

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 ☒ 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.

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- 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 ⁶ _____ (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.