IMPERFECT TENSE

This is used to describe:

- ongoing actions in the past that don't have a specified end
  e.g. I *was living* in France
- habitual actions in the past ("***used to***")
  e.g. I *used to play* football
- describe what something or someone **was** like
  e.g. it *was* raining, she *was* annoyed
- describe what was going on **when** something else happened
  e.g. I *was watching* TV **when** the phone rang

Forming the imperfect tense

1. Take the nous form of the verb in the present tense - nous jouons

↓

2. Take off the **–ons** to form the stem **jou-**

↓

3. Add the correct ending
e.g. je jouais

Subject	Stem	Endings
je	Take the	ais
tu	*nous* form of	ais
il/elle/on	the present	ait
nous	tense &	ions
vous	knock off the	iez
ils/elles	*–ons* ending	aient

Imperfect of *jouer* – to play
Je jouais = I used to play/was playing
Tu jouais = you used to play/were playing
Il/elle/on jouait = he/she/we used to play/was playing
Nous jouions = we used to play/were playing
Vous jouiez = you used to play/were playing
Ils/elles jouaient = they used to play/were playing

Irregular verbs in the imperfect tense
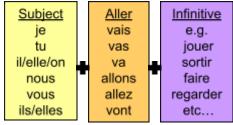The only way a verb can be irregular in the imperfect tense is if the present *nous* form (the stem for imperfect) is irregular – the endings alwa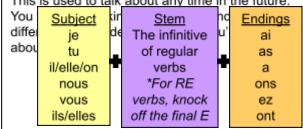ys stay the same. As long as you know your present tense irregular verbs (see the box on the present tense) then you will be

FUTURE TENSES

NEAR FUTURE TENSE (= "going to do…")
This is used to talk about things in the near future. You use the verb *aller* + *infinitive*
e.g. je *vais* sortir ce soir – I'm *going to go out* tonight

Subject	Aller	Infinitive
je	vais	e.g.
tu	vas	jouer
il/elle/on	va	sortir
nous	allons	faire
vous	allez	regarder
ils/elles	vont	etc…

The good news? **No irregular verbs** to worry about!

SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE (= "will do…")
This is used to talk about any time in the future.
You

Subject	Stem	Endings
je	The infinitive	ai
tu	of regular	as
il/elle/on	verbs	a
nous	*For RE	ons
vous	verbs, knock	ez
ils/elles	off the final E	ont

Future of *jouer* – to play
Je jouerai = I will play
Tu joueras = you will play
Il/elle/on jouera = he/she/we will play
Nous jouerons = we will play
Vous jouerez = you will play
Ils/elles joueront = they will play

Irregular future stems
Naturally, a few verbs are a pain and don't just use the infinitive for the stem – but the endings always stay the same. Here are some common irregular stems:

Infinitive	Stem	Example
Aller	ir-	j'irai
Avoir	aur-	j'aurai
Devoir	devr-	je devrai
Être	ser-	je serai

CONDITIONAL TENSE

This is the equivalent of the English "would", e.g. I *would* like, we *would* be able to. You use the same stem as the simple future, but different endings.

Conditional of *jouer* – to play
Je jouerais = I would play
Tu jouerais = you would play
Il/elle/on jouerait = he/she/we would play
Nous jouerions = we would play
Vous joueriez = you would play
Ils/elles joueraient = they would play