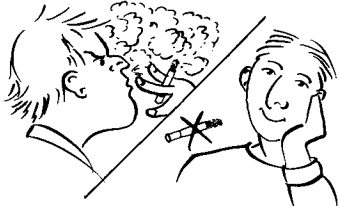


Used to (do)

A

Study this example situation:

A few years ago



Today

Dennis stopped smoking two years ago. He doesn't smoke any more.
But he used to smoke.
He used to smoke 40 cigarettes a day.
'He used to smoke' = he smoked regularly for some time in the past, but he doesn't smoke now. He was a smoker, but now he isn't.

← he used to smoke →

past 2 years ago now

he doesn't smoke

B

'Something used to happen' = something happened regularly in the past but no longer happens:

- I **used to play** tennis a lot but I don't play very often now.
- Diane **used to travel** a lot. These days she doesn't go away so often.
- 'Do you go to the cinema very often?' 'Not now, but I **used to.**' (= I used to go...)

We also use **used to...** for something that was true but is not true any more:

- This building is now a furniture shop. It **used to be** a cinema.
- I **used to think** he was unfriendly but now I realise he's a very nice person.
- I've started drinking coffee recently. I never **used to like** it before.
- Janet **used to have** very long hair when she was a child.

C

'I used to do something' is *past*. There is *no* present form. You *cannot* say 'I use to do'. To talk about the present, use the present simple (I do).

Compare:

<i>past</i>	he used to smoke	we used to live	there used to be
<i>present</i>	he smokes	we live	there is

- We **used to live** in a small village but now we **live** in London.
- There **used to be** four cinemas in the town. Now there **is** only one.

D

The normal question form is **did (you) use to...?**:

- **Did you use to eat** a lot of sweets when you were a child?

The negative form is **didn't use to...** (used **not** to... is also possible)

- I **didn't use to like** him. (or I **used not to like** him.)

E

Compare **I used to do** and **I was doing** (see Unit 6):

- I **used to watch** TV a lot. (= I watched TV regularly in the past, but I no longer do this)
- I **was watching** TV when the phone rang. (= I was in the middle of watching TV)

F

Do not confuse **I used to do** and **I am used to doing** (see Unit 60). The structures and meanings are different:

- I **used to live** alone. (= I lived alone in the past but I no longer live alone)
- I **am used to living** alone. (= I live alone and I don't find it strange or new because I've been living alone for some time)

EXERCISES

18.1 Complete these sentences with use(d) to... + a suitable verb.

- 1 Dennis gave up smoking two years ago. He used to smoke 40 cigarettes a day.
- 2 Liz a motorbike, but last year she sold it and bought a car.
- 3 We came to live in Manchester a few years ago. We in Nottingham.
- 4 I rarely eat ice cream now but I it when I was a child.
- 5 Jim my best friend but we aren't friends any longer.
- 6 It only takes me about 40 minutes to get to work since the new road was opened. It more than an hour.
- 7 There a hotel opposite the station but it closed a long time ago.
- 8 When you lived in London, to the theatre very often?



18.2 Brian changed his lifestyle. He stopped doing some things and started doing other things:

He stopped	{	studying hard going to bed early running three miles every morning	He started	{	smoking going out in the evening spending a lot of money
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Write sentences about Brian with used to and didn't use to.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1 <u>He used to study hard.</u> | 4 |
| 2 <u>He didn't use to smoke.</u> | 5 |
| 3 | 6 |

18.3 Compare what Carol said five years ago and what she says today:

FIVE YEARS AGO	TODAY
 <p>I travel a lot.</p> <p>I play the piano.</p> <p>I'm very lazy.</p> <p>I don't like cheese.</p> <p>I've got a dog.</p>	 <p>My dog died two years ago.</p> <p>I read a newspaper every day now.</p> <p>I haven't been to a party for ages.</p> <p>I haven't played the piano for years.</p> <p>Tea's great! I like it now.</p>
<p>I'm a hotel receptionist.</p> <p>I've got lots of friends.</p> <p>I never read newspapers.</p> <p>I don't drink tea.</p> <p>I go to a lot of parties.</p>	<p>I eat lots of cheese now.</p> <p>I work very hard these days.</p> <p>I don't know many people these days.</p> <p>I work in a bookshop now.</p> <p>I don't go away much these days.</p>

Now write sentences about how Carol has changed. Use used to / didn't use to / never used to in the first part of your sentence.

- 1 She used to travel a lot. but she doesn't go away much these days.
- 2 She used but
- 3 but
- 4 but
- 5 but
- 6 but
- 7 but
- 8 but
- 9 but
- 10 but