The Imperfect Tense

The imperfect tense is used in 3 different ways in French:

1. To give an opinion about something or someone in the past:
   - *J'étais content(e):*   I was happy
   - *C'était genial!*   It was great!
   - *Les profs étaient sympas:* The teachers were nice.

2. To describe an action which used to happen regularly in the past:
   - *A l'école maternelle, je jouais, je dessinais et j'écoutais des histoires.*
   - *At nursery school, **I used to play, draw and listen to stories.***

3. To describe what was happening in the _____ (often the weather) when something else happened:

   - *J'allais au supermarché quand ma mère a téléphoné.*
   - *Il faisait très beau et nous avons décidé d'aller à la plage.*