

Imperfect

descriptions in the past

Descriptions of a physical, mental or emotional condition in the past usually require the Imperfect.

ser	
era	éramos
eras	
era	eran

estar	
estaba	estábamos
estabas	
estaba	estaban

tener	
tenía	teníamos
tenías	
tenía	tenían



Look at the Ser and Estar reminder on the next page.
answers on next page

Ser is used to portray mental and physical descriptions in the past.

- I was a student (*f*) in that school. _____
- I was the first candidate (*m*). _____ candidato
- Your (*tú*) sister was a good person. _____
- The doctor was very professional. _____ profesional
- It was a white shirt with blue stripes. _____ rayas azules
- It was a large colonial house. _____
- Uxmal was a Mayan capital. _____ una capital
- The Mayans were religious. _____ religiosos
- You (*tú*) were a good worker (*m*). _____ trabajador
- You all were employees. _____ empleados
- Van Gogh was a great artist. _____
- We were members of the club. _____ miembros
- You (*tú*) and I were always good friends. _____
- I was the oldest child (*m*). _____ hijo mayor
- She was your (*tú*) favorite cousin. _____ prima

Estar is used to portray emotional descriptions in the past.

- I was happy to see you (*tú*). _____ alegre de verte
- I was tired when we finished. _____
- Were you (*tú*) bored (*f*) in the meeting? _____ aburrida en la junta
- Were you (*Ud.*) interested (*m*)? _____ interesado
- He was satisfied with the results. _____ resultados
- She was content with her grade. _____ calificación
- We were excited about the trip. _____ animados
- Were you all sick? _____

Tener is used in the Imperfect tense to portray age in the past.

- I was 20 years old when I left home. _____ dejó la casa
- I was 30 years old when I met him. _____
- Carlos was 11 years old. _____
- They (*m*) all were 70 years old. _____



Ser = descriptions, nationalities, professions, relationships, time.

Estar = feelings, location, and resultant conditions.

Tener = always used in the Imperfect when referring to age in the past.

SER IN THE PAST

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Yo era estudiante en esa escuela. | 1. I was a student (<i>f</i>) in that school. |
| 2. Yo era el primer candidato. | 2. I was the first candidate. |
| 3. Tu hermana era buena persona. | 3. Your (<i>tú</i>) sister was a good person. |
| 4. El doctor era muy profesional. | 4. The doctor was very professional. |
| 5. Era una camisa blanca con rayas azules. | 5. It was a white shirt with blue stripes. |
| 6. Era una casa colonial grande. | 6. It was a large colonial house. |
| 7. Uxmal era una capital Maya. | 7. Uxmal was a Mayan capital. |
| 8. Los Mayas eran religiosos. | 8. The Mayans were religious. |
| 9. Eras un buen trabajador. | 9. You were a good worker (<i>m</i>). |
| 10. Uds. eran empleados. | 10. You all were employees. |
| 11. Van Gogh era un gran artista. | 11. Van Gogh was a great artist. |
| 12. Éramos miembros del club. | 12. We were members of the club. |
| 13. Tú y yo siempre éramos buenos amigos. | 13. You (<i>tú</i>) and I were always good friends. |
| 14. Yo era el hijo mayor. | 14. I was the oldest child (<i>m</i>). |
| 15. Ella era tu prima favorita. | 15. She was your (<i>tu</i>) favorite cousin. |

ESTAR IN THE PAST

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Yo estaba alegre de verte. | 1. I was happy to see you. |
| 2. Yo estaba cansado/a cuando terminamos. | 2. I was tired when we finished. |
| 3. ¿Estabas aburrida en la junta? | 3. Were you (<i>tú</i>) bored (<i>f</i>) in the meeting? |
| 4. ¿Estaba Ud. interesado? | 4. Were you (<i>Ud.</i>) interested (<i>m</i>)? |
| 5. Él estaba satisfecho con los resultados. | 5. He was satisfied with the results. |
| 6. Ella estaba contenta con su calificación. | 6. She was content with her grade. |
| 7. Estábamos animados por el viaje. | 7. We were excited about the trip. |
| 8. ¿Estaban Uds. enfermos? | 8. Were you all sick? |

AGE IN THE PAST

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Yo tenía veinte años cuando dejé la casa. | 1. I was 20 years old when I left home. |
| 2. Yo tenía treinta años cuando lo conocí (a él). | 2. I was 30 years old when I met him. |
| 3. Carlos tenía once años. | 3. Carlos was 11 years old. |
| 4. Todos tenían setenta años. | 4. They (<i>m</i>) all were 70 years old. |