

THEME 4 TRADITIONS GRAMMAR

USED TO

We use *used to*:

• to describe past habits.

Charlie used to play volleyball when he was younger, but now he doesn't.

My father used to smoke, but he stopped smoking five years ago.

• to describe permanent past states.

Julia used to be skinny when she was at high school.

We used to live in Chicago, but we moved to New York in 2014.

• to describe repeated actions in the past.

I used to go hiking in my free time, but I don't any more.

David used to go to the cinema a lot, but now he doesn't.

Affirmative sentences:

My mother used to drive to work, but now she goes to work by bus.

My brother used to suck his thumb when he was three years old.

Negative sentences:

I didn't use to get up so early when I was at university.

My son didn't use to like eating spinach when he was a child.

My parents didn't use to work so hard until they opened their own restaurant a few years ago.

Questions:

Did you use to listen to Turkish folk music when you were younger?

Did Tina use to live in a village when she was at primary school?

What did people use to do in their free time in this country a hundred years ago?

A. Answer the questions.

1. Did you use to watch animation movies when you were a child?
2. Did you use to bite your nails when you were younger?
3. Did you use to be a hardworking student when you were at secondary school?
4. Did your mother use to tell you bedtime stories when you were five years old?
5. What did you use to do in your free time last year?

B. Complete the sentences with "used to"

1. She _____ (save) some of her pocket money.
2. My brother _____ (be) the first in his team but now he isn't.
3. Did Mary _____ (do) yoga every day? No, she didn't.
4. The magician _____ (do) good tricks at the circus when he worked there.
5. Bernard _____ (sell) cars but now he works in a school.
6. Lorena _____ (ride) her motorbike but he drives a car now.
7. The cook _____ (prepare) delicious soups five years ago.
8. Josephine _____ (work) at a travel agency in Paris.
9. The two friends _____ (go) to the mountains every weekend. They loved it.
10. Lucy _____ (dance) at home but now he prefers walking in the country.

C. Complete the sentences with used to + an appropriate verb.

1. My sister _____ long hair but she cut it last week.
2. This building is now a cafe but it _____ a popular pastry shop when I was young.
3. I've started drinking drip coffee these days but I never _____ it before.
4. I _____ sports regularly in the past but now I am too lazy.
5. There _____ only one shop in the village but now there are more than three, I suppose.
6. Jack and Susan _____ a lot but now they have three children and they don't go away very often.
7. Do you see that plain over there? There _____ a cottage in the middle of it when I was a child.
8. Tom _____ a motor-cycle in the past, now he has a brand-new car.
9. My mother _____ delicious meals for us in the past, but now she is too busy with her office work, so we generally eat out.
10. I _____ a lot of sweets when I was a child but I must be careful with my diet now.

D. Read the answers and ask the questions.

1. _____ ?

Yes, my father used to have a moustache when he was younger.

2. _____ ?

No, I didn't. I used to live in a detached house when I was a child.

3. _____ ?

John used to **play table tennis** after school last year.

4. _____ ?

I used to go to school **on foot** when I was twelve years old.

E. Think about your past habits. Make at least five sentences as in the examples.

I used to drink milk every evening, but I don't any more.

I didn't use to like pop music, but now I do.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

F. Now think about your parents' past habits. Make sentences as in the examples.

My mother used to make a cake every Saturday, but she doesn't any more.

My father didn't use to walk to work, but now he does.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____