**Forming the imperfect tense**

1. **REGULAR VERBS**

**3 Steps to form the imperfect**: Example:



**I used to sleep**

to sleep = dormir ⇨ we sleep = **nous dormons**

1. Find the “nous” form in the present tense of your verb.



**I used to sleep**

 nous dormons ⇨ stem = **dorm**

1. Drop off the “ons” ending to find the stem of the imperfect tense.

**I used to sleep**

 Stem = dorm ⇨ **je** dormais

1. Add the correct pronoun and its imperfect tense ending.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| je | ais |
| tu | ais |
| il /elle/ on | ait |
| nous | ions |
| vous | iez |
| ils/ells | aient |



Pronunciation

All of the following endings r
sound the same:

ais, ait, aient



1. IRREGULAR VERBS

These verbs have a different stem:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Verb** | **Infinitive** | **Stem** | **Examples** |
| **to be** | **être** | ét | i used to be | j’étais |
| **Verbs with “ger” endings** |
| to eat | man**ger** | mange (+a) | i used to eat | je mangeais |
|  |  | mang(+i) | we used to eat | nous mangions |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Verbs that end in “cer”** |
| to start | commencer | commenç (+a) | i started | je commençais |
|  |  | commenc (+i) | we started | nous commencions |
| **Verbs that end in “ier”** |
| to study | étudier | étudi | we studied | nous étudiions |

1. PHRASES WORTH KNOWING

it was = cétait there was = il y avait I had= j’avais

It (the weather) was cold. = Il faisait froid. It was raining. = Il pleuvait

One had to = il fallait I wanted = je voulais