

USED TO: PAST HABITS & STATES

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Describe past habits and situations that are no longer true.

1. READ: An old swimming pool

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Sara: They're turning the old pool into a library.
Neil: Really? I **used to swim** there every Saturday.
Sara: So did I. **Did you use to go** with the school club?
Neil: No, with my dad. I **used to be** scared of the deep end.
Sara: I remember those diving boards. I never went near them.
Neil: I **didn't use to like** them either. Now I miss the place.

2. GRAMMAR: Past compared with now

Use **used to** + base verb for past habits or states that are no longer true.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Positive	used to + base verb	I used to swim there.
Negative	didn't use to + base verb	I didn't use to like it.
Question	Did + subject + use to...?	Did you use to go?

Habits: We used to play outside every evening. **States:** I used to be shy.

After **did/didn't**, write **use to**, not **used to**.

For one completed event, use the past simple: I went there last Saturday.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. I used to live / lived near the sea.
2. Did she use / used to work here?
3. We didn't use / used to have a car.
4. He used to was / be very quiet.
5. I visited / visit Jo yesterday.
6. They use / used to walk to school years ago.
7. Did you use to play / playing tennis?
8. I didn't use to like / liked coffee.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Growing up

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the words in brackets.

1. I _____ (used to / live) in a small village, but now I live in a city.
2. We _____ (used to / walk) to school every day.
3. I _____ (not / use to / have) a phone when I was young.
4. _____ (you / use to / play) outside after school?
5. My parents _____ (used to / know) all our neighbours.
6. Last year, I _____ (visit) the village for one afternoon.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite with used to or didn't use to.

Example: I was shy, but I'm not now. **I used to be shy.**

1. I walked to school, but I don't now.

2. I didn't like tea, but I do now.

3-4: Make questions about the past habit. Example: She used to dance. **Did she use to dance?**

3. They used to live here.

4. You used to have a dog.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three contrasts between your past and present. Include one negative with didn't use to.

Example: **I used to cycle to school. I didn't use to enjoy reading, but I do now.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Compare childhood habits. Ask **Did you use to...?** and a follow-up question.

Find one habit that has changed for both of you.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: An old swimming pool

Sample target language from the conversation:

Neil: Really? I **used to swim** there every Saturday.

Sara: So did I. **Did you use to go** with the school club?

Neil: No, with my dad. I **used to be** scared of the deep end.

Neil: I **didn't use to like** them either. Now I miss the place.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 1. live | 2. use |
| 3. use | 4. be |
| 5. visited | 6. used |
| 7. play | 8. like |

B. COMPLETE: Growing up

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. used to live | 2. used to walk |
| 3. didn't use to have | 4. Did you use to play |
| 5. used to know | 6. visited |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. I used to walk to school.
2. I didn't use to like tea.
3. Did they use to live here?
4. Did you use to have a dog?

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: I used to share a room. I used to play football every day. I didn't use to like vegetables.

Teacher note: Do not confuse used to with be used to. The latter is a separate B2 topic in the plan.