
Used To

We normally use the expression "used to" to talk about an action or, better, a habit in the past and finished. It stopped to exist at the present time.

. EXAMPLES

A. Affirmative

In this form the expression "used to" is used to describe a long lasting action, a state or a habit in the past. The sentence tells us indirectly that what you are talking about has ceased to exist.

1. I used to go with my mother everywhere she went. (this habit stopped now as I get older)
2. We used to live in a large house (but now we live in a smaller one)
3. Leila used to have dinner very late at night (Now she no longer does)

Rule

As you might have noticed, "USED TO" is followed by a verb in the infinitive without "to" and this is the rule.

used to + verb*

used to	go
used to	live
used to	have

B. Negative

In this form the 'd' of "used to" is omitted because the auxiliary 'did' does its job:

did + not + use to + verb*

I **did not** use to *eat* onions.

1. I didn't use to go to school by bike. (but now I do)
2. Leila didn't use to wear a scarf. (but now she does)
3. Eric didn't use to get up early. (but now he does)

C. Interrogative

Like with the negative form, when we want to ask a question about a repeated action, a state, or a habit in the past, the auxiliary '**did**' takes the role of the '**d**' of 'used to'.

The form is as follows:

did + subj + use to + verb*

Did you use to *smoke*?

1. Did she use to eat pork?
2. Where did you use to spend your holidays?
3. What did you use to have for breakfast when you were in China?
4. Which school subject did you use to like when you were at the primary school?
5. Where did they use to live?

* **verb** in the infinitive without 'to'

Practice

A/ Fill in the blanks with "used to" or "use to".

1. Leila's grandfather _____ be a soldier during World War II.
2. His children didn't _____ enjoy his stories about the war.
3. Did your grandfather _____ work for the army?
4. My grandfather _____ drive a military van.
5. Those soldiers didn't _____ like Hitler.

Key (see elsewhere)

B/ Can you tell what these sentences want to say. Use expressions with "used / use to"

Example

I no longer live with my parents. => **I used to live with my parents.**

1. We don't listen to long songs anymore. _____
2. John doesn't play tennis well anymore. _____
3. People no longer travel on horseback. _____
4. They no longer swim in the river. _____
5. These students aren't interested in philosophy anymore. _____
6. The neighbours no longer trust each other. _____
7. My sister doesn't bring me chocolate tablets anymore. _____

Key (see elsewhere)

C/ Write five sentences talking about the things you used to or didn't use to do in the past.

- _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
-

KEY

A/ Fill in the blanks with "used to" or "use to".

- Leila's grandfather **used to** be a soldier during World War II.
- His children didn't **use to** enjoy his stories about the war.
- Did your grandfather **use to** work for the army?
- My grandfather **used to** drive a military van.
- Those soldiers didn't **use to** like Hitler.

B/ Can you tell what these sentences want to say. Use expressions with "used / use to"

Example

I no longer live with my parents. => **I used to live with my parents.**

- We don't listen to long songs anymore. We used to listen to long songs
- John doesn't play tennis well anymore. He used to play tennis well.
- People no longer travel on horseback. They used to travel on horseback.
- They no longer swim in the river. They used to swim in the river.
- These students aren't interested in philosophy anymore. They used to be interested in philosophy.
- The neighbours no longer trust each other. They used to trust each other.
- My sister doesn't bring me chocolate tablets anymore. She used to bring me chocolate tablets.

C/ Write five sentences talking about the things you used to or didn't use to do in the past.

It's up to you now to do this

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____