



¡Buenos días!

Objetivos: To understand how to use the imperfect continuous!

The imperfect continuous

It is one of the easiest tenses to form. It is something that was going on. Look at the following examples and try to work out what they mean.

Estaba comprando un periódico.

I was buying a paper.

Estaba escuchando música.

I was listening to music.

Estaba charlando con una amiga.

I was chatting with a friend.

Estaba leyendo un libro.

I was reading a book.

Estaba escribiendo un postal.

I was writing a postcard.

What is the rule?

estaba

First, you need the
imperfect of 'estar' for 'I'

comprando = I was buying

Then, you change the
verb into the continuous,
ie. the -ing tense

ar - add on 'ando'

er/ir - add on 'iendo'

The imperfect continuous

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It is something that was going on.

First, you need the imperfect of 'estar' for 'I' **estaba = I was**

Then, you change the verb into the continuous, ie. the -ing tense

ar	- add on 'ando'
er/ir	- add on 'iendo'

Ejemplos:

Estaba comprando un periódico. I was buying a newspaper.

Estaba charlando con una amiga. I was chatting with a friend.

Importante: As with a lot of tenses, there are irregular ones, such as

Leyendo = reading

As the imperfect continuous is used to describe what was happening, it is important to know how to use it when describing an accident that you saw, so that you can say what you were doing at the time.

Ayer vi un accidente

Hacía mucho sol

Yo estaba cruzando la calle

Estaba comprando un periódico

Un coche atropelló a un perro

Un coche atropelló a un peatón

El camion chocó con una motociclista.

El conductor fue herido

No hay heridos

El coche frenó

El coche no pudo parar

Parar = to stop

**Paraguas = umbrella (to
stop the water)**

Parasol (to stop the sun)

Una conversación

A: Buenos días. ¿Cómo puedo ayudarle?

B: Vi un accidente.

A: ¿Qué estabas haciendo?

B: Estaba comprando un café en el Café Sol.

A: ¿Qué ocurrió?

B: Un coche atropelló a un peatón. Llovía y el coche no pudo parar.

A: ¿Hay heridos?

B: Si, el conductor está herido. Necesita una ambulancia.

A: Vale, gracias.