FSF2DB

Mme W-G

L’imparfait

The imperfect tense (**l'imparfait**), is a past tense used to describe [states of being and habitual actions](https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/tap6.html) in the past.   
https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/images/gr/transdot.gif  
**Stem**   
The stem of the **imparfait** is the first person plural (**nous**) form of the present tense, minus the **-ons**. The imparfait stem is regular for all verbs except **être**:   
https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/images/gr/transdot.gif

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **verb** | **present tense 'nous' form** | **imparfait stem** |
| **-er verbs:**parler | nous parlons | **parl-** |
| **-ir verbs:** finir | nous finissons | **finiss-** |
| **-re verbs:**descendre | nous descendons | **descend-** |
| faire | nous faisons | **fais-** |
| http://cliparts.co/cliparts/ATb/jME/ATbjME5T4.jpgprendre | nous prenons | **pren-** |
| partir | nous partons | **part-** |
| **être** | nous sommes | **ét-** |

https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/images/gr/transdot.gif

Être is the only irregular verb in the Impafait tense! Woo hoo!

Listen carefully to the pronunciation of the verbs in the imparfait tense. Note that -ais, -ais, -ait, and -aient are all pronounced alike. That means that the singular forms and 3rd person plural all sound the same! 

  
**Endings**   
To the stem, add the following endings:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Je | -ais | Nous | -ions |
| Tu | -ais | Vous | -iez |
| Il | -ait | Ils | -aient |
| Elle | -ait | Elles | -aient |

Ex. https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/images/gr/transdot.gif **Je parlais** – I was talking, I used to talk, I talked (regularly)

**Elle faisait** – She was doing, she used to do, she did (regularly)

**Nous étions** – We were (description)

**Ils prenaient** – They were taking, they used to take, they took

(regularly)