

20 Used to

1 We can use the Present Simple to talk about present situations or habits:

- ▶ situations:
My sister works as a translator.
Andrew lives in London.
- ▶ habits:
Peter usually wears jeans.
I often eat a sandwich for lunch.
Mike doesn't smoke anymore.
Does John drive to work every day?

2 Look at these sentences with the Past Simple:

- ▶ situation:
Henry lived in France for many years.
- ▶ habit:
When I was young, I ran three miles every day.

The verbs are in the Past Simple and the sentences are about past situations or habits.

3 Look at these sentences with *used to*:
Jill used to live in Ireland.
Many people used to make their own bread.
My husband used to work at home.

We use *used to* to talk about a past situation or habit that continued for months or years, and to emphasize that the situation today is different:

- Jill doesn't live in Ireland now.*
- Nowadays people usually buy bread from a shop.*
- My husband doesn't work at home now.*

Compare the Past Simple and *used to*:

- ▶ Past Simple:
When he was young, he ran three miles every day. (He may or may not run three miles every day now.)
- ▶ *used to*:
When I was young, I used to run three miles every day. I don't do that now. (I don't run three miles every day now.)

We make negative sentences and questions with *did + use to*:

- Sue didn't use to like black coffee.*
- Paul didn't use to smoke a pipe.*
- Did Alan use to cycle to school?*
- Did your parents use to read to you?*

4 We do not use *use to* for present situations or habits; we use the Present Simple:
Ann sings in a band. (NOT Ann uses to sing in a band.)
Joe doesn't cycle to school. (NOT ... doesn't use to cycle...)

Practice

A Look at this table of people who have changed what they eat or drink.

name		in the past		now	
Ann	Pam	meat	tap water	fish	bottled water
Tom	Mary	coffee	tinned fruit	tea	fresh fruit
Robert	Susan	white bread	margarine	brown bread	butter

Now make sentences, as in the examples.

- ▶ Ann used to eat meat, but now she eats fish
- ▶ Tom drinks tea now, but he used to drink coffee.
- 1 Robert white bread, but now brown bread.
- 2 Pam tap water, but now bottled water.
- 3 Mary fresh fruit now, but tinned fruit.
- 4 Susan butter now, but margarine.

Now complete these questions.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| ▶ Did Ann use to eat meat? | ~ Yes she did, but now she eats fish. |
| 5 white bread? | ~ Yes he did, but now he eats brown bread. |
| 6 tinned fruit? | ~ Yes she did, but now she eats fresh fruit. |
| 7 tap water? | ~ Yes she did, but now she drinks bottled water. |

Now complete these sentences.

- ▶ Ann didn't use to eat fish, but she does now.
- ▶ Tom drinks tea now, but he didn't use to drink it.
- 8 Susan butter, but she does now.
- 9 Mary eats fresh fruit now, but she it.
- 10 Pam drinks bottled water now, but she it.

B Cross out all the sentences which are incorrect, as in the example.

- ▶ When he was at primary school, Tony used to work very hard.
- ▶ ~~Last year Peter used to get a new bicycle for Christmas.~~
- 1 I didn't use to watch TV much, but I do now.
- 2 When he was a teenager, my father used to buy all the Beatles' records.
- 3 Paul used to go the cinema almost every weekend.
- 4 Did Pamela used to go to the concert last night?
- 5 Paul used to be really fit when he played a lot of volleyball.
- 6 John use to spend a lot of money on that new jacket he bought last week.
- 7 Kate didn't use to come to school yesterday because she was sick.
- 8 Jane used to play tennis a lot, but she doesn't have time now.
- 9 Did you use to go to the seaside for holidays when you were a child?
- 10 We used to live in Canada before we came here.

C Complete the sentences to say what these people used to do and what they do now, as in the example.

- ▶ Andrew/get up/seven o'clock/now/half past seven
Andrew used to get up at seven o'clock, but now he gets up at half past seven.
- ▶ I/swim/before work/now/after work
I used to swim before work, but now I swim after work.
- 1 Dan/play/violin/now/guitar

- 2 Anna/be/best friends/Angela/now/Cathy

- 3 Susan/have/dancing lessons/now/riding lessons

- 4 I/buy cassettes/now/CDs

- 5 John and Jean/live/London/now/Cardiff

- 6 David/drive/Fiesta/now/Jaguar

