

L'imparfait

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The uses of the imparfait

- ▶ A description in the past
 - ▶ Il faisait beau hier.
 - ▶ Elle avait des yeux bruns.
- ▶ Repeated action in the past (unknown repetition)
 - ▶ Chaque été on faisait du camping.
- ▶ Interrupted action in the past
 - ▶ Quand je faisais mes devoirs, le téléphone a sonné.

How to conjugate the imparfait

1. Conjugate the verb to the indicatif **PRESENT**, nous person
 - Ex: nous aimons
2. Remove **-ons**. This is the root (radical)
 - Ex: aim-
3. Add endings:
 - ▶ je: -ais
 - ▶ tu : -ais
 - ▶ il/elle/iel : -ait
 - ▶ nous : -ions
 - ▶ vous : -iez
 - ▶ ils/elles/iels : -aient

Exemples

▶ Aimer

- ▶ Root (radical) = aim-
- ▶ J' _____
- ▶ Tu _____
- ▶ Il/Elle/El _____
- ▶ Nous _____
- ▶ Vous _____
- ▶ Ils/Elles/El _____

▶ Avoir

- ▶ Root (radical) = av-
- ▶ J' _____
- ▶ Tu _____
- ▶ Il/Elle/El _____
- ▶ Nous _____
- ▶ Vous _____
- ▶ Ils/Elles/El _____

Only exception - *être*

- ▶ In the indicatif PRESENT tense, the verb *être* is:
 - ▶ nous sommes
- ▶ BUT! For the imparfait, the root (radical) is *ét-*
 - ▶ J'étais
 - ▶ Tu étais
 - ▶ Il/Elle/El était
 - ▶ Nous étions
 - ▶ Vous étiez
 - ▶ Ils/Elles/Els étaient

Steps to decide: Imp ou P.C.?

- ▶ When you are writing in the past, you need to decide which past tense you are going to use
- ▶ Questions to ask yourself:
 - ▶ Did something happen?
 - ▶ No = Imparfait
 - ▶ Yes = Was it repeated?
 - ▶ Yes = Imparfait
 - ▶ No = Was it interrupted?
 - ▶ Yes = Imparfait
 - ▶ No = Passé Composé

Example:

- ▶ Ex: Yesterday, when I woke up, I was tired.
 - ▶ There are two verbs in this sentence:
 - ▶ To wake up
 - ▶ To be (tired)
- ▶ The verbs:
 - ▶ Se réveiller
 - ▶ passé composé
 - ▶ Être
 - ▶ imparfait
- ▶ So, in French, the sentence “Yesterday, when I woke up, I was tired.” would be:
 - ▶ “Hier, quand je me suis réveillé(e), j’étais fatigué(e).”

Pratiquer!

- ▶ Yesterday I ate an apple. (manger)
 - ▶ Hier _____ une pomme.
- ▶ When I was young, I ate an apple everyday. (être, manger)
 - ▶ Quand _____ petit(e), je _____ une pomme chaque jour.
- ▶ The dress was red. (être)
 - ▶ La robe _____ rouge.

Pratiquer! cont...

- ▶ While I was studying, the phone rang. (étudier & sonner)
 - ▶ Quand _____, le telephone _____.
- ▶ This morning I brushed my teeth, got dressed and ate breakfast. (se brosser les dents, s'habiller, manger)
 - ▶ Ce matin, _____ les dents, _____ et _____ le petit déjeuner.
- ▶ It was sunny. (faire)
 - ▶ Il _____ soleil.