

1.2 Grammar

Present and past habits

I can talk about present and past habits.

- 1 Read Gillian Lynne's story. What do you think she did when her mum and the psychologist left the room?
- 2 **CD-1.13 MP3-13** Listen to two friends talking about Gillian's story and check your ideas in Exercise 1. In pairs, discuss what lessons this story teaches us about educating children.
- 3 Complete the GRAMMAR FOCUS with the phrases in blue in the text.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Present and past habits

- You can use the **Present Simple** and the **Past Simple** to talk about habits.
- You can use **used to** to talk about regular past actions that don't happen any more or past states that are no longer true.
She ¹ used to fail all her exams.
Life ² _____ so good.
- You can use **will** (present) or **would** (past) to talk about characteristic, repeated or predictable actions. You don't use them to talk about states.
She ³ _____ and move around instead of listening to the teacher.
Her teachers ⁴ _____ about her disruptive behaviour.
- Note:** You don't usually ask questions with this use of *will* and *would*.
- You can use the **Present** or **Past Continuous** with **always** to stress the repetitiveness of an action and sometimes to show your annoyance.
She ⁵ _____ people.
She ⁶ _____ and handing in her homework late.

- 4 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use *would* where possible. If *would* is not possible, use *used to*. If *used to* is not possible, use the Past Simple.
- 1 This school used to be (be) smaller than it is now.
- 2 Mum _____ (take) me to school every day.
- 3 I _____ (not like) going to school.
- 4 I _____ (hate) having school lunches.
- 5 I _____ (go) swimming every week.
- 6 I _____ (go) on a school trip to England.
- 5 Write *yes/no* questions for the sentences in Exercise 4. Use *used to* or the Past Simple. Then, in pairs, ask and answer your questions.
- 1 *Did this school use to be smaller than it is now?*

THE RIGHT EDUCATION

Ken Robinson is an educationalist. In his book *The Element*, he interviews people who have made a successful living doing what they love. This is Gillian Lynne's story.

- 5 Gillian has had a successful career in the theatre, but life didn't use to be so good. When she was eight, her schoolwork was a disaster, her handwriting was awful and she used to fail all her exams. Her teachers would complain about her disruptive behaviour; she was always fidgeting and handing in her homework late. They told her mother that she had a learning disorder. So Gillian's mother took her to see a psychologist and listed some of the problems: she never pays attention in class – she ll get up and move around instead of listening to the teacher; she 's always disturbing people and her homework's always late. Finally, the doctor turned to Gillian and said, 'Gillian, I need to speak to your mother privately now. Don't worry. We won't be long.' As they left the room he turned on the radio on his desk ...

- 6 Write sentences comparing your routine in primary school and now. Then compare with a partner. Who has changed the most?

	Primary school	Now
1 For breakfast	I'd ...	I'll ...
2 Before setting off for school	I'd ...	I'll ...
3 At break time	I'd ...	I'll ...
4 At lunchtime	I'd ...	I'll ...
5 After school	I'd ...	I'll ...
6 Before going to bed	I'd ...	I'll ...

For breakfast I'd have cereal with milk in primary school, but now I'll just have a piece of toast.

- 7 Complete the sentences about annoying habits with the correct form of the verbs in the box.
- [check chew lose talk tell]
- 1 Before, Tim was always chewing the end of his pen. Now he 's always chewing gum.
 - 2 Before, Julie _____ her make-up. Now she _____ her phone.
 - 3 Before, Sam _____ about himself. Now he _____ about his girlfriend.
 - 4 Before, Dave _____ his temper. Now he _____ his keys.
 - 5 Before, Mary _____ lies. Now she _____ people what to do.
 - 8 In pairs, list the habits in Exercise 7 from least to most annoying. Do you know people who had or have any of these habits?