

¡Importante!

Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_ Hora: \_\_\_\_\_

# EL IMPERFECTO

You already know how to use the preterite tense to talk about events that happened in the past. There is a second past tense in Spanish called **EL IMPERFECTO**. The imperfect tense is used to talk about events that happened repeatedly in the past. Notice that there are no stem-changers, no spelling changes, and only 3 irregulars in the whole tense:

-AR imperfect endings	SALTAR = to jump	PORTARSE = to behave	-ER & -IR imperfect endings	MENTIR = to lie	OFRECER = to offer
-aba	saltaba		-ía	mentía	
-abas	saltabas		-ías	mentías	
-aba	saltaba		-ía	mentía	
-ábamos	saltábamos		-íamos	mentíamos	
-abais	saltabais		-íais	mentíais	
-aban	saltaban		-ían	mentían	

Since the *yo* and *Ud.* forms are the same, native speakers include the subject pronouns more often when using the imperfect.



IR = to go
iba
ibas
iba
íbamos
ibais
iban

SER = to be
era
eras
era
éramos
erais
eran

VER = to see
veía
veías
veía
veíamos
veíais
veían

**USOS DEL IMPERFECTO:** The imperfect has many uses. Here are some of the main uses:

- used to, repeated actions *Cuando yo era niña, yo jugaba con muñecas.*  
When I was a little girl, I used to play with dolls.
- was-ing & were-ing *Los estudiantes hablaban cuando la maestra entró en el salón.*  
The students were talking when the teacher entered the classroom.
- describing people, places, situations *Hacía mucho sol ayer. Bob era alto. Ellos estaban nerviosos.*  
It was sunny yesterday. Bob was tall. They were nervous.
- to set a scene *Había mucha gente en la fiesta. Era el seis de agosto.*  
There were a lot of people at the party. It was August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- clue words to show repeated actions *generalmente, por lo general, frecuentemente, de vez en cuando, a menudo, todos los días, muchas veces, siempre, nunca, etc.*

