

UNIT 20 *Used to / Would*

A

Used to, followed by the base form of the verb, is the expression used to talk about actions or habits in the past.

Affirmative

Subject + **used to** + base form of verb.

This form suggests that the habit or situation has changed in the present.

I used to attend evening classes when I was in England. (now I don't any more)

We used to live on a farm back in the nineties. Now we live in a flat in town.

There used to be a fountain in this square.

She used to get up earlier then.

B

Negative

Subject + **didn't + use to** + base form of verb

The negative form is constructed using **didn't**, which is followed by **use to** (not: ~~used to~~) and the base form of the verb that expresses the action.

I didn't use to read detective stories, but I do know. (not: ~~I didn't used to...~~)

C

Interrogative

Did + subject + **use to** + base form of verb

Short answers

Yes, / No, + subject pronoun + auxiliary **did / didn't**.

Questions are formed using **did**, which is followed by the subject, **use to** (not: ~~used to~~) and the base form of the verb that expresses the action.

'Did you use to wear a uniform when you were in primary school?' (not: ~~Did you used to...~~) 'Yes, I did.'

D

Another way to talk about actions and habits in the past is by using the modal **would**. With this form, we don't specify whether the situation has changed or not in the present..

Subject + **would** + base form of verb

He would never make a decision.

They would go wherever they were needed.

Remember that a habit in the present is usually expressed using the **present simple** and a frequency adverb or an expression of time, such as **usually, every day**.

A habit in the past → *When I lived in town centre, I went / I used to / I would go to work by bus.*

A habit in the present → *Now I usually go to work by train.*

Student's notes

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EXERCISE

Used to / Would UNIT 20

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: -

20.1 Tick (✓) the correct sentence and correct the sentences with mistakes in them.

- 1 John use to play tennis for his school.
- 2 They used to live near the football stadium.
- 3 Molly and I used enjoy watching baseball.
- 4 I would never play hockey when I was at school.
- 5 You didn't used to watch cricket, but you do now.
- 6 Henry used to plays team sports more than he does now.
- 7 Sheridan and Tom used to be golf champions.
- 8 Their dad used win every boxing match.
- 9 I used to be thinking that rugby was great to watch.
- 10 Nina would play snooker all the time when we were on holiday.

20.2 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 Did you **used / use** to play cricket?
- 2 Is it true that Sammy **use / used** to run in marathons?
- 3 Tina didn't **used / use** to like watching boxing, but she does now.
- 4 Dave **used / use** to be a Chelsea supporter when he was a teenager.
- 5 They didn't **used / use** to have a hockey team at my school.
- 6 Did Suzy **used / use** to go kick-boxing classes?
- 7 'Did you use to run a lot?' 'No, I **not use / didn't**.'
- 8 Elizabeth **didn't / not did** use to work out at the gym as much as she does now.

20.3 Use the words to write sentences with the correct form of *used to*.

- 1 Leo / be / an excellent tennis player.
- 2 Nell / ride / her bike / every day
- 3 Bryan / not like / volleyball
- 4 I / own / an expensive cricket bat
- 5 you / go / skiing / every winter
- 6 my parents / not watch / sports on TV
- 7 your dad / be / a famous athlete?
- 8 she / plays / in the tennis tournament?

20.4 Complete the text with the words in the box

used (x 2) to be (x 2) use (x 3) ~~didn't~~

This is the new Gregshaw Sports Centre and it's fantastic. It ⁽¹⁾..... use ⁽²⁾..... like this, though. They didn't ⁽³⁾..... to have a pool here, and the gym ⁽⁴⁾..... to be a lot smaller than it is now. There didn't use ⁽⁵⁾..... a basketball court at the centre either. In fact, there only ⁽⁶⁾..... to be badminton courts, a small gym and a weight-training room. The old sports centre was originally built 30 years ago and local people didn't ⁽⁷⁾..... to go there often. There again, 30 years ago, people didn't ⁽⁸⁾..... to be as interested in keeping fit as they are today.

Teacher's observations