2.5 GRAMMAR

used to

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

1 Tick the sentences that describe routines. Choose the time expressions that show regularity.

Alastair played computer games every evening before bed. ☑

1 Karen bought a new laptop last weekend. ☐
2 Patricia and Matt called each other every Friday night. ☐
3 Dean always watched football on Saturday afternoons. ☐
4 Mary dropped her mobile phone down the toilet. ☐

2 ★ When they went to university, two friends, Carl and Owen, moved into a student flat together. Write sentences about them with *used to* or *didn't use to* and the verbs in brackets.

When they lived with their parents ...
they *didn't use to eat* (eat) unhealthy food. Now they only eat kebabs and pizzas.

1 they _____ (do) any cleaning at home. They still don't do much and their flat is a mess.
2 their parents _____ (pay) the bills. Now they pay their own bills.
3 Carl _____ (use) his dad's computer. Now he uses Owen's.
4 Carl and Owen _____ (argue). Now they argue about the computer.

3 ★★ Write positive sentences (+), negative sentences (–) and questions (?) about mobile phones in 1983. Use the correct forms of *used to* from the box and the words above each line.

(did didn't use to used to use to)

mobile phones / have cameras (?)
Did mobile phones use to have cameras?

1 mobile phones / cost a lot of money (+)
_____
_____

2 most normal people / own a mobile phone (–)
_____
_____

3 people / make fewer phone calls (+)
_____

4 mobile phones / be bigger (?)
_____

5 mobile phones / have touch screens (–)
_____
_____

6 mobile phones / send text messages (?)
_____
_____

4 ★★★ Tick the correct sentences. Sometimes both sentences are correct.

When I was in the Science club at school, ...

1 a we met every Thursday at 4 p.m. ☑
b we used to meet every Thursday at 4 p.m. ☐
2 a we watched videos about great discoveries. ☐
b we used to watch videos about great discoveries. ☐
3 a one week, a physicist came to speak to us. ☐
b one week, a physicist used to come to speak to us. ☐
4 a our group went on a trip to the Science Museum in London. ☐
b our group used to go on a trip to the Science Museum in London. ☐
5 a my friend Emma once gave a talk about the sun. ☐
b my friend Emma once used to give a talk about the sun. ☐

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

5 Complete the dialogue between Jodie and her dad with the correct forms of *used to* and the verbs in brackets.

J: Dad, *did you use to own* (you/own) a smartphone when you were my age?
D: Did I what?
J: [1] _____ (you/use) a smartphone or a laptop when you were a teenager?
D: What?! No I didn't. I was 14 in ... er ... wait a minute ... in 1981. We [2] _____ (have) laptops back then.
J: So, how [3] _____ (check) your messages?
D: Jodie?! There were no messages or texts; no Facebook or anything. We [4] _____ (send) letters or faxes.
J: I see. Wow ... Dad, what's a fax?
D: Er ... well ... it was a bit like a photocopier. You [5] _____ (write) your message on a piece of paper, then put it in the fax machine ...
J: And then?
D: Well, then you [6] _____ (dial) the number and wait. The machine er ... well ... it read the piece of paper and sent it to your friend.
J: What, the piece of paper?
D: What? No! Not the same piece of paper, Jodie – just the message.
J: I see. Wow. /6

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LIVEWORKSHEETS