

What is Imparfait (Imperfect)?

Worksheet

Imparfait expresses past habits, ongoing actions, or background conditions, formed by taking the nous present stem and adding -ais, -ais, -ait, -ions, -iez, -aient endings.

Questions

1. Conjugate 'manger' in Imparfait for 'je'.
A) mangais
B) mangeait
C) mangions
D) mangerez
2. 'Ils regardaient la télé quand tu arrivais.' What time focus?
A) Future actions
B) Simultaneous past actions
C) Completed actions
D) Future completed
3. Which Imparfait verb is used for background?
A) J'ai marché
B) Je marchais
C) Je marche
D) Je marcherai
4. How are Imparfait endings NOT formed?
A) From nous present
B) From infinitive stem
C) From past participle
D) From nous stem minus -ons
5. Conjugate 'parler' in Imparfait for je, il/elle, nous.
6. 'Quand il pleuvait, les enfants jouaient dehors.' What does this mean?
7. Form Imparfait for 'être' (to be) for tu, vous.
8. Define: When do we use Imparfait?
9. Define: How to form Imparfait?
10. Define: Imparfait vs. Passé Composé?

Answer Key

1. A) mangais — Je mangais (I was eating / I used to eat).
2. B) Simultaneous past actions — Both verbs in Imparfait = two overlapping past habits/scenes.
3. B) Je marchais — Je marchais describes the ongoing scene; Imparfait sets atmosphere.
4. C) From past participle — Imparfait uses the nous present stem, not the past participle.
5. Je parlais Il/elle parlait Nous parlions (Base: parler → regular -ais endings)
6. When it was raining, the children were playing outside. Imparfait describes: weather (ongoing), children playing (habitual past activity).
7. Tu étais Vous étiez (Base: être → irregular, but Imparfait uses standard endings)
8. For past habits, ongoing past actions, descriptions, and background scenes. Sets the mood.
9. Take nous present stem, remove -ons, add -ais, -ais, -ait, -ions, -iez, -aient.
10. Imparfait = ongoing/habit; Passé Composé = completed action. Together they tell a story.

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