

L'imparfait

A past tense



You have already learned the passé-composé. Let's compare the 2 past tenses!

	Passé-composé	Imparfait
Formation	compound tense (auxiliary + main verb)	simple tense (no auxiliary)
Usage	is used to tell what happened OR what someone did	is used for everything else*



Passé Composé

Imparfait

One-time event

Habitual actions



Actions

Descriptions

Main events
of a story

Background (time,
date, weather,
appearance)

Interrupting action

Interrupted action

Click on link to learn about the different uses of imparfait: [L'imparfait](#)



How do you conjugate a verb in the *imparfait*?

STEM

- “*nous*” form of the verb (present) minus the “*ons*”

- Examples:

parler ~~*parlons*~~ *parl*

finir ~~*finissons*~~ *finiss*

dire ~~*disons*~~ *dis*

boire ~~*buvons*~~ *bu*

ENDINGS

- add the following endings:

je *ais*

tu *ais*

il/elle/on *ait*

nous *ions*

vous *iez*

ils/elles *aient*



Take the verb “*aller*” for example!

nous ~~allens~~ □ **all**

j' **allais**

tu **allais**

elle **allait**

nous **allions**

vous **alliez**

ils **allaient**



One exception is the verb “être”

j' étais

tu étais

on était

nous étions

vous étiez

ils étaient



Now you know how to conjugate a verb in the “*imparfait*”. To practice, click on the button!

