

## PAST SIMPLE - USED TO

### A

Study this example:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **was** an Austrian musician and composer. He **lived** from 1756 to 1791. He **started** composing at the age of five and **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. He **was** only 35 years old when he **died**.

Lived/started/wrote/was/died are all *past simple*.



### B

Very often the past simple ends in **-ed** (*regular verbs*):

- I work in a travel agency now. Before that I **worked** in a department store.
- We **invited** them to our party, but they **decided** not to come.
- The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- Laura **passed** her exam because she **studied** very hard.

For spelling (**stopped**, **studied** etc.), see Appendix 6.

But many verbs are *irregular*. The past simple does *not* end in **-ed**. For example:

write → <b>wrote</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mozart <b>wrote</b> more than 600 pieces of music.
see → <b>saw</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> We <b>saw</b> Tanya in town a few days ago.
go → <b>went</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> I <b>went</b> to the cinema three times last week.
shut → <b>shut</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> It was cold, so I <b>shut</b> the window.

### C

In questions and negatives we use **did/didn't + infinitive** (**enjoy/see/go** etc.):

I	<b>enjoyed</b>	did	you	<b>enjoy?</b>	I	<b>enjoy</b>
she	<b>saw</b>	she	<b>see?</b>	she	<b>did</b>	<b>see</b>
they	<b>went</b>	they	<b>go?</b>	they	<b>didn't</b>	<b>go</b>

- A: **Did** you **go** out last night?  
B: Yes, I **went** to the cinema, but I **didn't enjoy** the film much.
- 'When **did** Mr Thomas **die**?' 'About ten years ago.'
- They **didn't invite** us to the party, so we **didn't go**.
- 'Did you **have** time to do the shopping?' 'No, I **didn't**.'

In the following examples, **do** is the main verb in the sentence (**did ... do / didn't do**):

- What **did** you **do** at the weekend? (*not* What did you at the weekend?)
- I **didn't do** anything. (*not* I didn't anything)

### D

The past of **be** (**am/is/are**) is **was/were**:

I/he/she/it	<b>was/wasn't</b>	was	I/he/she/it?
we/you/they	<b>were/weren't</b>	were	we/you/they?

Note that we do not use **did** in negatives and questions with **was/were**:

- I **was** angry because they **were** late.
- Was** the weather good when you **were** on holiday?
- They **weren't** able to come because they **were** so busy.
- Did you go out last night or **were** you too tired?

# Exercises

## 5.1 Read what Laura says about a typical working day:



I usually get up at 7 o'clock and have a big breakfast. I walk to work, which takes me about half an hour. I start work at 8.45. I never have lunch. I finish work at 5 o'clock. I'm always tired when I get home. I usually cook a meal in the evening. I don't usually go out. I go to bed at about 11 o'clock, and I always sleep well.

Laura

Yesterday was a typical working day for Laura. Write what she did or didn't do yesterday.

1 She got up	at 7 o'clock.	7	at 5 o'clock.	
2 She	a big breakfast.	8	tired when	home.
3 She		9	a meal yesterday evening.	
4 It	to get to work.	10	out yesterday evening.	
5	at 8.45.	11	at 11 o'clock.	
6	lunch.	12	well last night.	

## 5.2 Complete the sentences using the following verbs in the correct form:

buy catch cost fall hurt sell spend teach throw write

- 1 Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
- 2 'How did you learn to drive?' 'My father taught me.'
- 3 We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we sold it.
- 4 Dave fell down the stairs this morning and hurt his leg.
- 5 Joe threw the ball to Sue, who caught it.
- 6 Ann bought a lot of money yesterday. She spent a dress which £100.

## 5.3 You ask James about his holiday. Write your questions.

Hi. How are things?

Fine, thanks. I've just had a great holiday.

- 1 Where did you go?
- 2 How did you travel? By car?
- 3 It's a long way to drive. How long did it take to get to Denver?
- 4 Where did you stay? In hotels?
- 5 Was the weather good?
- 6 Did you visit the Grand Canyon?

Two weeks.  
Yes, small hotels or motels.  
Yes, but it was very hot – sometimes too hot.  
Of course. It was wonderful.

## 5.4 Complete the sentences. Put the verb into the correct form, positive or negative.

- 1 It was warm, so I took off my coat. (take)
- 2 The film wasn't very good. I didn't enjoy it much. (enjoy)
- 3 I knew Sarah was busy, so I disturbed her. (disturb)
- 4 We were very tired, so we left the party early. (leave)
- 5 The bed was very uncomfortable. I slept well. (sleep)
- 6 The window was open and a bird flew into the room. (fly)
- 7 The hotel wasn't very expensive. It cost much to stay there. (cost)
- 8 I was in a hurry, so I had time to phone you. (have)
- 9 It was hard carrying the bags. They were very heavy. (be)

**A**

Study this example situation:

*a few years ago*



Nicola doesn't travel much these days.  
She prefers to stay at home.

But she **used to travel** a lot.  
She **used to go** away two or three times a year.

