

Used to

What does "used to" mean?

"Used to" talks about things that happened regularly in the **past** but **don't happen now**. It shows that something was true before, but has changed.

Structure

Positive: Subject + used to + base verb

- I used to play football.
- She used to live in London.

Negative: Subject + didn't + use to + base verb

- I didn't use to like vegetables.
- We didn't use to have a car.

Question: Did + subject + use to + base verb?

- Did you use to play piano?
- Did they use to live here?

Important Notes

✅ **Correct:** "used to" (with 'd') ❌ **Wrong:** "use to" in positive sentences

✅ **Correct:** "didn't use to" (no 'd' after negatives/questions) ❌ **Wrong:** "didn't used to"

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- ❌ I used to went to school → ✅ I used to go to school
- ❌ Did you used to like it? → ✅ Did you use to like it?
- ❌ I didn't used to understand → ✅ I didn't use to understand

Write these sentences, putting one verb into the correct form of **used to** and the other into the past simple.

- 1 I (smoke), but I (give it up) last year.

I used to smoke, but I gave it up last year.

- 2 I (not like) him, but then I (change) my mind.

I didn't use to like him, but then I changed my mind.

- 3 He (live) in London before he (go) abroad.

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- 4 I (earn) a lot of money, but then I (lose) my job.

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- 5 I'm surprised that they (join) the tennis club. They (not like) tennis.

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- 6 (you travel) a lot before you (get) this job?

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- 7 I (work) in a factory before I (become) a teacher.

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- 8 She (drive) a lot before she (have) the accident.

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- 9 That old radio (work) before I (drop) it.

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- 10 We (see) them every week, but then we (have) an argument.

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- 11 I (work) in a restaurant before I (go) to college.

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12 She (play) a lot of tennis before she (break) her leg.

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13 We (have) a garden, but then we (move) to a different house.

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14 She (live) in Wales, but then she (move) back to Scotland.

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15 I (drive) a lorry before I (start) this business.

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