

Childhood Memories



USED TO: We use this expression to talk about habits or repeated actions in the past which we don't do in the present. We also use it to talk about states in the past which are no longer true. For example:

- I **used to** have long hair (but now I have short hair).
- He **used to** smoke (but now he doesn't smoke).
- They **used to** live in India (but now they live in Germany).
- Tom **used to drink** coffee. Now he prefers tea.
- I **used to spend** a lot of money on clothes, but nowadays I can't afford it.
- Julie **used to fly** from London to Paris. Now she takes the Eurostar.
- I **used to drive** to work. Now I take the underground.
- Wendy **used to eat** meat. Now she's a vegetarian.
- My mother **didn't use to do** much exercise. Now she goes walking with a friend.
- My grandfather **didn't use to approve** of social networks.



USED TO



| | | | |
|------|----------------|-------|--|
| I | | | |
| You | | | |
| He | | | |
| She | used to | swim. | |
| It | | | |
| We | | | |
| They | | | |

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|-------|--|
| I | | | |
| You | | | |
| He | | | |
| She | didn't use to | swim. | |
| It | | | |
| We | | | |
| They | | | |

| | | | |
|------------|---|---------------|-------|
| | | | |
| Did | I you he she it we they | use to | swim? |

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------|---|
| | | Yes, | No, |
| | I you he she it we they | did. | I you he she it we they |
| | | | didn't. |



Vocabulary

1. **Hopscotch** — Rayuela
2. **Hide-and-peek** — Escondido / Escondidas
3. **Jump rope** — Saltar la cuerda
4. **Tag** — Encantado / La anda
5. **Marbles** — Canicas
6. **Tug-of-war** — Halón de cuerda
7. **Tic-tac-toe** — Gato / Tres en raya
8. **Spin the top** — Trompo
9. **Jacks** — Jacks / Matatena
10. **Kite flying** — Volar cometa
11. **Yo-yo** — Yoyó
12. **Ring toss** — Lanzamiento de aros
13. **Sack race** — Carrera de sacos
14. **Dominos** — Dominó



Childhood Memories

Childhood Memories #1: "A Childhood Full of Games"



When I was a child, my afternoons were full of traditional games. My friends and I used to meet in the street after school, and we used to play for hours until it got dark. My favorite game was marbles, and I used to keep all my marbles in a small red bag. We also used to play hopscotch, and sometimes we had competitions to see who could jump the fastest.

On weekends, my cousins visited us. We used to play tug-of-war in my backyard, and everyone used to laugh when the losing team fell on the grass.

My brother used to fly his kite on windy days, and I used to help him run so the kite would rise into the sky. Life felt simple, and the games made every day exciting.

Even now, when I see children playing outside, I remember how happy I used to feel. Childhood games weren't just fun—they helped us make friends, stay active, and create memories that I will never forget.



Childhood Memories #2: "Afternoons in the Neighborhood"

When I was a child, afternoons in my neighborhood were full of excitement and traditional games. As soon as we finished our homework, all the kids used to meet outside to decide what to play first. Many times, we started with hide-and-seek, running behind trees and cars so no one could find us. After that, we usually played tag, and everyone used to scream and laugh while trying not to get touched.

On the sidewalk, we had a big hopscotch board drawn with chalk, and we used to take turns jumping from square to square. Near the park, some children played jump rope, and sometimes they invited us to join so we could see who could jump the longest. Others preferred marbles, and I used to carry my best marbles in my pocket so I could play anywhere.

On windy days, my brother used to bring his kite, and we helped him run until it flew high into the sky. Some of my friends were really good at spinning the top, and their wooden tops used to spin beautifully on the concrete. When there were many kids, we organized a tug-of-war competition, and the losing team always fell on the grass while laughing.

During parties or school events, we played sack race, trying not to fall as we jumped to the finish line. Another popular game was ring toss, where we tried to throw the rings around small sticks. Sometimes, when we wanted something calmer, we sat down to play dominoes or jacks. And whenever we had chalk and a ball, we drew boxes on the ground and played four square, trying to send the ball into someone else's square.

Of course, we also played tic-tac-toe while sitting on the steps of my house, waiting for our parents to call us in for dinner. Those afternoons were simple, full of energy, friendship, and creativity. I didn't have a phone or a computer back then, but I never felt bored. The traditional games we used to play made my childhood unforgettable.

Writing Section



INSTRUCTIONS

Once you finished reading the previous texts. Take 20 minutes to write about your childhood memories. Include as many details as possible. Please, use the vocabulary section in case you need it.



Speaking Section

Choose one question and discuss it with your classmates. Use **used to**.

1. Tell me about your childhood memories. Provide as many details as possible
2. What games did you use to play when you were a child?
3. Did you use to spend a lot of time outdoors?
4. Who did you use to play with?
5. What foods did you use to love when you were little?
6. Did you use to have a favorite toy?
7. What places did your family use to visit?
8. Did school use to be fun for you?
9. What activities did you use to enjoy the most?
10. Did you use to take part in sports?
11. What traditions did you use to follow with your family?



Listening Section

1. What did the speaker use to do with his cousins?

- A. Play video games
- B. Play hide-and-seek
- C. Study together
- D. Watch movies

2. Where did they ride their bicycles?

- A. In the park
- B. Around the neighborhood
- C. At school
- D. On the beach

3. What did the speaker use to collect?

- A. Coins
- B. Stickers
- C. Marbles
- D. Cards

4. How many marbles did he have?

- A. About 20
- B. Around 50
- C. Exactly 500
- D. More than 200

5. Who did the family visit on weekends?

- A. Neighbors
- B. Teachers
- C. Grandparents
- D. Friends



6. What did the grandmother use to cook?

- A. Rice
- B. Bread
- C. Soup
- D. Pasta

7. What did the grandfather use to do?

- A. Sing
- B. Tell stories
- C. Play guitar
- D. Read books

8. What didn't the family use to do?

- A. Watch much TV
- B. Eat together
- C. Play board games
- D. Travel

9. What did they do every evening?

- A. Go walking
- B. Listen to music
- C. Watch movies
- D. Play cards

10. How did the speaker feel about life back then?

- A. Bored
- B. Upset
- C. Happy
- D. Nervous

11. The speaker describes childhood as.

- A. Complicated
- B. Simple
- C. Dangerous
- D. Stressful

12. The overall tone of the passage is...

- A. Negative
- B. Angry
- C. Nostalgic
- D. Confused

