

2C used to and usually

2.11

My mom **used to have** long hair, but now it's much shorter.
I didn't use to like seafood, but now I often eat it.
Did you use to play the violin?
I never used to watch TV in the evenings.
We usually go for a walk after dinner.

used to

We use *used to* + base form to talk about habits or situations that were true in the past, but are not true now. They can be states or actions.

I used to hate classical music, but now I love it. (hate = state)

She used to go swimming every day. (go swimming = action)

We form the negative and questions like other regular verbs in the simple past.

I didn't use to like classical music. NOT *I didn't used to like classical music.*

Did you use to live on this street? NOT *Did you used to live on this street?*

We often use a mixture of *used to* and the simple past when we describe past situations. It sounds unnatural to use *used to* with every verb.

I used to get a lot of exercise when I was in school. I played tennis every weekend, and I went swimming three or four times a week.

We use the simple past, not *used to*, when we talk about things that happened only once, or when we say how many times something happened.

I got a job five years ago. NOT *I used to get a job five years ago.*

We went to Rio three times when I was young. NOT *We used to go to Rio three times when I was young.*

We often use *never used to* instead of *didn't use to*.

He never used to call me but now he calls every day.

The neighbors never used to make so much noise!

usually

Used to only refers to the past. We use *usually* or *normally* + simple present to talk about situations and habits which are true now.

On Sundays, I usually have eggs for breakfast. (present habit)

On Sundays, I used to have eggs for breakfast. (past habit)

Look! We can also use *usually* in the past. It has a similar meaning to *used to*.

We usually had dinner together every evening.

We used to have dinner together every evening.

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of *used to* or the simple past and the verbs in parentheses. Use *used to* if possible.

1 I _____ my brother and sister regularly, but now we all live in different cities. (see)

2 How _____ to work before you had a car? (you/get)

3 They _____ each other when they were in school, but now they're getting married! (not like)

4 He _____ much money, but now he's rich. (not have)

5 We _____ with our friends more often when we lived in Miami. (get together)

6 Where _____ before you moved here? (you/live)

7 I _____ to reggae music, but now I love it. (never listen)

8 Jon _____ his British friend twice last year. (visit)

9 I used to sing when I was a child, and I _____ the guitar, too. (play)

10 We _____ in Los Angeles in 2012. (get married)

2 Complete the text with *usually* or the correct form of *used to* and a verb from the box.

not have go (x2) arrive work (x2)



Six months ago, Sarah Thornton left her job in the city and moved to a small town in the country because she wanted a quieter life. "I ¹ _____ sixteen hours a day, six days a week," she says. "It was very difficult. I ² _____ home exhausted at around 11 p.m. I ³ _____ time for hobbies in the evening, and I didn't see my friends much," she says. "But now I'm happier. I ⁴ _____ an eight-hour day now, so I have much more free time. It was strange living in the country at first. In the city, I ⁵ _____ to concerts or go shopping on Sundays. There's nothing like that here. Now, I ⁶ _____ running or do other outdoor activities every evening."