonato il telefono.	While we were having coffee the telephone rang.
Quando Carla aveva 5 anni abitava a Roma.	When Carla was five she lived in Rome.
Sono arrivato quando il treno partiva.	I arrived as the train was leaving.
Mio fratello andava a scuola in autobus.	My brother used to go to school by bus.
Di solito Gianni e sua sorella andavano al cinema insieme.	Usually Gianni and his sister went to the cinema together.
Quando Maurizio lavorava in quel supermercato lo pagavano pochissimo.	When Maurizio worked in that supermarket they paid him very little.
Mentre Sebastiano leggeva il giornale, io ho finito i compiti.	While Sebastiano was reading the paper I finished my homework.

3 Not many verbs are irregular in the imperfect. **Essere** is one:

ero	I was/used to be
eri	you were/used to be
era	he/she/it was/used to be
eravamo	we were/used to be
eravate	you were/used to be
erano	they were/used to be

Like the present, the imperfect of **essere** can be used with the pronoun **ci** (see Unit 4): **c'era** (there was), **c'erano** (there were).

Other irregular verbs are **bere**, **dire** and **fare**:

bevevo	I drank/was drinking/used to drink
bevevi	you drank/were drinking/used to drink
beveva	he/she/it drank/was drinking/used to drink
bevevamo	we drank/were drinking/used to drink
bevevate	you drank/were drinking/used to drink
bevevano	they drank/were drinking/used to drink

dicevo	I said/was saying/used to say
dicevi	you said/were saying/used to say
diceva	he/she/it said/was saying/used to say
dicevamo	we said/were saying/used to say
dicevate	you said/were saying/used to say
dicevano	they said/were saying/used to say