

## Spanish

### Week 7 – Alex Bailey

¡Hola a todos! This upcoming week, many classes will be introduced to a new verb tense that will be used throughout the rest of your Spanish journey, so we will spend many weeks learning more about it. Remember, we also provide free online tutoring for Spanish courses, so make sure to schedule appointments as needed at:

[https://www.baylor.edu/support\\_programs/index.php?id=40917](https://www.baylor.edu/support_programs/index.php?id=40917)

#### Key Words:

- Imperfect Tense - Utilization
- Imperfect Tense - Conjugation
- Imperfect Tense – Irregular Verbs

#### The Imperfect Tense – Utilization

In Spanish, there are two main branches of past tenses. We have already gone in depth into the preterite tense, which describes an action that is completed and had a definite time frame of occurrence. On the other end of the spectrum, the “imperfect” tense describes an action that occurred in the past but has an indefinite time frame of occurrence or is unclear in completion. Refer to the example below:

**I went to the mall** vs. **I used to go to the mall**

In the first sentence (the blue one), we see that there is an indication of a completed action that occurred only one time in the past; this would be an example of the preterite tense. In the second sentence (the red one), while we know this occurred in the past, we don't know for how long said person went to the mall, at what point the action started or if it ever ended.

I have attached a great YouTube video that goes into greater depth on the subject:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCdRhJesiVw>

#### The Imperfect Tense - Conjugation

Now that we understand the difference between the two past tenses, let's learn how to conjugate. Refer to the graphic below:

(This graphic can be found at: <https://www.thegringoguides.com/preterite-vs-imperfect-spanish/>)

## Conjugating Imperfect Verbs

-remove the -ar, -er or -ir and add the appropriate ending

| -ar verbs    |                | -er, -ir verbs |               |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>-aba</b>  | <b>-ábamos</b> | <b>-ía</b>     | <b>-íamos</b> |
| <b>-abas</b> | <b>-abais</b>  | <b>-ías</b>    | <b>-íais</b>  |
| <b>-aba</b>  | <b>-aban</b>   | <b>-ía</b>     | <b>-ían</b>   |

### The Imperfect Tense – Irregular Verbs

There are some very important verbs that have irregular conjugations in the imperfect tense. Please refer to the list below that will show you how to conjugate these irregular verbs (a more detailed explanation can be found at: <https://www.spanishdict.com/guide/spanish-imperfect-tense-forms>) :

| <b>SUBJECT</b>        | <b>IR (TO GO)</b> | <b>SER (TO BE)</b> | <b>VER (TO SEE)</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| yo                    | <b>iba</b>        | <b>era</b>         | <b>veía</b>         |
| tú                    | <b>ibas</b>       | <b>eras</b>        | <b>veías</b>        |
| él, ella, usted       | <b>iba</b>        | <b>era</b>         | <b>veía</b>         |
| nosotros              | <b>íbamos</b>     | <b>éramos</b>      | <b>veíamos</b>      |
| vosotros              | <b>ibais</b>      | <b>erais</b>       | <b>veíais</b>       |
| ellos, ellas, ustedes | <b>iban</b>       | <b>eran</b>        | <b>veían</b>        |

### Practice Time!

Translate the following sentences from English to Spanish:

1. I used to go to the mall.
2. When I was a child, I went swimming a lot.

3. I was talking when he passed me.
4. It was December 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. She was four years old.
6. Spain was beautiful!

### Answers

1. Antes yo iba al centro comercial.
2. Cuando era niño, nadaba mucho.
3. Estaba hablando cuando pasó a mi lado.
4. Era el 1 de diciembre.
5. Tenía cuatro años.
6. ¡España era hermosa!



Studying Tip! Practice communicating a similar sentence using both the preterite and imperfect tenses counterparts. This will help you to better understand the difference between the two tenses and more easily recognize the different uses in everyday Spanish.