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LEARNING IMPARFAIT IN FRENCH. PAST IMPERFECT, L'IMPARFAIT

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Annotation

The article deals with the problem of Learning Imparfait in French. Past Imperfect, L'imparfait.

Key words: Past Imperfect, L'imparfait, French.

a) Imperfait, in its basic meaning, an incomplete, continuous action in the past corresponds to the past tense of the imperfect form in Russian:

Javais alors treize ans, j'etais gai, content de tout, kel on l'est à cet âge. / I was thirteen years old then, as cheerful as I was then, full of everything.

This can be a routine or repetitive action:

S'il pleuvait, je m'abritais dans un café./If it rains, I take shelter in a café.

In addition, there may be different descriptions:

Des rafales pleines d'une chaleur lourde. Le ronflement des ruisseaux debordes emplissait les rues désertes où les maisons, comme des éponges buvaient soaking. (Maupassant)/ wind gusts breathed heavy heat. Deserted streets filled with the sound of flooded streams; houses, like sponges, absorb moisture. (Tran. BUT. H. Chebotarevskaya)

b) Infinitive of limiting verbs accompanied by a time condition indicates a single action that happened at the time indicated by the situation. Its Russian equivalent is perfect. If it is necessary to emphasize the action in its development, in its process, there may be an imperfect past tense. In Russian, in such cases, the adverb "already" is often used. Let's compare:

Five minutes plus tard, l'auto du chef s' arrê tait devant la grille. /Five minutes later, the chef's car stopped (already stopped) in front of the gate.

Based on this meaning of imparfait lies its use as a means of selection (imparfait stylistique). Its Russian equivalent is the past perfect tense:

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Vingt jours avant moi, le 15 août 1768, naissait dans unautre île, l'homme qui a mis fin à l'ancienne société, Bonaparte. / Twenty days before me, August 15, 1768, the man who put an end to the old society was born on another island – Bonaparte.

The equivalent of the imparfait in the sense of "Présent du passé" is the present tense of the Russian verb:

Il m'a dit qu'il connaissait bien cet homme. /He told me he knew this man well.

If the simultaneity of the actions of the main and subordinate clauses comes from a common sense, for example, with verbs of perception, then the equivalent of the imperfect can be the present and past tense of the imperfect form. Compare:

Il n'entendait pas ce qu'elle./He didn't hear what she said.

c) Imperfait in conditional sentences has the following equivalents:

The Russian equivalent of the imperfect in the subjunctive clause is the subjunctive mood:

Si je ne le savais pas en Amérique en bonne position, je croirais que c'est lui./If I had not known that he was in a good position in America, I would have believed that he was.

In a comparative sentence entered with a conjunction, it also corresponds to the subordinate clause:

Elle prend soin de cet enfant comme si c'é tait son propre fils./She takes care of this child as if she were her own son.

In Russian comparative sentences introduced by the Union, the equivalent of the imperfect acts as the past tense:

Il la regardait d'un air étonné comme s'il la voyait rou la première fois./ He looked in wonder, as if seeing her for the first time

d) Imparfait in the independent conditional sentence, as well as in the main part of the conditional sentence, in M. Rigel's terminology, means an action that can become the inevitable consequence of another imaginary action. « une Imminence contrecarrée". In Russian, this meaning is given in the form of an inflectional complement with strengthening adverbs:

S'il se fût prênt à ce moment-là, il gagnait son procès./ If he had appeared then, he would have won the trial.

e) Imparfait can then mean the polite form of wishes, suggestions, requests in the form of a question.

This modal meaning in Russian is expressed by incorrect negation in the interrogative form of the infinitive. Not and not at all, if the action belongs to the interlocutor and the speaker himself at the same time: J'y vais ce soir, si ensemble? / I'm going there tonight, do you want to go with us?

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If the action belongs only to the interlocutor, in Russian, an incorrect negative question is used to convey this modal meaning, not in the future perfect tense:

Over the etouf ici. Si tu ouvrais la fenêtre?/ It's stuffy here. Can't open the window?

In both cases, the future tense can be used with modals:

Si on at allait ensemble? Si tu ouvrais la fenetre?/ Maybe we'll go together? Maybe you don't open the window?

The large number of tenses in French makes it difficult for beginners to learn it. For simplicity, 19 temporal forms are sometimes named, such as Présent, Imparfait, Passé Composé, etc.

In French, Imparfait is one of the first tenses studied, along with Présent and Passé Composé. In this article, you will learn the situations in which the Imparfait is used, how it is formed, and how it differs from the Passé Composé.

When should you use "Imparfait"?

In French, the Imparfait is the past tense. Past tenses are used when we want to talk about past events. The French tense of Imparfait refers to an incomplete past tense. In other words, it is the definition of a process that does not have a clear beginning and end.

To make this more clear, consider the following examples:

La jeune fille dansait bien. – The girl danced beautifully.

-Ma mère a préparé le dîner – My mother prepared dinner.

Paul ecrivait une lettre a son ami. Pavel was writing a letter to his friend.

Note that actions are not limited to any time frame. This is the essence of the Imparfait temporal form – to show the process itself.

The French Imparfait is comparable to the English Past Continuous. If you have studied the latter, you will see that these times are very similar. They are used in the same speech situations.

