

The Imperfect Tense

English Grammar Connection: There are ways other than the simple past tense (*I studied*) to say that something happened. You can also say *I used to study* or *I was studying*. In Spanish, these ideas are expressed by the **imperfect tense**.

The **imperfect** is another past tense in Spanish. How do you see it?

Here's how:

The **imperfect** is used to describe something that was not perfected or not completed in the past. You use it to...

- Talk about something that was happening
- Say how old someone was
- Talk about something you used to do
- Tell what time it was

Regular verbs in the **imperfect** take these ending:

NOTE that the **yo** form and the **usted** /**él**/ **ella** forms are the same

Yo	Estar	Hacer	salir
Tú	Estaba	Hacía	Salía
Usted, él, ella	Estabas	Hacías	Salías
Nosotros (as)	Estaba	Hacía	Salía
Vosotros (as)	Estábamos	Hacíamos	Salíamos
Ustedes, ellos (as)	Estabais	Hacíais	Salíais
	Estaban	Hacían	Salían

Él **estaba** aquí cuando yo **hacía** el pastel. *He was here when I was making the cake.*

Only three verbs are irregular in the **imperfect**.

Cuando yo **era** niño (a), **íbamos** a la playa.
When I was little, we used to go to the beach.

Ser	Ir	Ver
Era	Iba	Veía
Eras	Ibas	Veías
Era	Iba	Veía
Éramos	Íbamos	Veíamos
Erais	Ibais	Veíais
eran	Iban	Veían