

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 génial!* *It was great!*
- *Les profs étaient sympas.* *The teachers were nice.*

2. To describe an action which used to happen regularly in the past:

- *À 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.*