Spanish

Describing a Special Day [2/ 3]
- How to use verbs reflexively in the imperfect tense

Señor Malhi

[e]

escu**e**la

enero

[e]

perro

elefant**e**

estudiar
[to study]

España

rezar	to pray, praying
enseguida	immediately
el villancico	carol
el pavo	turkey
el Domingo de Pascua	Easter Sunday
la Nochebuena	Christmas Eve
la Nochevieja	New Years Eve
la iglesia	church

Using verbs reflexively in the imperfect tense

Use reflexive verbs in the imperfect tense to describe actions that occurred *continuously* in the past. In the past (imperfect) also use *me* in front of the verb. Use the 'I' endings for the imperfect: **-ar** verbs → stem+ **aba**, **-er/-ir** verbs → stem+ **ía**

I **used to** brush my hair.

Me pein**aba**.

I **used to** get dressed.

Me vest**ía**.

La Nochebuena

1. En el pasado, **celebraba/me celebraba** la Nochebuena en la casa de mis abuelos.

2. Primero, **despertaba/me despertaba** temprano y **duchaba/me duchaba** enseguida.

3. Luego, iba a la iglesia con toda la familia y **rezaba/me rezaba.**

4. Finalmente **comía/me comía** el pavo de mi abuela y **cantaba/me cantaba** villancicos toda la noche.

Translation Practice

Copy the sentences below and translate them into English.

1. Antes, rezaba mucho en la iglesia.

2. De niño, me despertaba muy temprano.

3. De pequeña, me vestía con ropa nueva para Nochevieja.

4. En el pasado, comía huevos el Domingo de Pascua.

5. En la escuela primaria, cantaba villancicos.

Respuesta

1. Before, I used to pray a lot in the church.
2. As a child, I used to get up very early.
3. When I was little, I used to wear new clothes for New Years Eve.
4. In the past, I used to eat eggs for Easter Sunday.
5. In primary school, I used to sing carols.

Respuestas

1. The imperfect describes an action that took place _____**continuously**_____.
2. The ending for -AR verbs is _____**-aba**_____.
3. The ending for -ER/-IR verbs is _____**-ía**_____.
4. "Me duchaba" is
   I used to have a shower
5. '*I used to wake up immediately*' is:
   Me despertaba enseguida