



Then & Now

How inventions and discoveries changed the world



Name: _____

Remember! We use *used to + verb* for habits and situations in the past that are not true now.

**Affirmative**

People *used to* write letters.

**Negative**

They *didn't use to* have phones.

**Question**

Did they *use to* read by candlelight?

Careful: after *didn't* and *did*, we write *use to* (without -d)!

Complete the sentences with the correct form of *used to* and the verb in brackets.

Look at the coloured circle to know which form to use: affirmative negative question

1**PRINTING PRESS**

c. 1440

Before the printing press, monks _____ *(copy)*
every single book by hand.

2**ELECTRIC LIGHT**

1879

Before the light bulb, most families
_____ *(not / stay up)* late because candles
were expensive.

3**EMAIL**

1971

_____ *(people / send)* long letters to friends in
other countries before email?

4**VACCINES**

1796

Before vaccines, thousands of children
_____ *(get)* sick with dangerous diseases like
smallpox.

5**TELEPHONE**

1876

My great-grandmother lived far from her sister, so she
_____ *(not / hear)* her voice for years.

6**GPS**

1978

_____ *(sailors / navigate)* by looking at the
stars before GPS existed?

7**REFRIGERATOR**

1913

Before fridges, people _____ *(keep)* their food
cold with big blocks of ice.

8**PENICILLIN**

1928

Before Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, a small cut
_____ *(be)* very dangerous.



9

CAR
1886

Before cars, most people _____ (not / travel)
more than a few kilometres from their village.

10

COLOUR TV
1950s

_____ (your grandparents / watch) cartoons in
black and white when they were kids?

11

WASHING MACHINE
1908

Before the washing machine, people
_____ (spend) a whole day washing clothes
by hand.

12

AEROPLANE
1903

Before aeroplanes, a trip from Europe to America
_____ (take) several weeks by ship.

13

SMARTPHONE
2007

Before smartphones, teenagers
_____ (not / carry) a camera, a map and a
music player in their pocket.

14

WORLD WIDE WEB
1989

Where _____ (students / look for) information
for their homework before the internet?

15

GERM THEORY
1860s

Before scientists discovered germs, doctors
_____ (not / wash) their hands before an
operation!



Did you know?

All these inventions changed the way people lived. Here they are in order!

