

Used to and would

1 Change the past simple into *would* in the text where possible.

When I was 12, I joined a basketball team in my home town. We were supposed to wear our team's kit, but we waited and waited, week after week and the kits never arrived so we wore a green t-shirt and a pair of shorts of any colour. We didn't mind what colour they were but I always wore a purple and orange pair! We trained every Monday and Wednesday for an hour and a half. We got really tired after those training sessions. There were 15 of us on the team and we played matches every Saturday. Would you believe, we never won one match? We lost every single match we ever played on a Saturday. Did we mind? No, we enjoyed playing together and working as a team so much that it didn't matter. The following year, when I was 13, things changed radically – we finally got our kits – which we wore with pride! Suddenly, we started winning. We told each other it was because we finally had our lucky kits!

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

- 1 I _____ a PSP, but I sold it for 20 euros! (have)
- 2 My best friend _____ a Chelsea supporter – now he's seen sense and supports Liverpool, like me! (be)
- 3 _____ tennis when you were at school? (you, play)
- 4 I _____ that TV series but now I'm hooked! (not enjoy)
- 5 _____ to that posh school on the corner? (your sister, go)
- 6 When my brother lived in France, he _____ French very well. (speak)
- 7 My grandma _____ broccoli but now she loves it! (not like)
- 8 My mum says that in the past, people _____ about the future, like we do today. (not worry)
- 9 Did your _____ as an actor or a writer? (dad, work)
- 10 My grandparents _____ in the same street as us, but then they moved house. (live)
- 11 My mum _____ a lovely old sports car but now she has a sensible seven-seater! (have)
- 12 People _____ that the world was round! (not believe)

3 Compare what Lucy did ten years ago with what she does today. Use *used to* / *didn't use to* and *would* / *wouldn't*.

Ten years ago

She got up at 10 o'clock.
She was a student at university.
She lived in London.
She wrote letters to her friends.
She wore jeans and a t-shirt every day.
She went to bed late every day.
She didn't have any children
She never went on holiday.

Today

She gets up at 6.30.
She works in public relations in a multi-national company.
She lives in Manchester.
She contacts her friends through social media networks.
She wears smart clothes.
She goes to bed early!
She has three children.
She goes on holiday three times a year.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

4 Choose the correct option. Sometimes both options are correct.

- 1 My grandma *used to* / *would* love gardening.
- 2 A few years ago, my brother *didn't use to* / *wouldn't* help me with my homework –now he does!
- 3 My sister *used to* / *would* know the lead singer in that band.
- 4 *Did you use to* / *Would you* get anxious the day before an exam when you were at school?
- 5 What *did people use to do*/ *would people do* before money existed?
- 6 My dad *used to* / *would* pay a lot for good beef in the supermarket, but now he's vegetarian!
- 7 Jonathan *didn't use to* / *wouldn't* want any children, then he met his wife and they had four!
- 8 When I was little my mum *used to* / *would* read me a story every night.
- 9 I *used to* / *would* live in Edinburgh when I was young.
- 10 *Didn't Emma use to* / *Wouldn't Emma* play the piano?

5 Write five things you *used to do* or *would do* when you were younger.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

6 Now write three things that your friend *used to do* or *would do* when he / she was younger.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

8 Write two new sentences, one active and one passive, without changing the meaning of the sentences.

1 It is known that Gerry is a very good actor and director.

2 It is predicted that the weather will get warmer every year.

3 Another series of *Sherlock* is said to be shot next year.

4 It is estimated that the film made 100 million dollars.

5 It is reported that more than 9,000 people have lost their lives in Ukraine.

6 It isn't believed that the cinema is about to close down.

7 They aren't considered to be very good actors.

8 It is expected that that new comedian will win the competition.
