

49 *used to*

Hollywood actor
Russell Crowe **used to work** in a restaurant
in Sydney.



1 Form

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	
I/He/She/It/We/You/They	used to work	did not (didn't) use to work	<i>in a shop.</i>

QUESTIONS	SHORT ANSWERS
<i>Did I/he/she/it/we/you/they use to work here?</i>	Yes, (he) <i>did</i> . No, (we) <i>didn't</i> .

- !** There is no present form of *used to*:
~~✗ I use to go to work by bus.~~
 ✓ I usually go to work by bus.

2 Use

We use *used to*

- for actions that happened regularly in the past but do not happen now:
*People **used to write** a lot of letters.* (but now they send emails)
- to say how often we did things in the past (with *always, once a week, every year, etc.*):
*I **always used to swim** before breakfast.*
*We **used to go** to the beach every summer.*
- for past situations that are different now:
*Russell Crowe **used to be** a waiter.* (but now he is an actor)
*My parents **didn't use to live** in the city.* (but now they live in the city)
*When I was a child I **used to have** a pet rabbit.*
*Where **did you use to go** on holiday when you were young?*

We pronounce the *s* in *used to* as /s/ not /z/. We do not pronounce the final *d*: /ju:stə/.

3 Past simple or *used to*?

- !** We use the past simple, **NOT** *used to*

- for single actions in the past:
~~✗ I **used to have** a driving lesson last week.~~
 ✓ I **had** a driving lesson last week. (a single action = past simple)
- for repeated actions in the past with a number:
~~✗ I **used to have** a driving lesson twice last week.~~
 ✓ I **had** a driving lesson twice last week. (a repeated action = past simple)
- to talk about a period of time with *for*:
~~✗ He **used to be** in the army for two years.~~
 ✓ He **was** in the army for two years.

Practice

- 1 Read the information. Then complete the answers below.

0 How are films different?

Films used to be in black and white but now they are in colour.

	IN THE PAST	NOW
0 films	in black and white	in colour
1 cameras	big and heavy	small and light
2 phones	attached to wires	mobile
3 transport	ride horses	drive cars
4 work	work on farms	work in factories and offices
5 children	finish school at 12	finish school at 16
6 location	live in the country	live in towns
7 entertainment	go to the cinema	watch TV and DVDs

- What about cameras? Cameras
- What about phones? Phones
- How is transport different? People
- Do people work in the same places as in the past?
No, most people
- What about schools? Children
- Do people live in the same places as in the past?
No, most people
- What about entertainment? People

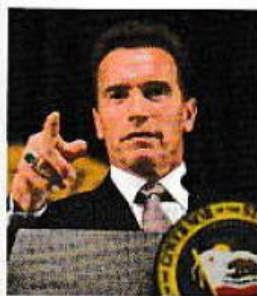
- 2 Find the mistakes in the sentences and correct them.

- ^{Did} Were people use to smoke inside cinemas in the 1950s?
- Films didn't used to have sound but now they do.
- Did use to be cameras very expensive?
- Harrison Ford used to being a carpenter before he became a film star.
- Glenda Jackson use to be a film actress but now she is a politician.
- Did Bruce Willis used to have a lot of hair?
- It wasn't use to be expensive to go to the cinema but now it is.

- 3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Choose the correct words in *italics* in the text.

The politician who used to be a film star

Arnold Schwarzenegger's life is very different today. He (0) *use / used* to be an actor but now he is a politician. These days he lives in California but he (1) *didn't live / didn't use to live* there, he *used to* (2) *live / living* in Austria. He (3) *had / use to have* an Austrian passport for many years but he (4) *got / used to get* an



American passport in 1983 when he (5) *became / used to become* a US citizen.

When he was young he (6) *wasn't use to be / didn't use to be* interested in politics – his main interest was exercise and he (7) *used to spend / used* spend hours in the gym every day, building his muscles. He was very successful and he (8) *won / used to win* the Mr Universe competition five times. ■