

Past habits and abilities

1

Comprehension. Read the information about a famous TV chef and answer the questions in the PAST SIMPLE.

a) When was she born?

b) Where did she grow up?

c) What did she use to do when she was a child?

d) Could she bake cakes?

e) Did she use to teach cookery classes?

Rachael Ray



Occupation	chef
Famous for	TV cookery series; her charity to help children eat healthier food
Born	1968
Grew up	Massachusetts and New York State, USA
Early life	used to watch mother cooking in family restaurant; could never bake cakes or make coffee but enjoyed cooking
Career	in mid-twenties, used to teach cookery classes; got first TV cookery series in 2001

2

Complete the sentences with *used to* or *didn't use to* to make them true for you.

- When I was two, I *didn't use to* go to school. My mother *used to* take me to the park.
- Fifty years ago, people write letters to their friends. They write emails.
- When I started school, I have a lot of homework in the afternoon. I play with my friends.

- In the nineteenth century, people travel to America by boat. They fly.
- 100 years ago people play computer games because there weren't any computers! They enjoy themselves in other ways.
- At the beginning of the twentieth century, little girls wear dresses. They wear jeans and T-shirts.

3

Complete the dialogue with the correct verb forms. Use *could*.

Dylan: Who's the man in the photo?

Tom: My grandad. He died three years ago.
He was a fantastic baseball player. He
¹ *could hit* (hit) the ball 120 metres. That's a home run.

Dylan: He's very tall. ²
(he / play) basketball, too?

Tom: Yes, he ³ but he
⁴ (not swim).
He hated the water!

Dylan: What job did he do?

Tom: He was a teacher. He was really clever.
He ⁵ (speak) three languages and he ⁶ (read and write) Latin and Greek.

Dylan: And who's this?

Tom: My grandmother. She was a musician.

Dylan: Cool! ⁷ (she / sing)?

Tom: No, she ⁸ but she
⁹ (play) the piano and the guitar.