

## Verb Drills 1 – Week 9 – Conjugating regular Italian verbs in the imperfect tense

The imperfect tense can actually be used in a few different ways. The examples below illustrate how it is used to show what was happening in the past. Example, I was reading a book when... We will cover other uses of the imperfect tense in class. The imperfect tense is also relatively easy to learn. In essence all three conjugations have very similar endings. The only difference between the endings for each conjugation (ARE, ERE and IRE) is the first letter the endings start with. For instance all of the endings for ARE verbs start with "a", endings for ERE verbs start with "e" and the endings for the IRE verbs start with "i". This is illustrated below.

To illustrate how to conjugate these verbs, I like to use math equations as an example but first here are the conjugated endings for all regular verbs;

Subject Pronoun	Verbs ending in ARE	Verbs ending in ERE	Verbs ending in IRE
Io	avo	evo	ivo
Tu	avi	evi	ivi
Lui/Lei	ava	eva	iva
Noi	avamo	evamo	ivamo
Voi	avate	evate	ivate
Loro	avano	evano	ivano



To conjugate the regular ARE verbs in the imperfect tense = infinitive verb – infinitive ending = verb stem + conjugated ending = conjugated verb.

Example;

Parlare (To Speak) - are = Parl + avamo (ending for we) = Parlavamo (We were speaking)

Parlare conjugated in the imperfect tense

Io	Parlavo	I was speaking
Tu	Parlavi	You were speaking
Lui/Lei	Parlava	He/She/It was speaking
Noi	Parlavamo	We were speaking
Voi	Parlavate	Y'all were speaking
Loro	Parlavano	They were speaking

To conjugate the regular ERE verbs in the imperfect tense = infinitive verb – infinitive ending = verb stem + conjugated ending = conjugated verb.

Example;

Leggere (To Read) - ere = Legg + evamo (ending for we) = Leggevamo (We were reading)

Leggere conjugated in the imperfect tense

Io	Leggevo	I was reading
Tu	Leggevi	You were reading
Lui/Lei	Leggeva	He/She/It was reading
Noi	Leggevamo	We were reading
Voi	Leggevate	Y'all were reading
Loro	Leggevano	They were reading



To conjugate the regular IRE verbs in the imperfect tense = infinitive verb – infinitive ending = verb stem + conjugated ending = conjugated verb.

Example;

Vestire (To Read) - ire = Vest + ivamo (ending for we) = Vestivamo (We were dressing)

Vestire conjugated in the imperfect tense

Io	Vestivo	I was dressing
Tu	Vestivi	You were dressing
Lui/Lei	Vestiva	He/She/It was dressing
Noi	Vestivamo	We were dressing
Voi	Vestivate	Y'all were dressing
Loro	Vestivano	They were dressing

As with all other tenses, there are verbs that are irregular.