



We used to live in the centre of a large city. We used to go out every night. We'd go out to eat or we'd go to the cinema, or the theatre or to exhibitions. Then we had kids and moved to the country.



Now our lives are very different.

## Presentation

### **used to**

Use *used to* to talk about past habits, situations or states:

We **used to** go out every night. (habit)

We **used to** live in the city. (situation)

We **used to** be city people. (state)

You use *used to* only to talk about habits in the past.

Use the present simple and *usually* (or other adverbs of frequency) to talk about habits in the present:

We **don't usually** go out at the weekend. (don't say *I don't use to go out at the weekend.*)

You can also use the past simple to talk about past habits:

We **went** out every night.

We **used** to go out every night.

+	We used to live in the city.
-	She didn't use to like the country.
?	Did you use to go out every night?
Yes/No	Yes, we did. / No, we didn't.

**TIP** Be careful with the question and negative forms: there is no *-d* on *use to*:

**Did you use to** have pets when you were in school?  
(don't say *Did you used to ...?*)

**I didn't use to** like dogs when I was younger. (don't say *I didn't used to ...*)

### **would**

You can also use *would/wouldn't* to talk about past habits: *We'd go out to eat or we'd go to the cinema.*

You use *would* to talk about actions but not to talk about states or situations: *We'd go to exhibitions.* (don't say *We'd live in the city.*)

### **Past simple**

Use the past simple, not *used to* or *would*, to talk about:

- a single past action: *We used to/would go to a great exhibition yesterday.*  
*We went to a great exhibition yesterday.*
- how long an action lasted: *I used to live in the city for three years.*  
*I lived in the city for three years.*
- the number of times an action was repeated in total: *We used to/would visit the museum at least a hundred times.*  
*We visited the museum at least a hundred times.*

## Exercises

1 Complete the conversation using the correct form of *used to* or short answers.

A: <sup>1</sup>..... (you live) in the country when you were a kid?

B: Yes, we <sup>2</sup>..... I loved it! We <sup>3</sup>..... (have) cats and dogs, and even a couple of chickens!

A: <sup>4</sup>..... (you/eat) their eggs?

B: Yes, we <sup>5</sup>..... (have to) collect the eggs every morning. We <sup>6</sup>..... (take) it in turns. My sister <sup>7</sup>..... (not like) looking after the chickens very much. She <sup>8</sup>..... (be) scared they'd peck her.

2 Rewrite the sentences using *used to* where possible.

1 I went to belly-dancing classes when I was at school.

I used to go to belly-dancing classes when I was at school.

2 I started my first classes when I was eight.

3 We took part in competitions.

4 I loved performing in front of an audience.

5 I continued dancing for almost six years.

6 Then I lost interest and I took up basketball instead.

7 I played in the school team and we trained every day of the week.

8 We were pretty good and we won three local championships.

3  Look at the verbs in bold. Replace *used to* with *would/wouldn't* where possible. Then listen and check.

I **used to** love chocolate. I **used to** eat it all day long. Some days I **didn't use to** eat anything else, until one day I developed an allergy to it – and now I can't eat it anymore!

I **used to** be scared of the dark. I **used to** refuse to go into a dark room on my own. My little sister **used to** hold my hand!

I **didn't use to** do any sport at all. I **used to** think I was fit and healthy enough without it. I **used to** spend all day at my desk and I **never used to** ever get any exercise. But then I broke my leg and I had to follow an intensive exercise programme. I actually enjoyed it and I've kept doing sport ever since.

1	—	4	.....	7	.....	9	.....
2	would	5	.....	8	.....	10	.....
3	.....	6	.....				

## 4 Complete the text so that it is true for you or someone you know.

When ..... was a kid, ..... used to ..... would always ..... and ..... would never .....