



We **used to** live in the center of a large city. We **used to** go out every night. We'd go out to eat or we'd go to the movies, or the theater, or to exhibitions. Then we had kids and moved to the country.



Now our lives are very different.

Presentation

used to

Use *used to* to talk about past habits, and situations or states:

We **used to** go out every night. (habit)

We **used to** live in the city. (situation)

We **used to** be city people. (state)

You only use *used to* to talk about past habits. Use the present simple and *usually* (or other adverbs of frequency) to talk about habits in the present:

We **don't usually** go out at the weekend. (don't say ~~I don't use to~~ go out at the weekend.)

You can also use the past simple to talk about past habits:

We **went** out every night.

We **used to** go out every night.

+	We used to live in the city.
-	She didn't use to like the country.
?	Did you use to go out every night?
Yes/No	Yes, we did . / No, we didn't .

TIP Be careful with the question and negative forms: there is no -d on *use to*:

Did you **use to** have pets when you were in school?
(don't say Did you ~~used to~~ ...?)

I **didn't use to** like dogs when I was younger. (don't say I ~~didn't used to~~ ...)

would

You can also use *would/wouldn't* to talk about past habits: We'd go out to eat.

You use *would* to talk about actions but not to talk about states or situations: We'd go to exhibitions. (don't say ~~We'd live in the city~~.)

Don't use *used to* or *would* to talk about:

- a single past action: I ~~used to/would~~ go to a great exhibition yesterday.
We went to a great exhibition yesterday.
- how long an action lasted: I ~~used to~~ live in the city for three years.
I lived in the city for three years.
- the number of times an action was repeated in total: We ~~used to/would~~ visit the museum at least a hundred times.
We visited the museum at least a hundred times.

1 Complete the conversation using the correct form of *used to* and short answers.

A: ¹..... (you live) in the country when you were a kid?

B: Yes, we ²..... I loved it! We ³..... (have) cats and dogs, and even a couple of chickens!

A: ⁴..... (you/eat) their eggs?

B: Yes, we ⁵..... (have to) collect the eggs every morning. We ⁶..... (take) turns. My sister ⁷..... (not like) looking after the chickens very much. She ⁸..... (be) scared they'd peck her.

2 Rewrite the sentences using *used to* where possible.

1 I went to belly-dancing classes when I was at school.

I used to go to belly-dancing classes when I was at school.

2 I started my first classes when I was eight.

3 We took part in competitions.

4 I loved performing in front of an audience.

5 I continued dancing for almost six years.

6 Then I lost interest and I took up basketball instead.

7 I played on the school team and we trained every day of the week.

8 We were pretty good and we won three local championships.

3 Look at the verbs in bold. Replace *used to* with *would/wouldn't* where possible.

I **used to** love chocolate. I **used to** eat it all day long. Some days I **didn't use to** eat anything else, until one day I developed an allergy to it – and now I can't eat it anymore!

I **used to** be scared of the dark. I **used to** refuse to go into a dark room on my own. My little sister **used to** hold my hand!

I **didn't use to** do any sports at all. I **used to** think I was fit and healthy enough without it. I **used to** spend all day at my desk and I **never used to** ever get any exercise. But then I broke my leg and I had to follow an intensive exercise program. I actually enjoyed it and I've kept doing sports ever since.

1 —	4	7	9
2 would	5	8	10
3	6		

4 Complete the text so that it is true for you or someone you know.

When was a kid, used to would
always and would never