

## IMPERFECT TENSE VERBS

### Regular Endings

	-ar	-er, -ir
Yo	-aba	-ía
Tú	-abas	-ías
Él, Ella, Ud.	-aba	-ía
Nosotros	-ábamos	-íamos
Ellos, Ellas, Uds.	-aban	-ían

### Irregular Verbs

	Ser	Ir	Ver
Yo	Era	Iba	Veía
Tú	Eras	Ibas	Veías
Él, Ella, Ud.	Era	Iba	Veía
Nosotros	Éramos	Íbamos	Veíamos
Ellos, Ellas, Uds.	Eran	Iban	Veían

### Uses of the imperfect tense in Spanish:

1. To express what was in the middle of happening at the time of the narration, what used to happen, or happened repeatedly in the past.

*Los pájaros cantaban.*

*The birds were singing.*

*Vivíamos aquí.*

*We used to live here.*

*Tomás llegaba tarde.*

*Tom arrived late. (repeatedly)*

**NOTE: The “was, were”+ “-ing” (a.k.a. past progressive) in English is almost always translated with the simple imperfect tense in Spanish.**

2. To describe people or things in the past tense.  
*Mi mamá tenía una cara bonita y era muy amable.*  
*My mom had a pretty face and was very kind.*
3. To describe a state of mind, an opinion, or a feeling in the past.  
*Yo pensaba que él era muy tonto. I thought that he was very silly.*  
*Ella estaba triste. She was sad.*
4. To express the time of day in the past.  
*Eran las ocho de la noche. It was 8 o'clock at night.*
5. When describing an action that was in the process of happening when interrupted by another action. (The second of the two verbs, the interruption, would be expressed with the preterit tense).  
*Comíamos cuando el nos llamó. We were eating when he called us.*
6. To set the stage, describe a situation or setting.  
*El sol brillaba, hacía un tiempo muy agradable y todos estaban muy contentos.*  
*The sun was shining, it was very pleasant weather, and everyone was very happy.*