

PAST HABITS: USED TO, WOULD & SIMPLE

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Choose forms for repeated actions, states and single events.

1. READ: Remembering a family shop

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

Kim: Did your grandparents really run a bookshop?

Leo: Yes. They **used to own** the place beside the post office.

Kim: Did you help there?

Leo: Every Saturday, I'd **arrange** the postcards, then Grandad **would make** us tea.

Kim: That sounds lovely.

Leo: It was. I **used to love** those mornings. They **sold** the shop in 2015. I miss it.

2. GRAMMAR: Repeated action, continuing state or one event

Used to: habits/states; would: repeated actions in a past context; past simple: also single events.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Habit / state	used to + base verb	They used to own a shop.
Repeated action	would + base verb	On Saturdays, I'd help.
One event	past simple	They sold it in 2015.

Establish the past context before using habitual would.

Would is not normally used for a continuing state here: used to own/love, not would own/love.

Past simple can describe habits too; it need not explicitly contrast them with now.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. They used to own / would own the shop for years.
2. On Saturdays, I would help / helping.
3. They sold / used to sell the whole business once, in 2015.
4. I used to be / would be shy as a child.
5. Grandad would make / made to tea every afternoon.
6. We would visited / visit every weekend.
7. She used to know / would know all the neighbours.
8. Last Tuesday I visited / used to visit once.

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

PAST HABITS: USED TO, WOULD & SIMPLE

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

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

B. COMPLETE: Memories of a bookshop

Use the given habitual form or past simple for a single completed event.

1. My grandparents _____ (used to / own) a bookshop.
2. Every Saturday, I _____ (would / arrange) the postcards.
3. Afterwards, Grandad _____ (would / make) tea.
4. I _____ (used to / love) spending time there.
5. They _____ (sell) the business once, in 2015.
6. Last week, I _____ (visit) the building for the first time in years.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite the repeated action using would.

Example: Each Sunday, we walked there. **Each Sunday, we would walk there.**

1. Each evening, we played cards.
2. Every Friday, she cooked for us.

3-4: Use used to for the state; past simple for the single event. Example: I was shy as a child. **I used to be shy.**

3. I lived there, but I don't now.
4. He buy the shop once in 2015. (correct)

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Describe a past routine with a repeated action, a state and one single event. Use suitable forms.

Example: **We used to live near a park. Every Sunday, we would walk there. We moved in 2018.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Tell your partner about a childhood place or routine.

Establish the past context, then describe repeated actions with **would** and states with **used to**.

PAST HABITS: USED TO, WOULD & SIMPLE

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: Remembering a family shop

Sample target language from the conversation:

Leo: Yes. They **used to own** the place beside the post office.

Leo: Every Saturday, I'd **arrange** the postcards, then Grandad **would make** us tea.

Leo: It was. I **used to love** those mornings. They **sold** the shop in 2015. I miss it.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. used to own | 2. help |
| 3. sold | 4. used to be |
| 5. make | 6. visit |
| 7. used to know | 8. visited |

B. COMPLETE: Memories of a bookshop

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. used to own | 2. would arrange |
| 3. would make | 4. used to love |
| 5. sold | 6. visited |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. Each evening, we would play cards.
2. Every Friday, she would cook for us.
3. I used to live there.
4. He bought the shop once in 2015.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: We used to live near the sea. On Sundays, we would swim. We moved away in 2010.

Teacher note: Both would and used to can describe many repeated actions; the selected tasks specify a form. Some repeated temporary states allow would, but avoid the simple blanket rule that would never describes states.