

Grammar: Used to

Introduction

'Used to' is used to speak about a long-term situation or repeated habit that was true in the past but that is no longer true in the present.



The Form

This expression is formed with **use(d) to** followed by the **verb**.

Here are some examples:

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Question</i>
I used to smoke when I was younger. (but now I don't)	I didn't use to smoke but now I do.	Did you use to work in the same company?
They used to live in New York but now they live in London.	He didn't use to live in Japan, he lived in China.	Did you use to be vegetarian?



Exercises



A: Complete the following sentences using one word to fill each gap:

1. He _____ to work in IBM but now he works in HP.
2. It used to _____ me 1 hour to drive to work but now, with the new motorway it only takes me 40 minutes.
3. They used _____ play tennis together until she moved to a different part of the city.
4. She _____ to work in sales but now she works in marketing.
5. I used to _____ an Audi but I sold it last year.



B: Rephrase the following words to use the expression "used to" and a verb:

1. Before they built the supermarket, there was a cinema on the same site.
2. In the old days children had fewer toys than nowadays.
3. Before I drove to work but now I live closer and can cycle.
4. In the past having a mobile phone was rare but now everyone has one.
5. Before he could speak German but he has forgotten now.



Answers



A

1. He used to work in IBM but now he works in HP.
2. It used to take me 1 hour to drive to work but now, with the new motorway it only takes me 40 minutes.
3. They used to play tennis together until she moved to a different part of the city.
4. She used to work in sales but now she works in marketing.
5. I used to own/have an Audi but I sold it last year.



B

1. There used to be a cinema on the site where they built the supermarket.
2. (In the old days) children used to have fewer toys than nowadays.
3. I used to drive to work, but now I live closer and can cycle.
4. Having a mobile phone used to be rare, but now everyone has one.
5. He used to be able to speak German, but he has forgotten now.