

Exercise 1: USED TO or WOULD

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

1. Do you remember how your Uncle Alan _____ sit in that chair and read his favorite books.
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 license, I _____ ride a bicycle everywhere.
9. I _____ eat a lot of meat, but I prefer vegetarian food now.
10. We _____ visit my grandparents every week when I was a child.
11. Eva _____ think about travelling the world until she went to Holland last year.
12. She _____ bite her fingernails, but she grew out of it.
13. My aunt _____ make her own clothes when she was a student.
14. I _____ know how to speak Spanish, but I've forgotten now.
15. In the past, people _____ social media, but now they use it all the time.

Part B: Correct the underlined mistakes in the sentences. Only use the past simple when it is the only correct answer.

- 1 Most of us would believe in Santa Claus when we were younger.
- 2 People wouldn't be so obsessed with celebrities before the internet.
- 3 Would you use to enjoy eating vegetables as a child?
- 4 He would study engineering for two years before he became an actor.
- 5 My sister would hate having her hair cut when she was little.
- 6 Would famous actors use to earn so much money in the past?

Part C: Choose the correct words to complete the dialogue. Sometimes both answers are correct.

Girl : Tell me about your best friend at school.

Mum : There was a girl called Jo. She 1) lived / would live across the road from me and we 2 were / used to be best friends for about five years.

Girl : 3) Did you use to go / Would you go to the same school?

Mum : Yes, but she was a year younger than me, so we 4) didn't use to hang out / wouldn't hang out together at school. But we 5) used to see / would see each other every weekend.

Girl : What 6) did you use to do / would you do?

Mum Oh, the usual things like listening to music. But when HyppoTV was on, we 7) used to watch / would watch the show together. That's what I remember most about her.

Part D: Complete the text with used to or would and the verbs in brackets. Sometimes both are possible.

In the past, people 1..... (find) fame by being an actor, a sports star, a singer and so on. And even very talented people 2..... (know) that they'd only get a 'big break' by achieving something really special that brought them to the public's attention. Before the rise of social media, people 3..... (not become) famous just for being famous. There 4..... (not be) celebrities like Justin Bieber, who rose to fame after posting videos of himself online. But there's a downside – perhaps careers 5..... (not rise) so fast, but they also 6..... (not crash) so spectacularly; nowadays a damaging story or photo can go viral on the internet in minutes. And in the past, the famous at least had some privacy and 7..... (not need) to be available to their fans on Twitter 24/7!