

B We used to be rivals

Comprehension

1 **1.15** Read and listen. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who are Sweet Sue and Smart Alec talking to?
- 2 Do they work together now?
- 3 Do they like sharing an office?
- 4 How does the reporter solve their problem?

Panel 1: Reporter: "Did you use to have your own offices?"
Sweet Sue: "Welcome to Newstime TV. I'm Jack Snoop and today I'm at The Detective Agency with Sweet Sue and Smart Alec. They used to be rivals, but now they work together."
Smart Alec: "Yes, we did, but now we share one big office."

Panel 2: Reporter: "And do you enjoy sharing an office?"
Sweet Sue: "Well, I used to wear nice, cotton tops, but I usually wear thick woollen jumpers now, because Smart Alec likes the window open."

Panel 3: Reporter: "Smart Alec used to practise golf in the office, but he doesn't do it now, because I don't like it."
Sweet Sue: "Sweet Sue didn't use to put things away."

Panel 4: Reporter: "And my office used to be yellow, but Smart Alec prefers white. Boring!"
Sweet Sue: "But now Smart Alec tidies everything and I can never find anything."

Panel 5: Reporter: "Well, I can solve some problems, but I think I can help."
Smart Alec: "But how?"

Panel 6: Reporter: "Before I became a reporter, I used to be a builder!"

2 Complete the sentences with the correct names.

- 1 _____ is a reporter.
- 2 _____ share a big office.
- 3 _____ didn't use to wear thick jumpers.
- 4 _____ likes to have the window open.
- 5 _____ used to play golf in the office.
- 6 _____ doesn't like putting things away.
- 7 _____ is very tidy.
- 8 _____ likes yellow.
- 9 _____ used to build houses.
- 10 _____ are going to have their own offices again.

Grammar

used to

3 a Complete the sentences from the story.

- 1 They _____ rivals, but now they work together.
- 2 Smart Alec _____ golf in the office, but he doesn't do it now.

We use *used to* for things that we did in the past, but don't do now.

b Find the negative of this sentence in the story. How do we make the negative of *used to*?

Sue used to put things away.

c Complete question 1 from the story. How do we make questions with *used to*?

- 1 _____ have your own offices?
- 2 What did he use to do before he became a reporter?