

"Used To" or "Would"?

We use **"used to" + infinitive** to talk about past habitual actions and states:

*I **used to live** in this area when I was a child.*
*They **used to dance** at that ballroom every Sunday afternoon.*

We use **"would" + infinitive**, however, to talk only about past habitual actions.
It's not possible to talk about past states:

~~I would live in this area when I was a child.~~
*They **would dance** at that ballroom every Sunday afternoon.*

(Be, Have, Like, Love, Hate are some examples of state verbs)

For each of the following sentences, choose either "used to" or "would".

If both are possible, use "would".

1. Do you remember how your Uncle David _____ sit in that chair and smoke those disgusting cigars.
2. Your mother _____ have a Yorkshire Terrier when she was a young girl, didn't she?
3. For years, they _____ go on holiday to the Rockies, but then it became very fashionable and, hence, expensive.
4. Years ago, I _____ write a diary every day but then I got bored with doing it and I stopped. Maybe, it was my life that was boring!
5. At the start of their marriage, they _____ be very happy - but then it all went wrong!
6. You _____ spell so well. Whatever happened?
7. When I was five, I _____ be able to do incredible gymnastics. Now I can't even touch my toes.
8. Before getting my driving licence, I _____ ride a bicycle everywhere.