

How to Conjugate French Verbs: IMPERFECT TENSE

For the imperfect tense in French, remove the last 2 letters from the verb (either “ar”, “ir”, or “re”) and then add the appropriate ending. Unlike the present tense, the imperfect endings will be the same for all three verb endings, -er, -ir, and -re.

So remove the ending (-er, -ir, -re) and add:

-Imperfect Tense Endings

je = AIS	nous = IONS
tu = AIS	vous = IEZ
il, elle, on = AIT	ils, elles = AIENT

je parlais = I was speaking

tu parlais = you were speaking

il parlait = he was speaking, elle parlait = she was speaking, on parlait = one was speaking

nous parlions = we were speaking

vous parliez = you were speaking

ils/elles parlaient = they were speaking

There is only one irregular verb in the Imperfect tense, which is être.

-Être Imperfect Conjugations

je = J'étais	nous = Nous étions
tu = Tu étais	vous = Vous étiez
il, elle, on = Il était	ils, elles = Ils étaient