

LIFE WHEN I WAS A CHILD (USED TO)

A2 lesson plan

1. Look at the pictures on the left. They show the same person or people, but at different times: when they were younger and now. Then, answer the questions on the right.

Then



Now



- What do you see in the first picture? What are children doing?
- What about the second picture? And what are adults doing now?
- Is it the same person? What has changed?
- Do they still do the same thing now?
- Was it a habit or just one time?



2. Read the text on the left. Then fill in the gaps in the rules using what you have learned from the examples.

Growing Up Then and Now

When I was a child, life was very different from how it is now. I used to wake up early on Saturdays just to watch cartoons with my sister. We used to sit on the floor in our pyjamas with cereal and laugh for hours. After that, we went outside and played with our friends until it got dark — no phones, no internet, just bikes and imagination.

My parents used to take us to the seaside every year. We stayed in a small cottage all summer, and I used to collect seashells along the beach and believe they were magical!

Of course, not everything was perfect. I didn't use to like vegetables, especially spinach. My sister never used to share her toys with me, and we used to fight about it all the time.

Technology was different too. We didn't use to have smartphones or Wi-Fi. Instead, we wrote letters to our pen friends and waited for weeks to get a reply. Did you use to write letters like that too?

Now, everything is quicker and more digital. I don't watch cartoons anymore — I read the news on my phone. I don't spend much time outside either; I spend most of my time working. Looking back, I can say that childhood used to be slower, simpler, and filled with little adventures.

We use **used to + base verb** to talk about habits or states in the past that are no longer true.

For example:

- I _____ my bike everywhere.

We don't use "used to" for one-time events, specific number of times, or a specific duration, we use **Past Simple** instead. (i.g. three times, all summer etc.)

For example:

- We _____ in a small cottage all summer.

To make a negative form we use:

- _____ + V
(common in writing): I didn't use to like vegetables.
- _____ + V
(more common in speaking): My sister never used to share her toys with me.

To make a question form we use _____ + subject + _____ + verb?

- Did you use to write letters like that too?



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For short answers we use the phrases I used to / I didn't use to:

Did you use to go camping?

→ Yes, I used to.

→ No, I didn't use to.

You can also answer:

→ Yes, I did.

→ No, I didn't.



3. Choose the correct sentence (a or b) in each pair.

1. a) I used to playing football every weekend.
b) I used to play football every weekend.
2. a) He didn't use to like coffee.
b) He didn't used to like coffee.
3. a) Did she use to ride a bike to school?
b) Did she used to ride a bike to school?
4. a) We never used to go on holiday.
b) We used to never go on holiday.
5. a) My sister used to had long hair.
b) My sister used to have long hair.
6. a) I didn't use to enjoy school.
b) I didn't used to enjoy school.
7. a) Did you use to watch cartoons in the morning?
b) Did you used to watch cartoons in the morning?
8. a) They use to live in the countryside.
b) They used to live in the countryside.
9. a) We didn't use to had the internet at home.
b) We didn't use to have the internet at home.
10. a) He never used to eat vegetables.
b) He didn't never used to eat vegetables.

4. Match the halves to make sentences.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. I used to sleep with ____ | a) a bright yellow car. |
| 2. My dad used to drive ____ | b) milk came from brown cows. |
| 3. We never used to ____ | c) mixtapes for your friends? |
| 4. I used to cry during ____ | d) to strangers on the bus. |
| 5. Did you use to make ____ | e) the light on every night. |
| 6. My cousin used to bring ____ | f) lock our front door. |
| 7. People used to talk ____ | g) eat dinner at 5 p.m.? |
| 8. We didn't use to celebrate ____ | h) every cartoon ending! |
| 9. I used to think chocolate ____ | i) his pet lizard to school. |
| 10. Did your family use to ____ | j) Halloween in my country. |

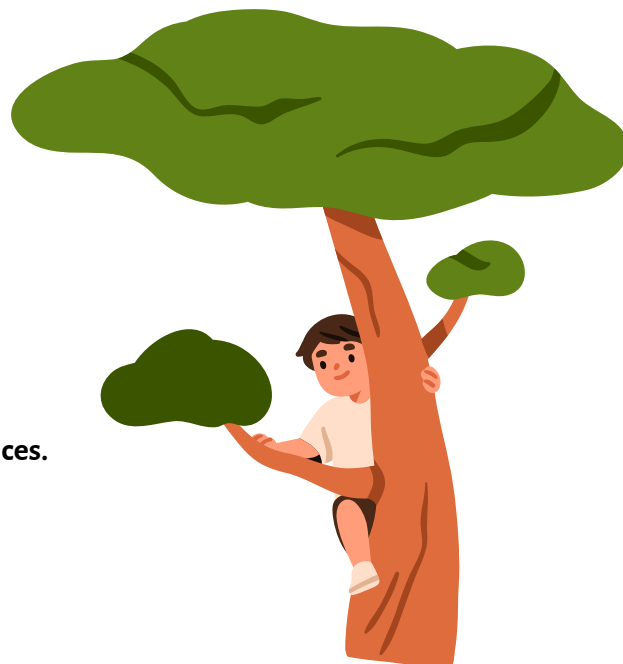
5. Put the words in brackets in the correct form to complete the sentences.

