2.4 Grammar

Used to and Past Simple

GRAMMAR *Used to* and Past Simple

Used to and Past Simple

Our street used to be full of traffic. (past state/situation)
Our street was full of traffic.
We didn't use to go outside much. (past habit/regular action)
We didn't go outside much.
Did you use to play here? *Yes, I did./No, I didn't.*
Where did he use to play?

Past Simple

I spoke to him yesterday. (single action in the past)

1 ● Match the sentence halves.

1 [d] I didn't use to like many vegetables,
2 [ ] We used to throw away all our rubbish,
3 [ ] We used to use a lot of oil for fuel in my country,
4 [ ] Sara didn't use to work hard at school,
5 [ ] Paula used to throw away litter,

a but now she studies all the time.
b but now we use more renewable energy.
c but now she always puts it in the recycling bin.
d ~~but now I like most of them.~~
e but these days we recycle nearly everything.

2 ●● Complete the sentences with the correct form of *used to* and the verbs below.

be live not have not watch ~~play~~ travel

1 My dad *used to play* football for a club when he was younger.
2 Where _____ (you) before you moved to this street?
3 My grandparents _____ TV much when they were children.
4 We _____ a recycling centre in our town, so it was difficult to recycle anything.
5 We _____ everywhere by car, but now we use public transport a lot more.
6 _____ (there) a lot of smoke in the air here before they closed the factory?

3 ●● Rewrite the sentences using *used to*.

1 When I was little, I played with toys every day.
When I was little, I used to play with toys every day.
2 My grandparents' generation didn't recycle rubbish.
_____
3 Did you play video games every day when you were younger?
_____
4 When he was my age, my dad worked in a shop at the weekend.
_____
5 My aunt lived on a boat when she was a teenager.
_____

4 ●●● Complete the text with the correct form of *used to* or the Past Simple and the verbs in brackets. If both are possible, use *used to*.

RECYCLING through the ages



Many people think that recycling is a new thing, but in fact, some people [1] *used to recycle* (recycle) things in 400 BC! Scientists recently [2] _____ (discover) that people in Turkey reused glass thousands of years ago. And in 1031, the Japanese [3] _____ (recycle) paper for the first time.

In times when people were poor, they [4] _____ (not throw) things away. Just before the industrial revolution (1760–1830), people [5] _____ (melt) and recycle metals. But during the industrial revolution, things suddenly [5] _____ (become) cheaper and easier to make, so there was less recycling.

Nowadays, we recycle because we know more about environmental problems. So while our ancestors [7] _____ (recycle) because they had to, we now recycle because we should.

I can use *used to* and the Past Simple to talk about past habits and states.

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