

USED TO

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn how and when to use the form 'used to'.
Key Goals	Here is an outline of what you will learn today: 1. When to use the 'used to' form 2. Formation of the affirmative form of 'used to' 3. Formation of the negative form of 'used to' 4. Formation of the interrogative form of 'used to'

1. When to use the 'used to' form

We use **used to** when we speak about something that **happened in the past** which is **no longer true**.

We can talk about:

- repeated actions

Example:

We used to play basketball every Saturday.

- a state or situation

Example:

There used to be a restaurant here.

Formation of the affirmative form of 'used to'

used to + verb in infinitive form

Examples:

I used to play a trumpet, but I stopped ten years ago.

There used to be a tree here, but they cut it down.

He used to be my boyfriend, but we broke up last week.

Note: because the 'used to' phrase always refers to the past; it should always be in the past form:

Exercise:

Transform the following sentences about actions / states in the past using the phrase "used to":

1. In the past, I played football.

2. In the past, they had a dog.

3. She was a model when she was younger.

4. Years ago, we went on holiday to France every year.

Answers:

1. I used to play football.
2. They used to have a dog.
3. She used to be a model (when she was younger).
4. We used to go on holiday to France.

2. Formation of the negative form of 'used to'

didn't use to + verb in infinitive form

We use the negative form when we wish to express something that was not true in the past, but it is true now.

Examples:

I didn't use to like ice cream but now I love it.

She didn't use to go swimming so often, but now she goes three times a week.

Exercise:

Put the following affirmative sentence into negative form.

1. I used to watch many horror movies.

_____.

2. They used to visit their grandparents often.

_____.

3. She used to have a black cat named Kitty.

_____.

4. Sarah used to work for a big car company.

_____.

Answers:

1. I didn't use to watch many horror movies.
2. They didn't use to visit their grandparents often,
3. She didn't use to have a black cat named Kitty.
4. Sarah didn't use to work for a big car company.

3. Formation of the interrogative form of 'used to'

did + subject + use to + verb in infinitive form

or

didn't + subject + use to + verb in infinitive form

We use this form when we wish to find out if a person did or didn't do in the past.

Examples:

Didn't you used to go to Oxford?

Did you used to live in Madrid?

Didn't you use to like Metallica?

Exercise:

Rewrite the questions using the interrogative form of used to.

1. Did you go to Spain on holidays in the past?

_____.

2. Didn't you have a dog named Rex?

_____.

3. Didn't your parents live in Berlin in the past?

_____.



Answers:

1. Did you use to go to Spain on holidays (in the past)?
2. Didn't you use to have a dog named Rex?
3. Didn't your parents use to live in Berlin?

Learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvjdYDhyfv4>

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/used-to>

https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verbs-m_used-be-used-to.htm