

Apuntes 2.2

El imperfecto (descriptive past)

Uses of the imperfect

1. Actions repeated habitually (used to, always, sometimes, etc.)
 - We used to eat lunch together every day.
 - Every Saturday the ladies would go shopping.
2. Actions that set the stage for other actions (when/while...)
 - I was sleeping when the telephone rang.
 - He was cooking dinner when I entered the room.
3. Telling time and dates in the past (over a period of time)
 - It was three o'clock in the afternoon.
 - It was Thursday, the 9th of May.
4. Past progressive (estaba + ando/iendo/yendo)
 - I was eating...
 - I was sleeping...
5. Describing a scene or person in the past (weather, time, age, tener expressions, physical appearance, personality characteristics, origin, nationality, emotions locations, etc.)
 - The girl was 4 years old.
 - He was tall and had wavy hair.
6. Describing mental/emotional states or desires in the past
 - I was happy with my new job.
 - I wanted to move to another country.

Regular Imperfect Form Endings		
	-ar	-er & -ir
yo	aba	ía
tú	abas	ías
él, ella, usted	aba	ía
nosotros	ábamos	íamos
vosotros	abais	íais
ellos, ellas, ustedes	aban	ían

Ejemplos:

I walked through the park every Sunday. (caminar)
 Yo _____ por el parque cada domingo.

We used to have a dog. (tener)
 Nosotros _____ un perro.

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Irregular preterite endings			
	ir (to go)	ser (to be)	ver (to see)
yo	iba	era	veía
tú	ibas	eras	veías
él, ella, usted	iba	era	veía
nosotros/nosotras	íbamos	éramos	veíamos
vosotros/vosotras	ibais	erais	veíais
ellos, ellas, ustedes	iban	eran	veían

Ejemplos:

I always went to the market on Monday. (ir)
Siempre _____ al mercado el lunes.

When she was a child, she liked to eat candy. (ser)
Cuando _____ niña, le gustó comer dulces.

We generally saw our grandma every week. (ver)
Generalmente, _____ nuestra abuela cada semana.

Práctica:

1. Yo siempre _____ a la iglesia el domingo. (ir)
traducción:
2. Nosotros _____ en Nueva York. (vivir)
traducción:
3. Juan _____ con su mamá. (hablar)
traducción:
4. Nosotros nos _____ mucho. (ver)
traducción:
5. Ellos _____ pescado cada semana. (comer)
traducción:
6. Tú _____ muy alto. (ser)
traducción:

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Mental process verbs:

creer =

pensar=

querer =

soñar con =

desear =

querer a =

respetar a =

odiar a =

encantar =

saber =

esperar =

gustar =

amar a =

admirar =

Words that indicate the imperfect:

siempre =

a menudo =

generalmente =

a veces =

todo el tiempo =

los lunes =

muchas veces =

cada día =

todos los días =

de vez en cuando =

mientras =

por lo general =