

GRAMMAR 046

Used to and would: Talking about habits in the past

Did you use to read about the sea as a child?

No, I **never used to be** interested in the sea, and I **didn't use to read** much at all!

That changed when my dad, who **used to be** a diver, took me diving for the first time, and I saw an old shipwreck.

After that, I **used to / would read** anything about the sea I could get my hands on!



A 19th-century diving suit

- 1 Read.** Complete the sentences with *used to* or *would* and the verb in brackets.

In the past, when scientists wanted to do research in the seas, they _____ (go) out on a ship to collect their information.
Typically, the expeditions _____ (be) several weeks long.
After the expedition, scientists _____ (bring) their data home with them. They _____ (work) on that information for several months, and finally, they _____ (write) about their results in a scientific paper. Most people never read this information because it _____ (be) available only in scientific magazines or newspapers.

- 2 Work in pairs.** Use the information to rewrite sentences about sea exploration in the early 19th century. Use *used to* and *would*.

1. Scientists travelled underwater in submarines or diving bells.

Scientists would travel underwater in submarines or diving bells.

2. Ships used wind power to travel.

3. Divers pulled on a lifeline to communicate with people above the water.

4. Divers were able to breathe with air pumped from the surface.

- 3 Work in pairs.** Talk about your habits in the past.

Did you use to

I didn't use to

I never used to

I would