How to form the imperfect tense

You need to remember the plan of action to form the time correctly. Let's analyze the French verb "chercher", which is translated into Russian as "to search".

To begin with, we look for an unstressed stem, that is, the stem of a verb in the first person plural:

We put the verb in the 1st person plural form: nous cherchons.

We remove the ending -ons from the resulting form: cherch-ons = cherch-.

Thus, we have a tension-free base that creates Imparfait shapes.

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We add the Imparfait endings to the resulting base:

Je church-+-ais

Tu church- + -ais

Il church- + -ait

Church of Nous- + -ions

Church of vous- + -iez

Ils church- + -aient

Je cherchais le cinema. – I'm looking for a movie.

Nous cherchions notre cabinete. We are looking for our office.

Ils cherchaient l "entrée. – They are looking for an entrance.

Chercher belongs to the first group of verbs. Verbs of the second and third groups have their own characteristics.

Verbs of the second group in the plural form have the suffix -iss between the stem and the ending (Je bâtis. Nous bâtissons. — I am building. We are building). In this case, the basis is batiss-

There is one exception for the third group – the verb être: nous sommes, but nous étions.

What is the difference between Imparfait and Passé Composé

In French, Imparfait and Passe Composé are two past tenses that are often confused. Let's find out what their differences are.

The French imperfect is used when the action is incomplete. Passé Composé, on the other hand, refers to an action that has already taken place.

Compare the cases of Imparfait and Passé Compose:

Je mangeais le pain beurre. – I ate bread and butter.

J'ai mangé le pain beurré. – I ate buttered bread.

Il pleuvait. – It was raining.

Il a plu pendent trois heures. – It rained for three hours. (Pendent – during. Although the preposition indicates a process, for French it is a temporal restriction).

Nous jouions or volleyball. – We played volleyball.

Hier nous avons joué au volleyball jusqu "au soir. – We played football until late yesterday.

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Imparfait de l'indicatif (past imperfect or imperfect tense) refers to past actions in progress.

Elle mangait unbonbon.- He ate sweets.

Michel marchait – Michel walked slowly.

Il Faysait beau ce jour-la.- The weather was wonderful that day.

Shape formation

Forms are formed in the present tense by adding a special number to the first person plural stem (see verb conjugation in Présent de l "indicative"). An exception is the verb être, which has the stem ét- in the imperfect: j" etc. ais, tu etc. ais, etc.

You can learn more about the conjugations of the first, second and third group of verbs on the page of the typical conjugation of French verbs.

Meaning and application

The imperfect is used to express an unfinished or repetitive action that happened in the past. In Russian, for example, it often corresponds to the past tense of the imperfect verbs did, saw, ate.

The imperfect expresses an action without indicating the beginning or end, and is often used to describe.

Elle etais Tres Jolie.

He was very beautiful.

Il nageait tres vite.

He was swimming very fast.

Pay special attention to the following usage:

The imparfait is used to express simple or repetitive actions, and the verb is often accompanied by the following cases: habituelte, souvent, toujours, chaque fois, de temps en temps, etc.

Je me réveille generally à sept heures.

I usually wake up at seven o'clock.

Nous allons souvent au cinéma./ We often go to the cinema.

The imperfect is used to show actions that are done at the same time.

Elle lisait un livre quand il est entre.

He was reading a book when she entered.

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Imparfait can be used in a variety of polite formulas.

In interrogative phrases, the imperfect can be used after the conjunction si to express a wish, a polite request, or an offer.

Si on allait au cine ce soir?

Maybe we'll go to the movies tonight?

On boit du café?

Shall we have coffee?

Imperfait can express a condition or proposition in the present or the future, in a sentence following the conjunction si. In this case, the present tense is used in the main clause.

Si j'avais assez de temps, je le passerais avec toi.

If I had enough time, I would spend it with you.

Il partirait, s "il le pouvait.

He would go if possible.

- Mes parents m'appellent tous les soirs.
- My parents call me every evening.
- Chaque jour Sophie se lev ait très tot, allum ait la lampe dans la cuisine pren ait son petit déjeuner
 - Every day Sofia gets up very early, turns on the light and has breakfast in the kitchen.
- ✓ Description of nature, environment, ; in the story: in and stories, often after the words A cette époque la, developed:
 - -Il fais ait chaud, le soleil brill ait les oisaient dans les arbres.
 - The weather is warm, the sun is shining and the birds are freely walking in the trees.
 - Roger était un garçon grand, intelligent et drôle.
 - Roger was a tall, smart and funny boy.
 - Ces derniers temps au travaille, j'ai l'impression que je n', pas vraiment, etc.
 - Acette époque-la les enfants n'all aient pasà l'école.
 - The children did not go to school at that time.
 - ✓ Action that almost happened to mark:



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- Le train serait en retard dans peu de temps.
- It would be late for the train after a while.
- \checkmark To show an action that happened in parallel (=simultaneously) with another action (with or):

In the clause following conjunctions: kwand- when, when; lorsk- when, when; pendant quetime; chaque fois que – every time; tandis que- time, time;

- She welcomed the factor pour une douche.
- He hosted the postman to take a shower.

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