

past and present habits and states

- 1 I **used to teach** English when I was living abroad. 5.16
He **didn't use to do** any exercise, but now he runs marathons.
I **never used to like** football, but I watch it every week now.
We **used to be** close friends, but we don't talk to each other any more.
That hotel **used to have** a swimming pool, but they closed it.
Did they **use to live** in the city centre?
Didn't you **use to have** long hair?
- 2 I **usually meet** my friends at weekends.
I **don't normally go out** during the week.
English houses **usually have** gardens.
Do you **normally walk** to work?

- 1 For past habits and states, we use *used to* / *didn't use to* + infinitive.
- used to* does not exist in the present tense. **NOT** ~~*I use to*~~ *get up at 8.00 during the week.*
 - We use *used to* for things that were true over a period of time in the past. *used to* often refers to something which is not true now.
I used to do a lot of sport. (= I did a lot of sport for a period of time in the past, but now I don't)
 - We often use *never used to* instead of *didn't use to*.
 - used to* / *didn't use to* can be used with action verbs (e.g. *go, do*) and non-action verbs (e.g. *be, have*).
 - We can also use the past simple to describe past habits (often with an adverb of frequency).
We (often) went to France for our holidays when I was a child.

- 2 For present habits, we use a verb in the present simple, often with an adverb of frequency, e.g. *usually* or *normally*.

used to or past simple?

We can use *used to* or the past simple (often with an adverb of frequency) for repeated actions or states and the meaning is the same.

I used to live in Leeds as a child. I lived in Leeds as a child.

We used to go to the cinema on Saturdays. We often went to the cinema on Saturdays.

But we have to use the past simple if:

- we mention exact dates or number of times.
- the action happened only once.

We went to the cinema on Saturday.

any more and any longer

We often use *not... any more* / *any longer* (= not now) with the present simple to contrast with *used to*.

I used to go to the gym, but I don't (go) any more / any longer.

be used to and get used to

Don't confuse *used to* / *didn't use to* (do sth) with *be used to* or *get used to* (doing sth).

I am used to getting up early every day. (= I am accustomed to it – I always do it, so it is not a problem for me)

Lola **can't get used to living** in the UK. (= She can't get accustomed to it, it's a problem for her)

- a Are the **highlighted** verb forms right (✓) or wrong (X)? Correct the wrong ones.

When I was a teenager I **use to have** very short hair. X **used to have**

- I **didn't used to like** my maths teacher when I was at school.
- Do you usually tell** close friends about your problems?
- My sister never **didn't use to want** children, but now she's got four!
- How **used you to keep in touch** in the days before the internet?
- They **used to go** on holiday together every winter because they all love skiing.
- That couple have three kids, so they **don't usually go** out at night.
- Did your parents use to meet** each other at university?
- My husband **use to work** for a bank, but now he's unemployed.
- We love the theatre. Nowadays, we **use to go** to a play at least once a month.

- b Complete with *used to* + infinitive or *usually* + present simple (+, -, or ?) and a verb from the list.

argue be eat eat out get on go have
play speak watch work

My brother **didn't use to eat** vegetables, but now he loves them.

- We _____ a lot in common, but now we're completely different.
- We _____ to bed early during the week because we have to get up at 6.00 a.m.
- I _____ TV on my phone, but now I often do.
- _____ you _____ football on Sunday mornings? Could I join you next weekend?
- They love sushi so they _____ in Japanese restaurants.
- Where _____ your husband _____ before he got the job in the bank?
- My sister has lost a lot of weight. She never _____ so slim.
- _____ you _____ a lot with your parents when you were a teenager?
- Laura _____ really well with her flatmates, but they occasionally argue about housework.
- My ex-boyfriend _____ to me, but now he calls me quite often.