

Imperfect

In English Repeated, habitual, or general past actions can be expressed with the formula **used to** + infinitive.

I **used to** go to aerobics every day.

However, not all sentences which use the **imperfect** in Spanish are translated with the words **used to** in English. Sometimes English uses the simple past tense or a modal auxiliary verb, such as **would**. (Modal auxiliaries are verbs used to help indicate possibility, necessity, permission, desire, capability, and so on.)

In those days we **played** together often. (simple past)

He **would get** angry when he fell. (modal auxiliary)

Words such as **often**, **sometimes**, **(almost) always**, and **every day/year** may indicate habitual actions.

A Put an **X** next to the sentences that express habitual past actions and underline the clue words.

1. We always used to go to parties on Fridays. _____ **X**
2. Ms. Álvarez always gave us a lot of homework. _____
3. I studied hard for the final exam. _____
4. In the end, I got an A! _____
5. In those days, my brothers never studied enough. _____
6. They would always ask me for help with their homework. _____
7. Rodrigo and Martín finally decided to work hard. _____
8. They used to go to tutoring every week. _____

In Spanish Repeated, habitual, or general past actions are expressed with the **imperfect** tense of the verb.

Yo **iba** a clases de ejercicios aeróbicos todos los días.

Words such as **muchas veces**, **a veces**, **(casi) siempre**, and **todos los días/años** may indicate habitual actions.

The imperfect is conjugated as follows:

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| -ar verbs | | -er/-ir verbs | | irregulars |
| -aba | -ábamos | -ía | -íamos | ir = iba |
| -abas | -abais | -ías | -íais | ser = era |
| -aba | -aban | -ía | -ían | ver = veía |

IMPERFECT

B Put an **X** next to the sentences that express habitual past actions and underline the clue words.

1. De niño, visitaba a mis abuelos todos los veranos. X
2. Nosotros íbamos a la playa por las mañanas. _____
3. Una vez, coleccioné caracoles con mi abuela. _____
4. A los diez años, aprendí a practicar el esquí acuático. _____
5. A mi abuelo le gustaba tomar el sol. _____
6. Un día se durmió bajo el sol y se quemó. _____
7. Después de ese día, siempre usaba crema protectora. _____
8. En julio, vuelvo a visitarlos. _____

C Write sentences about what people used to do. Use the **imperfect** and the information given.

1. Paula y su familia / ir de vacaciones / todos los años
Paula y su familia iban de vacaciones todos los años.
2. Sabrina / siempre / jugar en la playa

3. sus padres / tener que ponerle crema protectora / todos los días

4. en los días cuando llover / ir a un museo o a una librería

5. Miguel / no gustarle las librerías

6. él / ser un chico difícil / en esos días

D Write two sentences in English about what you used to do when you were a child. On the second line, translate the sentences into Spanish.

1. _____

2. _____
