

## Imperfect tense

**In English** To say what someone did *habitually* in the past, you use either the **simple past** tense, or **used to**, or **would**.

I **drank** water all the time when I was a kid.

Kathy and Dave **used to play** marbles when they were little.

Every summer we **would visit** our aunt, who lived by the beach.

The verbs **to be** or **to have** can be used to say what things *were like*, what *there was*, or how things *used to be* at a certain time in the past.

When my father **was** a child, **there were** no computers.

I **was** pretty shy when I **was** a kid, but my friends **had** a lot of patience.

**A** Circle the verbs that say what people *used to do*, what things *were like*, or what *there was*.

- When I **was** a little kid, we **used to spend** our summers in the mountains.
- My parents were young back then, and would hike with us kids.
- We would always fall behind because we were not so fast.
- We would stay in cabins in the woods.
- I loved looking at the stars in the sky.
- I used to enjoy waking up in the cool mornings.
- Every day, there was an early breakfast, then we would all go hiking.
- Sometimes we would rest for a day or two, and just swim in the stream.

**In Spanish** There is another tense in the past to express how things *used to be*, what someone *used to do*, what *there was*, or what things *were like*: the **imperfect tense**. The imperfect has different uses than the preterite tense.

De niño mis padres y yo **vivíamos** en una casa pequeña.

Yo **jugaba** en la calle con mis amigos. Nos **divertíamos** mucho.

En el jardín **había** un árbol grande. Yo siempre **trepaba** a ese árbol.

The imperfect endings are as follows. Context will usually make it clear who the subject is in the case of the **yo** and **Ud./él/ella** forms, which are identical.

yo	cantaba	corría	vivía
tú	cantabas	corrías	vivías
usted, él, ella	cantaba	corría	vivía
nosotros(as)	cantábamos	corríamos	vivíamos
vosotros(as)	cantabais	corríais	vivíais
ustedes, ellos, ellas	cantaban	corrían	vivían

The imperfect form of the verb **sol**er is used with an infinitive to express that someone *usually* did something.

De pequeños, **solíamos ir** a la playa todos los domingos del verano.

**IMPERFECT TENSE**

**B** Circle the verb in the imperfect tense in each sentence. Then write the subject.

1. De pequeños vivíamos en una gran ciudad. nosotros
2. Había mucho tráfico en las calles. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Yo solía ir a la escuela andando. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Estaba muy cerca de mi casa. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Caminaba a la escuela con mi hermanos. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Todos los estudiantes comían en la escuela. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Salíamos de clase a las tres de la tarde. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Venías a nuestra casa después de la escuela. \_\_\_\_\_

**C** Complete the paragraph with the imperfect tense of the verbs in parentheses.

Cuando era niña siempre jugaba (jugar) en el parque. Mi hermano también \_\_\_\_\_ (venir) y \_\_\_\_\_ (jugar) conmigo. Nosotros \_\_\_\_\_ (trepar) a los árboles y \_\_\_\_\_ (construir) casitas con bloques. A mi hermano le \_\_\_\_\_ (gustar) molestar a los pájaros en el lago del parque. Mis padres también \_\_\_\_\_ (salir) a pasear por el parque con nosotros. Ellos \_\_\_\_\_ (traer) la comida y todos \_\_\_\_\_ (comer) juntos. Yo siempre \_\_\_\_\_ (estar) muy contenta con mi familia en el parque. ¿Y tú? ¿\_\_\_\_\_ (visitar) el parque con tu familia? ¿\_\_\_\_\_ (almorzar) ustedes allí juntos? ¿\_\_\_\_\_ (haber) muchos patos (*ducks*) en el lago de tu parque?

**D** Depending on the context, the English past tense can be equivalent to the Spanish imperfect tense or to the preterite. Decide which of these sentences must take the imperfect in Spanish and explain why. Translate the sentences.

1. I wrote a letter to my grandmother yesterday.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. As a kid, I wrote letters to my grandmother every week.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Verbs with reciprocal pronouns

**In English** Actions that involve two or more people doing something to or for each other are **reciprocal actions**. These mutual actions can be seen in the expressions **each other** or **one another**. The subject of the sentence must be plural.

My best friend and I are not talking to **each other** any more.  
Randy and Madison help **one another** with their homework.

**A** Circle the subject and underline the reciprocal expression in each sentence.

1. (Petulia and Jay) love each other very much.
2. There's no love lost between Reed and me: we despise each other.
3. After the quarrel, the girls finally made up with each other.
4. We trust one another with our deepest secrets.
5. You and your classmate have a lot of respect for each other.
6. The students told one another about their hometowns.
7. Robert and Noah support one another through the football season.
8. When we left the party we were wearing each other's jacket.

**In Spanish** Reciprocal actions can be expressed through the use of **reciprocal pronouns**. The **plural** reflexive pronouns **nos**, **os**, and **se**, when used with a plural verb form, can show that the action is reciprocal.

	quererse	to love each other
nosotros(as)	<b>nos</b> queremos	we love each other
vosotros(as)	<b>os</b> queréis	you love each other
ustedes	<b>se</b> quieren	you love each other
ellos(as)	<b>se</b> quieren	they love each other

Context will usually make it clear whether the action is **reflexive** or **reciprocal**.

**Nos** entendemos muy bien. *We understand each other very well.*  
**Nos** levantamos de la cama. *We get up.*

**B** Circle the subjects and underline the reciprocal pronouns and verb forms that express mutual actions in each sentence.

1. (Laura y Luis) se escriben cartas.
2. Tú y yo nos abrazamos cuando nos vemos.
3. Mis padres se conocen muy bien.
4. Nos vimos en el concierto de rock, ¿te acuerdas?
5. Vosotras os respetáis mucho.

**VERBS WITH RECIPROCAL PRONOUNS**

- 6. Ustedes dos no se hablan, ¿verdad?
- 7. Los dos amigos se llevan muy bien, pero ayer se pelearon.
- 8. Pilar y Gloria se cuentan todos los secretos.

**C** For each pair of sentences, write one complete sentence using a plural reflexive verb form to express a reciprocal action.

- 1. Loli conoció a Chema en el parque. Chema conoció a Loli en el parque.

**Chema y Loli se conocieron en el parque.**

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- 2. Yo no le hablo a Román. Román no me habla a mí.
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- 3. Tú viste a Isabel en la playa. Isabel te vio a ti en la playa.
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- 4. Puri llama a Álvaro por teléfono. Álvaro llama a Puri por teléfono.
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- 5. Rita ayuda a Guillermo con la tarea. Guillermo ayuda a Rita con la tarea.
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- 6. La hija le cuenta todo a su madre. La madre le cuenta todo a su hija.
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- 7. Yo te presté dinero ayer. Tú me prestaste dinero hoy.
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- 8. Tu compañera de clase te manda información. Tú le mandas información a ella.
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**D** How do you know when a plural reflexive verb form like **se** expresses the reciprocal idea of *each other*, and when it doesn't? Explain your answer using the following sentences as examples.

- a. Luis y Rosa **se ponen** el abrigo.

- b. Luis y Rosa **se mandan** correos electrónicos todos los días.

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