

Grammar Used To

Repeated Actions in the Past with Used to 1

- We need **used to + infinitive** to compare the past with the present: *'I **used to** eat fish, but now I don't.'* We use it to discuss repeated actions (habits) and states in the past which are not true now.
- Time: completed actions in general past – not a specific time: *'I **used to** play the piano **last Friday** / **in 1989**.'*
- Positive: **used to** / Negative: **did not use to** / Question: **did you use to?** (auxiliary verb: did)
- Note: **use to** sounds the same as **used to** because of connected speech, but we should write **use to**.
- The second clause is often **present simple** or **present perfect**, e.g. *'I **used to** like Uno, but I **haven't** played in ages.'*
- If nothing has changed, we can use **still**: *'I **used to** like pasta and I **still** do.'*
- Can be used as an alternative to past simple; not connected with verb **'to use'** or the construction **'get / be used to'**.
- We can use **would** in a similar way to used to – especially to tell a story – but not with past states, e.g. be, have, etc.

when I was younger / in my youth when I was a child / a teenager when I was at school / university in the past / a few years ago when I worked at... / for... [no time = general past]	I used to + infinitive	BUT	now / nowadays / these days / lately at the moment / currently / presently recently since then for the last few...	present simple / present perfect
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Activities – you might think of more!

1. Write sentences with **used to + infinitive** in positive (+), negative (-), or question form (?). Use the information below, which is about the past. Imagine what has changed, e.g. *'Philip **used to** live in Newcastle, but now he lives in London.'*
2. Choose a category. Ask your partner a question with used to. They answer. You guess whether it is true or false.
3. Your partner says a category + name and you have x seconds to say / write the sentence with used to (+), (-), or (?).
4. Tell a story with each situation, e.g. *'Philip **used to** live in Newcastle, but he moved to London in 2014 because...'*
5. Write comparative sentences, e.g. *'Alan **used to** live in a house, **while / whereas** his dad **used to** live in a bungalow.'*

Category:	Philip:	Alan (Philip's Dad):	Ralph (Philip's Grandad):
home	+ Newcastle	- house	? bungalow
family	- married	? married	+ live alone
work	? shop assistant	+ courier	- racing driver
hobbies	+ video games	- pub quizzes	? rambling
friends	- Tim and the uni gang	? Roland and Marta	+ many good friends
appearance	? beard	+ hippy	- grey hair
music	+ rave	- Fleetwood Mac	? Frank Sinatra
sport	- Manchester United	? golf	+ rugby
clothes	? shell suit	+ flares	- three-piece suit
phone	+ Android	- iPhone 8	? landline
dental health	- excellent	? good	+ poor
ambition	? to be a pilot	+ to get promoted	- to live to be a hundred
weight	+ average build	- overweight	? very slim
money	- doing OK	? rich	+ fairly well off
breakfast	? corn flakes with milk	+ a boiled egg	- sardines