**The Imperfect**

The imperfect tense is used to refer to actions in the past that occurred repeatedly.

I used to walk every day.
Yo **caminaba** cada día.

The imperfect tense is also used to refer to actions in the past that occurred over an extended period of time.

I used to eat paella frequently.
Yo **comía** frecuentemente paella.

The imperfect tense is also used to "set the stage" for an event that occurred in the past.

We were coming home when we saw Juan.
**Veníamos** para casa cuando vimos a Juan.

Actions which are not physical, that is feelings and mental actions, usually use the imperfect tense.

Juan was feeling sick.
Juan **estaba** enfermo.

The imperfect is frequently associated with phrases that describe the frequency of past actions.

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| **a menudo**often | **Frecuentemente**frequently |
| **Generalmente**usually | **en aquella época**at that time |
| **muchas veces**many time | **a veces** sometimes |
| **cada día** every day | **cada año** every year |
| **con frecuencia** frequently | **de vez en cuando** from time to time |
| **mucho**a lot | **nunca**never |
| **por un rato**for awhile | **siempre**always |
| **tantas veces**so many times | **todas las semanas**every week |
| **todos los días**every day | **todo el tiempo**all the time |
| **varias veces**several times |  |

Regular forms of the imperfect are formed by adding the following endings to the stem of the verb:

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| -ar verbs | example: hablar |
| abaabasabaábamosabaisaban | hablabahablabashablabahablábamoshablabaishablaban |
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| **-er verbs, -ir verbs** | **example: vivir** |  |
| íaíasíaíamosíaisían | vivíavivías vivíavivíamosvivíaisvivían |  |

**Only three verbs are irregular in the imperfect:**

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| **ser** | **ver** | **ir** |
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