Example:

My sister _____ (wear) fairy wings around the house every day.

My sister used to wear fairy wings around the house every day.

1. I _____ (walk) to school every day.
2. She _____ (not/eat) vegetables.
3. We _____ (play) outside until it got dark.
4. My grandparents _____ (not/have) a TV.
5. _____ you _____ (watch) cartoons on Saturday mornings?
6. My brother _____ (have) really long hair.
7. _____ they _____ (go) camping every summer?
8. We _____ (not/use) mobile phones in class.
9. I _____ (be) very shy as a child.
10. _____ your family _____ (travel) a lot when you were younger?



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6. Work alone, in pairs, or small groups. Write three sentences about your childhood using “used to” — two true, one false. Take turns reading your sentences. The others ask questions to guess which memory is false. Try to make your lie sound real!

I used to...	I never used to...	
I didn't use to...	Did you use to...?	

Topics for inspiration:

- school life
- food and drinks
- hobbies
- clothes
- family traditions
- weekend activities

Topics for inspiration:

- technology
- music
- travel
- fears
- friends
- bedtime routines

7. Work in pairs or small groups. Take turns asking each other questions using “Did you use to...?” If your partner says yes, ask for more details. If the answer is no, move on to the next question. Try to ask all the questions and find out something interesting.

Find someone who ...	Name	Details
...used to have a pet		
...didn't use to like vegetables		
...used to live in another country		
...used to watch cartoons every day		
...used to be scared of something		
...used to wear something funny as a child		
...used to go camping or to the seaside		
...didn't use to enjoy school		
...used to play a musical instrument		



**optional activity*

8. **Let's play!** Choose a square and make a correct sentence using affirmative, negative sentences and questions with used to. If your sentence is correct, drag your token onto the square. First to get four in a row (up, down, across or diagonal) wins!



Scan or click to play.

9. Choose the correct alternative.

1. I **used to believed** / **used to believe** that chewing gum stayed in your stomach for seven years.
2. We **used to record** / **recorded** songs from the radio onto cassette tapes.
3. My cousin **wore** / **used to wear** sunglasses indoors because he thought it looked cool.
4. We **didn't use to have** / **hadn't** Wi-Fi, so we actually talked to each other at dinner.
5. Did you **used to climb** / **use to climb** trees and pretend you were in a jungle?
6. I **never use to eat** / **used to eat** mushrooms until I tried them on pizza.
7. My friends and I **used to make** / **made** dance videos on a video camera.
8. We **used to rent** / **used rent** DVDs from a shop down the road every Friday night.



9. I used to **thought / think** grown-ups had all the answers.

10. My grandma **used to tell / use to tell** us ghost stories that kept us awake all night.

Example:

I / be / afraid / of / balloons / because / they / pop

I used to be afraid of balloons because they always popped.

1. I / think / the moon / follow / our car / when / we / drive / at night.
2. My brother / hide / his / vegetables / in / his / socks / during / dinner.
3. We / build / treehouses / with / whatever / we / find / in / the garden.
4. I / not like / coffee / but / now / I / can't / live / without / it.
5. My parents / take / photos / with / a big camera / that / need / film.
6. We / never / lock / the door / when / we / leave / the house.
7. I / collect / shiny stickers / and / trade / them / at school.
8. You / sing / in front of / the mirror / with / a hairbrush / as / a microphone?
9. People / write / letters / by hand / and / wait / weeks / for / a reply.
10. We / not have / GPS / so / my dad / get / lost / with / a paper map.



1. I used to went fishing with my dad.

6. I didn't use to going to the dentist.

2. We didn't used to eat at restaurants.

7. We never use to stay at hotels.

3. Did you used to like cartoons?

8. Did she use to have long hair?

4. He use to be very shy.

9. They used to go swimming every weekend.

5. My parents used to living in Italy.

10. He didn't used to like loud music.



12. Extra task. Write a short paragraph (5-8 sentences) about your childhood. Describe what you used to do, what you didn't use to do, and things that have changed. Use the prompts below to help you. Try to use at least 3 different "used to" sentences and at least 2 negative sentences.

[illegible]

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Lined area for writing the lesson plan.

