

## The Imperfect Tense

1. The imperfect tense is a past tense. It is known as the narrative past. It is used to describe what “was going on” or what “used to” happen on a repeated basis in the past.
2. The imperfect tense is also used to describe mental, physical, or emotional states in the past. It is used to tell time and to talk about the weather in the past. It is also used to talk about one’s age in the past.
3. Regular verbs in the imperfect tense are conjugated as follows: drop the “-ar,” “-er,” or “-ir” of the infinitive and add the following endings.

### -AR Verb

-aba	-ábamos
-abas	-----
-aba	-aban

### -ER and -IR verbs

-ía	-íamos
-ías	-----
-ía	-ían

4. Below are some examples of verbs conjugated in the imperfect tense. Practice conjugating the verbs next to each example.

#### Hablar - to speak

hablaba	hablábamos
hablabas	-----
hablaba	hablaban

#### Cantar - to sing

_____	_____
_____	-----
_____	_____

#### Comer - to eat

comía	comíamos
comías	-----
comía	comían

#### Leer - to read

_____	_____
_____	-----
_____	_____

Vivir - to live

vivía            vivíamos  
 vivías        -----  
 vivía           vivían

Subir- to climb

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Below are some words often seen with the imperfect tense.

<b>a veces</b>	at times or sometimes
<b>de vez en cuando</b>	once in a while
<b>muchas veces</b>	many times
<b>con frecuencia, frecuentemente</b>	frequently
<b>cada lunes/ todos los lunes</b>	every Monday
<b>cada verano</b>	every summer
<b>cada invierno</b>	every winter
<b>cada día/todos los días</b>	every day

Examples.

We used to watch the television everyday.

**Nosotros mirábamos la televisión cada día.**

I used to eat at that restaurant every Sunday.

**Yo comía en aquel restaurante cada domingo.**

Practice

- a) Miguel used to ski in Argentina every Winter.

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- b) The girls used to climb the mountains once in a while.

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c) \_\_\_\_\_

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6. The following three verbs are irregular in the imperfect tense. These verbs must be memorized.

Ser - to be

<b>era</b>	<b>éramos</b>
<b>eras</b>	-----
<b>era</b>	<b>eran</b>

Ir - to go

<b>iba</b>	<b>íbamos</b>
<b>ibas</b>	-----
<b>iba</b>	<b>iban</b>

Ver - to see

<b>veía</b>	<b>veíamos</b>
<b>veías</b>	-----
<b>veía</b>	<b>veían</b>

Examples.

I used to go to the market every Monday.

**Yo iba al mercado cada lunes.**

Practice

- a) She used to be a doctor.

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- b) We used to see Miguel everyday.

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c) We used to go to the church every Sunday.

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d) The boy was short. His brother was tall.

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e) \_\_\_\_\_

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f) \_\_\_\_\_

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g) \_\_\_\_\_

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h) \_\_\_\_\_

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i) \_\_\_\_\_

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j) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Present Perfect Tense

1. The present perfect tense is created from the present tense of the verb "**haber**" and the past participle. The present perfect tense describes an action recently completed in the past. This tense translates as "to have done something." (i.e. I have eaten, you have seen, etc.)
2. The present tense of the verb "**haber**" is as follows.

### Haber - to have

<b>he</b>	<b>hemos</b>
<b>has</b>	-----
<b>ha</b>	<b>han</b>

3. To form the past participle for regular verbs, do the following.
  - 1) For "**-ar**" verbs, drop the "**-ar**" of the infinitive and add "**-ado**."
  - 2) For regular "**-er**" and "**-ir**" verbs, drop the "**-er**" or "**-ir**" of the infinitive and add "**-ido**."

Examples.

### -AR Verbs

<u>verb</u>	<u>past participle</u>	<u>translation</u>
<b>hablar</b> (to speak, talk)	<b>hablado</b>	spoken, talked
<b>comenzar</b> ( to start, begin)	<b>comenzado</b>	started, begun

### -ER and -IR Verbs

<u>verb</u>	<u>past participle</u>	<u>translation</u>
<b>comer</b> (to eat)	<b>comido</b>	eaten
<b>subir</b> (to climb)	<b>subido</b>	climbed

Examples.

I have talked with her.

**Yo he hablado con ella.**

We have eaten the hamburgers.

**Nosotros hemos comido las hamburguesas.**

Practice

a) He has prepared the food.

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b) \_\_\_\_\_

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4. There are several common verbs that have irregular past participles.

5. These verbs, and their irregular past participles, must be memorized.

<u>Verb</u>	<u>Translation</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
<b>caer</b>	to fall	<b>caído</b> (fallen)
<b>creer</b>	to believe	<b>creído</b> (believed)
<b>leer</b>	to read	<b>leído</b> (read)
<b>oir</b>	to hear	<b>oído</b> (heard)
<b>traer</b>	to bring	<b>traído</b> (brought)
<b>abrir</b>	to open	<b>abierto</b> (opened)
<b>cubrir</b>	to cover	<b>cubierto</b> (covered)
<b>descubrir</b>	to uncover	<b>descubierto</b> (uncovered)
<b>escribir</b>	to write	<b>escrito</b> (written)
<b>morir</b>	to die	<b>muerto</b> (died)
<b>poner</b>	to put, place	<b>puesto</b> (put, placed)
<b>romper</b>	to break	<b>roto</b> (broken)
<b>ver</b>	to see	<b>visto</b> (seen)
<b>decir</b>	to say, to tell	<b>dicho</b> (said, told)
<b>hacer</b>	to do, make	<b>hecho</b> (done, made)

Examples.

I have seen that movie.

**Yo he visto aquella película.**

Practice

a) Maria has opened the window.

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b) We have heard the news.

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6. When using a direct object pronoun, indirect object pronoun, or reflexive pronoun with this tense, it is placed before the conjugated form of "**haber.**"

Examples.

I have seen it (the movie).

**Yo la he visto.**

Practice

a) My father has gone to bed. (reflexive verb)

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b) Our friends (m.) have told us the truth. (indirect object pronoun)

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c) My mother has written it. (the letter) (direct object pronoun)

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## Answer Key

### The Imperfect Tense

4. cantar - to sing	leer - to read
cantaba      cantábamos	leía              leíamos
cantabas      -----	leías              -----
cantaba      cantaban	leía              leían

subir - to climb

subía              subíamos
subías              -----
subía              subían

5. a) Miguel esquiaba en Argentina cada invierno.  
 b) Las muchachas subían las montañas de vez en cuando.
6. a) Ella era médica.  
 b) Nosotros veíamos a Miguel cada día. ( todos los días)  
 c) Nosotros íbamos a la iglesia cada domingo. ( todos los domingos)  
 d) El muchacho era bajo. Su hermano era alto.

### Present Perfect Tense

3. a) El ha preparado la comida.
5. a) Maria ha abierto la ventana.  
 b) Nosotros hemos oído las noticias.
6. a) Mi padre ( papá) se ha acostado.  
 b) Nuestros amigos nos han dicho la verdad.  
 c) Mi madre la ha escrito.