She **used to travel** a lot = she travelled a lot often in the past, but she doesn't do this any more.

**she used to travel**

*past*

**she doesn't travel now**

**B**

Something **used to** happen = it happened often in the past, but no longer happens:

- I **used to play** tennis a lot, but I don't play very much now.
- David **used to spend** a lot of money on clothes. These days he can't afford it.
- 'Do you go to the cinema much?' 'Not now, but I **used to**.' (= I used to go)

We also use **used to** ... for things that were true, but are not true any more:

- This building is now a furniture shop. It **used to be** a cinema.
- I **used to think** Mark was unfriendly, but now I realise he's a very nice person.
- I've started drinking tea recently. I never **used to like** it before.
- Lisa **used to have** very long hair when she was a child.

**C**

'I **used to** do something' is past. There is no present. You cannot say 'I use to do'.

To talk about the present, use the present simple (I **do**).

Compare:

<b>past</b>	<b>he used to play</b>	<b>we used to live</b>	<b>there used to be</b>
<b>present</b>	he <b>plays</b>	we <b>live</b>	there <b>is</b>

- We **used to live** in a small village, but now we **live** in London.
- There **used to be** four cinemas in the town. Now there **is** only one.

**D**

The normal question form is **did** (you) **use to** ... ?:

- Did you **use to eat** a lot of sweets when you were a child?

The negative form is **didn't use to** ... (**used not to** ... is also possible):

- I **didn't use to** like him. (or I **used not to** like him.)

**E**

Compare **I used to do** and **I was doing**:

- I **used to watch** TV a lot. (= I watched TV often in the past, but I no longer do this)
- I **was watching** TV when Rob called. (= I was in the middle of watching TV)

**F**

Do not confuse **I used to do** and **I am used to doing** (see Unit 61). The structures and meanings are different:

- I **used to live** alone. (= I lived alone in the past, but I no longer live alone)
- I **am used to living** alone. (= I live alone, and I don't find it strange or difficult because I've been living alone for some time)

## Exercises

18.1 Complete the sentences with **use(d)** to + a suitable verb.

1 Nicola doesn't travel much now. She used to travel a lot, but she prefers to stay at home these days.

2 Sophie had a motorbike, but last year she sold it and bought a car.

3 We moved to Spain a few years ago. We lived in Paris.

4 I rarely eat ice-cream now, but I used to eat it when I was a child.

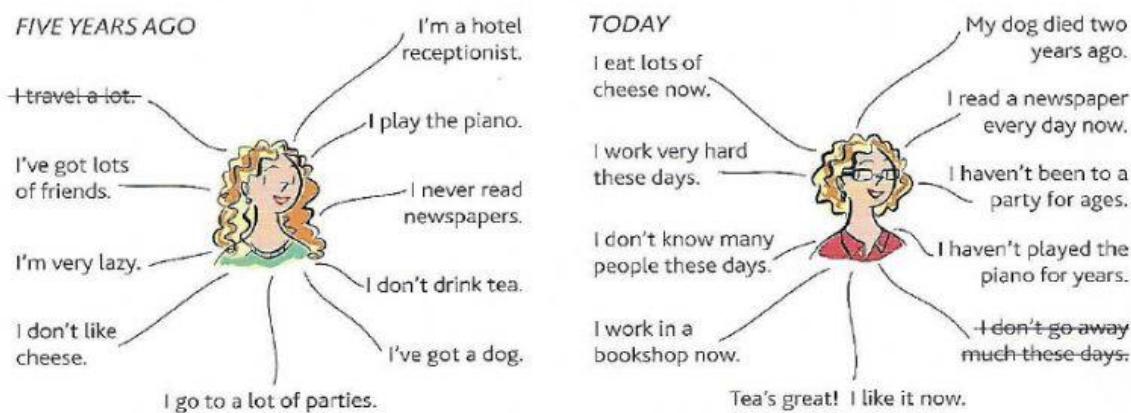
5 Jackie was my best friend, but we aren't good friends any more.

6 It only takes me about 40 minutes to get to work now that the new road is open. It took more than an hour.

7 There was a hotel near the airport, but it closed a long time ago.

8 When you lived in New York, did you go to the theatre very often?

## 18.2 Compare what Karen said five years ago and what she says today:



Now write sentences about how Karen has changed. Use **used to / didn't use to / never used to** in the first part of your sentence.

1	She used to travel a lot,	but she doesn't go away much these days
2	She used	but
3		but
4		but
5		but
6		but
7		but
8		but
9		but
10		but

18.3 Write sentences about yourself like the examples. Begin I used to ... (I used to be/work/like/play/read etc.).

- 1 I used to live in a small village, but now I live in London.
- 2 I used to play tennis a lot, but I don't play any more.
- 3 I used , but
- 4 I
- 5

Now begin with I didn't use to ...

Now begin with I didn't use to ...

6 I didn't use to read a lot, but I do now.  
7 I didn't  
8

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## English Program Chilquinta