

1.2 Present and past habits

To talk about someone's habits and typical behaviour, we can use:

- the Present Simple or the Past Simple, to talk about repeated present or past actions or states:
*When I **get** home, I **do** my homework and then **practise** the violin.*
*My grandfather **picked** me **up** from school every day.*
- used to + infinitive to talk about states (e.g. with the verbs *be*, *have*, *believe*, *like*) or actions that happened regularly in the past but are no longer happening in the present. We do not use this structure to talk about single past actions:
*When I was your age, I **used to be** very eager to learn.*
*I **didn't use to fall behind** with my schoolwork.*
*Did you **use to like** Chemistry?*
- would + infinitive to talk about past actions or behaviour typical for someone (but not states):
*Our Maths teacher **would give** us loads of homework.*
- will + infinitive to talk about present actions or typical behaviour (but not states):
*She'll **watch** TV or play games all day instead of studying for her exams.*
Note: We do not use the verbs *will/would* in this meaning in questions.
- the Present Continuous or Past Continuous with the adverb *always* to complain about someone's behaviour:
*She's **always putting** things off and is never on time.*
*My neighbours **were always complaining** about the noise.*

Choose the correct options.

- When Marek and I shared a room in a hall of residence, he *was always borrowing* / *will always borrow* my things without asking.
- When I was a kid, I *would believe* / *used to believe* that my dad was a spy.
- Did you use to like* / *Would you like* your primary school?
- It's so annoying! She *will always lose* / *is always losing* her notebook.
- Martha *would ask* / *was asking* the teacher plenty of questions after every lesson. She was very curious.
- I *always forget* / *will forget* to bring a pen. Can I borrow one of yours?

1.5 Verb patterns

These are the most common verb patterns:

- verb + to-infinitive, e.g. *agree*, *arrange*, *can't afford*, *decide*, *intend*, *learn*, *manage*, *offer*, *prefer*, *refuse*, *remember*, *seem*, *tend*:
*I **decided to leave** school and find a job.*
*My sister **agreed to help** me with my homework.*
- verb + object + to-infinitive, e.g. *advise*, *allow*, *cause*, *enable*, *encourage*, *expect*, *force*, *remind*, *urge*, *warn*:
*Robert's mother **encouraged him to study** Law.*
*The teacher **reminded us not to use** our mobile phones during lessons.*
- verb + object + infinitive without *to*, e.g. *make*, *let*:
*Do his parents **let him hang out** with his friends?*
*My parents used to **make me do** a lot of house chores.*
- verb + -ing form, e.g. *admit*, *avoid*, *can't help*, *can't stand*, *enjoy*, *fancy*, *imagine*, *keep*, *miss*, *practise*, *spend/waste*, *stop*:
*I **can't stand wearing** a school uniform.*
*She recently **stopped eating** fast food, and she feels better already.*
- verb + -ing form/to-infinitive:
After the verbs *begin*, *continue*, *hate*, *intend*, *like*, *love*, *prefer* and *start* we can use both the -ing form and the to-infinitive. The meaning stays the same or changes very slightly:
*I **started playing** chess. I **started to play** chess.*
*He **intends using** the school website. He **intends to use** the school website.*

Change in meaning

- After the verbs *remember*, *forget*, *stop* and *try* we can use both the -ing form and the to-infinitive. However, the meaning of the sentence changes:
*Jenny **remembers locking** the door.* (She remembers that she locked the door.)
*Jenny **remembers to lock** the door.* (She always remembers to lock the door.)
*Dad'll **forget giving** me the money.* (He will forget that he gave me the money.)
*Dad'll **forget to give** me the money.* (He hasn't given me the money and he'll forget to do it.)
*Liz **stopped drinking** coffee.* (Liz doesn't drink coffee anymore.)
*Liz **stopped to drink** some coffee.* (Liz stopped doing something in order to drink coffee.)
*I **tried turning** the computer **off** and **on** again, but it didn't help.* (I tried this as an experiment to see if it would work).
*I **tried to turn** the computer off, but the shutdown command didn't work.* (I made an effort to turn the computer off).