Used to

1 We can use the Present Simple to talk about present situations or habits:

- situations:
  *My sister **works** as a translator.*
  *Andrew **lives** in London.*
- habits:
  *Peter usually **wears** jeans.*
  *I often **eat** a sandwich for lunch.*
  *Mike **doesn't smoke** anymore.*
  ***Does** John **drive** to work every day?*

2 Look at these sentences with the Past Simple:

- situation:
  *Henry **lived** in France for many years.*
- habit:
  *When I was young, I **ran** three miles every day.*

The verbs are in the Past Simple and the sentences are about past situations or habits.

3 Look at these sentences with **used to**:
*Jill **used to live** in Ireland.*
*Many people **used to make** their own bread.*
*My husband **used to work** at home.*

We use **used to** to talk about a past situation or habit that continued for months or years, and to emphasize that the situation today is different:
*Jill doesn't live in Ireland **now**.*
***Nowadays** people usually buy bread from a shop.*
*My husband doesn't work at home **now**.*

Compare the Past Simple and **used to**:

- Past Simple:
  *When he was young, he **ran** three miles every day.* (He may or may not run three miles every day now.)
- **used to**:
  *When I was young, I **used to run** three miles every day. I don't do that now.* (I don't run three miles every day now.)

We make negative sentences and questions with **did + use to**:
*Sue **didn't use to like** black coffee.*
*Paul **didn't use to smoke** a pipe.*
***Did** Alan **use to cycle** to school?*
***Did** your parents **use to read** to you?*

4 We do not use **use to** for present situations or habits; we use the Present Simple:
*Ann **sings** in a band.* (NOT ~~Ann uses to sing in a band.~~)
*Joe **doesn't cycle** to school.* (NOT … ~~doesn't use to cycle~~…)

Practice

A **Look at this table of people who have changed what they eat or drink.**

name		**in the past**		**now**	
Ann	Pam	meat	tap water	fish	bottled water
Tom	Mary	coffee	tinned fruit	tea	fresh fruit
Robert	Susan	white bread	margarine	brown bread	butter

Now make sentences, as in the examples.

- Ann used to eat ..... meat, but now she eats fish ..... .
- Tom drinks tea ..... now, but he used to drink ..... coffee.

1 Robert ..... white bread, but now ..... brown bread.
2 Pam ..... tap water, but now ..... bottled water.
3 Mary ..... fresh fruit now, but ..... tinned fruit.
4 Susan ..... butter now, but ..... margarine.

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Now complete these questions.

▶ Did Ann use to eat meat? ~ Yes she did, but now she eats fish.
5 white bread? ..... ~ Yes he did, but now he eats brown bread.
6 tinned fruit? ..... ~ Yes she did, but now she eats fresh fruit.
7 tap water? ..... ~ Yes she did, but now she drinks bottled water.

Now complete these sentences.

▶ Ann didn't use to eat ..... fish, but she does now.
▶ Tom drinks tea now, but he didn't use to drink ..... it.
8 Susan ..... butter, but she does now.
9 Mary eats fresh fruit now, but she ..... it.
10 Pam drinks bottled water now, but she ..... it.

B Cross out all the sentences which are incorrect, as in the example.

▶ When he was at primary school, Tony used to work very hard.
▶ ~~Last year Peter used to get a new bicycle for Christmas.~~
1 I didn't use to watch TV much, but I do now.
2 When he was a teenager, my father used to buy all the Beatles' records.
3 Paul used to go the cinema almost every weekend.
4 Did Pamela used to go to the concert last night?
5 Paul used to be really fit when he played a lot of volleyball.
6 John use to spend a lot of money on that new jacket he bought last week.
7 Kate didn't use to come to school yesterday because she was sick.
8 Jane used to play tennis a lot, but she doesn't have time now.
9 Did you use to go to the seaside for holidays when you were a child?
10 We used to live in Canada before we came here.

C Complete the sentences to say what these people used to do and what they do now, as in the example.

▶ Andrew/get up/seven o'clock/now/half past seven
Andrew used to get up at seven o'clock, but now he gets up at half past seven.
▶ I/swim/before work/now/after work
I used to swim before work, but now I swim after work.
1 Dan/play/violin/now/guitar
.....
2 Anna/be/best friends/Angela/now/Cathy
.....
3 Susan/have/dancing lessons/now/riding lessons
.....
4 I/buy cassettes/now/CDs
.....
5 John and Jean/live/London/now/Cardiff
.....
6 David/drive/Fiesta/now/Jaguar
.....

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