

## *Imperfetto/Passato Remoto*

**Passato remoto**, like **passato prossimo**, is often used with **imperfetto** in the same sentence or paragraph.

**Passato remoto**, like **passato prossimo**, refers to events and facts that happened and were completed in the past.

**Imperfetto**, instead, describes situations, conditions, actions in progress, dates, and age.

In general the **imperfetto** establishes the settings or background behind the events expressed in the **passato prossimo** or **passato remoto**.

Study the contrast between **passato remoto** and **imperfetto** in the following examples where it is contextualized:

Quando <b>avevo</b> sette anni, <b>viaggiai</b> in Francia con mio padre.	<i>When I was seven, I travelled to France with my father.</i>
Mio nonno <b>morì</b> nel 1954, quando i miei genitori <b>erano</b> all'estero per lavoro.	<i>My grandfather died in 1954 when my parents were abroad for work.</i>
I miei nonni <b>volevano</b> emigrare in America, ma poi <b>cominciò</b> la guerra e il governo <b>chiuse</b> le frontiere.	<i>My grandparents wanted to emigrate to America, but then the war started and the government closed the borders.</i>
Mio nonno <b>portava</b> gli occhiali ed <b>aveva</b> alcuni problemi di salute, così <b>pensava</b> che non lo avrebbero chiamato per il servizio militare. Invece, lo <b>chiamarono</b> e <b>dovette</b> partire.	<i>My grandfather wore glasses and had some health problems, so he thought that they would not call him to serve in the military. Instead they called him and he had to leave.</i>
<b>Lavoravo</b> come cameriere sull'Isola d'Ischia quando <b>conobbi</b> mia moglie.	<i>I was working as a waiter on the Island of Ischia when I met my wife.</i>