**El Imperfecto**

The Other White Meat

[](http://www.google.com/imgres?hl=en&biw=1195&bih=716&tbm=isch&tbnid=oLu5SYtYm-oIQM:&imgrefurl=http://oklahomafarmreport.com/wire/news/2012/09/04656_NPPCReact09252012_060227.php&docid=j3sCZXhtClL-IM&imgurl=http://oklahomafarmreport.com/wire/news/2012/09/media/04658_PorkTheOtherWhiteMeatLogo.jpg&w=328&h=312&ei=uOeHUdiKDYTiqgHS6YFI&zoom=1&ved=1t:3588,r:0,s:0,i:164&iact=rc&dur=1084&page=1&tbnh=176&tbnw=225&start=0&ndsp=16&tx=107&ty=74)

What is the imperfect? It is one of the two past tenses in Spanish. (preterite is the other one!)

CRAZY EASY CONJUGATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! FINALLY!

Yep! You read it correctly! It is super fácil (and kinda divertido) to conjugate in the imperfect.

**AR verbs = ABA**

Trabajar

Yo trabaj**aba** Nosotros trabaj**ábamos**

Tú trabaj**abas** Vosotros trabaj**abais**

Él

Ella trabaj**aba** Ellos trabaj**aban**

Ud. Uds.

**ER / IR verbs = ÍA**

COMER VIVIR

Yo com**ía** viv**ía** Nosotros com**íamos** viv**íamos**

Tú com**ías** viv**ías** Vosotros com**íais** viv**íais**

Él

Ella com**ía** viv**ía** Ellos com**ían** viv**ían**

Ud. Uds.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE *BEST* NEWS IN SPANISH ALL YEAR? FREE TACOS!!!!!!!!!!!!

AND THERE ARE ONLY TWO IRREGULAR VERBS IN THE WHOLE IMPERFECT TENSE!

YEP! JUST TWO!

SER – TO BE

YO NOSOTROS

TÚ VOSOTROS

ÉL

ELLA ELLOS

UD. UDS.

IR – TO GO

YO NOSOTROS

TÚ VOSOTROS

ÉL

ELLA ELLOS

UD. UDS.

**How does the imperfect tense translate into English:**

* **“ED”**
* **was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ing / were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ing**
* **used to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ejercicio 1: conjugated in the imperfect**

I was dancing They used to play piano

We wanted You \*sing/inf used to go

Juan was writing I was \*estar

My friends used to sing She had

You \*sing/inf were decorating We used to work

They were \*ser I used to think

He believed She tolerated (think LV)

We used to go You \*sing/formal said

They knew the secret They knew the girl

Ejercicio 2

1. You used to go to the ice cream place.
2. It was 4 pm.
3. I used to eat the food in the cafeteria.
4. I always played soccer with my friends
5. The boys were running and the girls were swimming.
6. He was the teacher of our class.
7. When we were younger, we used to watch the Smurfs. (younger – mas joven)

¿Qué **hacían** estas personas ayer?

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Tú



**When do I use the imperfect tense?**

There are certain times when speaking in the past that you use the imperfect instead of the preterite. It´s kinda like deciding between SER and ESTAR…you just have to think about what you are talking about.

You use the imperfect for:

1. DESCRIPTION
2. REPEATED / HABITUAL PAST ACTIONS

\*\*\*\*\*must have a word that indicated repeated or habitual action

siempre todos los dias todos los \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

cada \_\_\_\_\_\_ muchas veces a veces nunca

frecuentemente

1. USED TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \*kinda bounces off the above reason
2. WAS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_+ ing / WERE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_+ ing
3. STUFF INSIDE: FEELINGS / EMOTIONS / MENTAL ACTIVITY
4. TIME
5. DAY / DATE
6. NON ACTION VERBS LIKE
   1. TENER – HAD d. PODER – WAS ABLE TO
   2. SABER – KNEW info e. ESPERAR - HOPED
   3. QUERER – WANTED F. CONOCER – KNEW A PERSON
7. We were reading and the children were swinging on swings.
8. He used to get good grades, but now he doesn´t study.
9. They always shared toys.
10. I hated going to the hospital.
11. You had a lot of stuffed animals when you were 5 years old.
12. It was April 1st when they played a trick on me.
13. Every morning we watched cartoons.
14. When I was little, I wanted to be a fireman or a doctor.