The imperfect tense in Spanish

The Imperfect Tense – “used to ______” or “was _____ing”

1. Write in the endings for your reference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-AR verbs</th>
<th>-ER/-IR verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You (sg)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He/she/it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You (pl)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Write the correct verb forms in Spanish:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nadar (to swim)</th>
<th>bailar (to dance)</th>
<th>esquiar (to ski)</th>
<th>jugar (to play)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>leer (to read)</td>
<td>salir (to go out)</td>
<td>querer (to want)</td>
<td>preferir (to prefer)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. They used to swim
b. I used to dance
c. We were skiing
d. He was playing
e. She used to read
f. We used to go out
g. You (sg) used to want
h. I used to prefer
i. You (pl) were skiing
j. They were playing
k. We used to dance
l. You (sg) were reading
m. She was going out
n. You (pl) were swimming
o. I was playing
p. He used to want
Work out whether the verb is an –ER, -IR or –AR verb + then select the correct ending. Write the sentences out in full in your exercise book.

1. Vivo en España = I live in Spain
   Viv___ en Portugal = I was living in Portugal.

2. Como ensaladas y verduras porque soy vegetariano
   = I eat salads and vegetables because I am a vegetarian.
   Com__ carne.
   = I was eating meat.

3. Leo periódicos. = I read newspapers.
   Le__ novellas. = I was reading novels.

4. Ella tiene muchos problemas. = She has many problems.
   Ella ten___ menos problemas. = She was having less problems.

5. Nosotros visitamos a nuestra abuela. = We visit our gran.
   Nosotros no visit______ a nuestro abuelo. = We weren’t visiting our granddad.

6. Ellos pasan la aspiradora = They do the hoovering
   Ellos no pas_____ la aspiradora = They weren’t hoovering

7. Tú ves muchos programas de humor = You watch many comedy programmes.
   Tú v_____ un documental. = You were watching a documentary.

8. Mi madre lleva una falda. = My mother is wearing a skirt.
   Mi madre llev___ un vestido = My mother was wearing a dress.

Translate the following into Spanish. You may use a dictionary to help.

a) I used to live in Spain (vivir = to live)

b) She was working in a restaurant (trabajar = to work)

c) He was visiting Italy (visitar = to visit)

d) They used to have a house in Spain. (tener = to have)

e) She used to sing in a choir (cantar = to sing) (a choir = un coro)
f) I was living in Spain.

g) She used to eat meat.

h) We were reading novels.

i) They were having problems.

j) I used to visit my aunty.

k) I used to do the hoovering.

l) I was watching a horror film.

m) I used to wear a hat.

Building up complex sentences in the imperfect:

Complex sentences need to answer the questions: when ? what ? where ? with whom ? why ?

For example, write the following in Spanish:

When: When I was 10 years old ____________________________

What: I used to play football ____________________________

Where: in the street ____________________________

With whom: with my brother ____________________________

Why: because I used to have a lot of energy ____________________________