

2.5 used to

We use **used to** to talk about past states or actions which happened regularly in the past but do not happen anymore.

*I **used to play** tennis a lot. (I don't play anymore or I don't play very often.)*

*He **didn't use to be** so unkind. (But he's different now.)*

***Did you use to study** astronomy? (You don't study anymore.)*

When we talk about single actions that happened only once or that did not happen regularly, we use the Past Simple, **not used to**.

*In high school we **went** to the mountains two or three times.*

*Kim **bought** a new mobile phone yesterday.*

Affirmative				Negative			
I/You/ He/She/ It/We/ They	used to		swim.	I/You/ He/She/ It/ We/ They	didn't (did not) use to		swim.
Yes/No questions				Short answers			
Did	I/you/ he/she/ it/we/ they	use to	swim?	Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they did . No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they didn't .			
Wh- questions				Subject questions			
Where	did	I/you/ he/ she/ it/we/ they	use to swim?	Who	used to		swim?

1 Complete the sentences with **used to** and the verbs in brackets.

- Kim _____ (be) much more confident about herself.
- _____ (our neighbours/live) abroad before they moved here?
- My boyfriend's friends _____ (not like) me.
- Who _____ (cook) you dinner when you were ten years old?
- _____ (you/have) a mobile phone when you were very little?

2 Write sentences from the prompts. Use **used to** where possible. If not, use the Past Simple.

- I / go to the cinema / with my grandparents / every week

- we / not have / mobile phones or computers

- my family / move / to San Francisco

- I / get / a digital watch / for my seventh birthday

- he / eat / sweets / every day

3 Complete the sentences with **used to** or **didn't use to** and the verbs in brackets.

- Ten years ago I _____ (love) cycling in the park. Now I don't even have a bike.
- I _____ (use) my old phone much, but then I got a smartphone and I use it all the time now.
- My grandfather _____ (be) an astronomer, but now he's stopped working.
- We _____ (take) measurements using a really big computer. Now we use an app on a tablet.
- Paulina got an MP3 player for her birthday. Before then, she _____ (listen) to music very often.
- Did Antek really _____ (have) the same password for everything? How silly!

4 Complete the dialogue between Ben and his dad with **used to** or **didn't use to** and the verbs in the box.

[do find go meet use write]

- B: Dad, where did you¹ _____ information before somebody invented the Internet?
- D: Good question. I² _____ to the library, of course. I know this might sound strange to you but some people still use libraries.
- B: Really? Nooo. Only joking. And what about your schoolwork? Probably you³ _____ everything with a pen.
- D: In school, yes. But at home I⁴ _____ a pen or a pencil very much. In fact, I⁵ _____ everything on a typewriter. You know, it has a keyboard like a desktop computer but you put paper in the top of it.
- B: Yes, dad. I know what a typewriter is. And where did you⁶ _____ your friends before they invented coffee shops?
- D: Very funny. Haven't you got any homework to do?

5 Write positive sentences (✓), negative sentences (X) and a question (?) from the prompts. Use the correct forms of **used to**.

When I was a child ...

- mobile phones / be really big. (✓)

- people / use phones as alarm clocks. (X)

- children / play on the streets. (✓)

- people / need passwords (?)

- Richard / like me, but now we're very good friends. (X)

- people / drive electric cars (X)

- you / live in a big house (?)

- teenagers / spend much time online (?)
