MY SCHOOL MEMORIES

READING: My School Experiences When I Was a Child

When I was a child, I went to a small primary school near my house. I used to walk to school every morning with my best friend, Lucas. We studied many subjects, such as math, science, English, and art. My favorite subject was art because I loved drawing, but I didn't use to like math because it was difficult! Our teachers were very kind and patient. My English teacher, Mrs. Gomez, always played fun games in class, and last week I saw her at the supermarket! After school, my friends and I used to stay in the playground. We played soccer, rode our bicycles, and ate ice cream before we went home. We didn't use to have smartphones, so we spent all afternoon outside.



GRAMMAR EXPLANATION: SIMPLE PAST vs. USED TO (LEVEL A2)

Feature	Simple Past	Used to
When we use it	For finished actions, events, or states in the past (often with a specific time).	For past habits, routines, or repeated actions that happened regularly in the past, but NOT now.
Affirmative (+)	Subject + past verb (-ed / irregular) • I went to a small primary school. • We studied math and science.	Subject + used to + base verb • I used to walk to school every morning. • We used to stay in the playground.
Negative (–)	Subject + didn't + base verb • We didn't have smartphones.	Subject + didn't use to + base verb (no -d!) • I didn't use to like math.
Questions (?)	Did + subject + base verb? • Did you like your teachers?	Did + subject + use to + base verb? (no -d!) • Did you use to play soccer after school?

Important Tip:

- Use the Simple Past for actions that happened only ONCE in the past (e.g., 'Last week I saw my teacher at the supermarket' — NOT 'I used to see her last week').
- Remember to drop the '-d' in 'used to' after 'didn't' and 'Did': didn't use to / Did you use to...?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR PRACTICE EXERCISES: SIMPLE PAST & USED TO

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences with the Simple Past of the verbs in parentheses.

1. When I was seven years old, I _____ (go) to a small primary school.
2. My classmates and I _____ (study) English, math, and art.
3. Mrs. Gomez _____ (be) a very kind and patient teacher.
4. After school, we _____ (eat) ice cream and _____ (ride) our bicycles.
5. Last week, I _____ (see) my old teacher at the supermarket.

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences with 'used to' or 'didn't use to' and the verb in parentheses.

1. I _____ (walk) to school every morning with my best friend.
2. I _____ (not / like) math because it was very difficult for me.
3. After class, we _____ (play) soccer in the school playground.
4. Children _____ (not / have) smartphones when I was a child.
5. My favorite teacher _____ (tell) us funny stories every Friday.

Exercise 3: Circle or choose the correct option (Simple Past or Used to).

1. Last Saturday, I (visited / used to visit) my old primary school for an anniversary event.
2. When we were kids, we (used to spend / spent once) every afternoon playing outside.
3. My sister (didn't used to / didn't use to) enjoy science class, but now she loves it.
4. In 2018, I (finished / used to finish) primary school and started high school.
5. (Did you use to / Did you used to) bring your lunch to school every day?

Exercise 4: Write the sentences in the negative (–) or question (?) form, or answer about yourself.

1. I used to wear a school uniform. (Negative) → _____
2. She liked her art teacher. (Question) → _____
3. They used to play basketball after school. (Question) → _____
4. What was your favorite subject at school? → _____
5. What did you use to do after school when you were a child? → _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS