

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 used to write letters to their friends. They didn't use to write emails.
- When I started school, I used to have a lot of homework in the afternoon. I didn't use to play with my friends.
- In the nineteenth century, people used to travel to America by boat. They didn't use to fly.
- 100 years ago people used to play computer games because there weren't any computers! They didn't use to enjoy themselves in other ways.
- At the beginning of the twentieth century, little girls used to wear dresses. They didn't use to 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.