

The Imperfect tense

This is also a past tense. However, it is used in a different way. The imperfect tense will be used as follows:

Repetitive action in the past : **I used to** do something

An action in progress in the past : **I was writing**

A description : what people or things looked like in the past :
she was tall

To set the scene : weather / time experiences e.g. **it was 8 am that evening when**

To express a feeling : **she loved him**

Formation

– Ar verbs : **cantar**

- Take away (ar) to obtain stem : “*cant*”
- Add following endings on to the stem :
aba/ abas/ aba/ ábamos/ abais/ aban
- ***Escuchaba*** – I was listening, I used to listen, I listened to
- ***Escuchabas*** – you were listening, you used to listen, you listened
- ***Escuchaba***
- ***Escuchábamos***
- ***Escuchabais***
- ***Escuchaban***

Er / ir verbs

- Take away er and / or ir to obtain stem : **“beb”**
- **“viv”**
- Add the following endings on to the stem : **ía / ías / ía / íamos / íais / ían**
- **Bebía** – I was drinking, I used to drink, I drank
- **Vivías** – you were living, you used to live, you lived
- **Bebía**
- **Vivíamos**
- **Bebíais**
- **Vivían**

Ejercicios

- Nivel 1: Rellene los espacios en blanco con la forma correcta del verbo en el imperfecto (verbos regulares)
- 1. Yo _____ por la tarde (cantar)
- 2. Tú _____ en Francia (vivir)
- 3. Le _____ ir al cine (gustar/he)
- 4. María siempre _____ pescado (comer)
- 5. Cuando entré en el comedor mi madre _____ la radio (escuchar)
- 6. Nosotros _____ una carta cada semana (escribir)

Nivel 2: Traduzca al español

1. We were singing when he came in
2. She didn't know where they lived
3. We were not writing anything
4. I did not used to work every day
5. They were waiting in the house
6. He always ate apples

Llave

- Nivel 1: Rellene los espacios en blanco con la forma correcta del verbo en el imperfecto (verbos regulares)
- 1. Yo **cantaba** por la tarde
- 2. Tú **vivías** en Francia
- 3. Le **gustaba** ir al cine
- 4. María siempre **comía** pescado
- 5. Cuando entré en el comedor mi madre **escuchaba** la radio
- 6. Nosotros **escribíamos** una carta cada semana

Nivel 2: Traduzca al español

1. **Cantabamos** cuando entró
2. No **sabía** donde **vivían**
3. No **escribíamos** nada
4. No **trabajaba** cada día
5. **Esperaban** en la casa
6. Siempre **comía** manzanas

The Continuous Imperfect

- It is the equivalent of the English **wing** tense
- e.g. I **was watching** television
- they **were laughing**
- **Formation**
- It is made up of two parts:
- Imperfect of *estar*
- Gerund i.e. **ando** (ar verb) **iendo** (er, ir verbs)
- NB – you must also learn the gerund of irregular verbs
- e.g. **durmiendo** (sleeping) **leyendo** (reading) etc
- **Estaba cantando** – I was singing
- **Estabas bebiendo** – you were drinking (Tú : familiar form)
- **Estábamos hablando** – we were talking
- **Estabais bebiendo** – you were drinking (vosotros : familiar form)
- **Estaban escribiendo** – they were writing/ you were writing (ustedes : polite form)

Ejercicios

Nivel 1: Rellene los espacios en blanco con la forma correcta del verbo en el imperfecto continuo e.g. Estaba caminando

- 1. 1. Vd _____ (escribir)
- 2. Tú _____ (cantar)
- 3. Nosotros _____ (beber)
- 4. Vdes _____ (hablar)
- 5. Vosotros _____ (comer)
- 6. Yo _____ (trabajar)

Nivel 2: Traduzca al español

- 1. We were singing when he came in
- 2. His father was leaving that day
- 3. We were not writing anything
- 4. They were eating
- 5. I was choosing
- 6. You(familiar Tú) were walking

Llave

Nivel 1: Rellene los espacios en blanco con la forma correcta del verbo en el imperfecto continuo e.g. Estaba caminando

- 1. Vd **estaba escribiendo**
- 2. Tú **estabas cantando**
- 3. Nosotros **estabamos bebiendo**
- 4. Vdes **estaban hablando**
- 5. Vosotros **estabais comiendo**
- 6. Yo **estaba trabajando**

Nivel 2: Traduzca al español

- 1. **Estabamos cantando** cuando entró
- 2. Su padre **estaba saliendo** este día
- 3. No **estabamos escribiendo** nada
- 4. **Estaban comiendo**
- 5. **Estaba escogiendo**
- 6. **Estabas caminando**