

A Study this example situation:

a few years ago



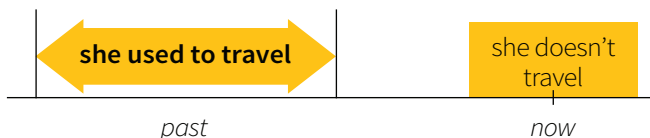
these days

Nicola doesn't travel much these days.
She prefers to stay at home.

But she **used to travel** a lot.

She **used to go** away two or three times a year.

She **used to travel** a lot = she travelled often in the past, but she doesn't do this any more.



B I **used to** do something = I did it often in the past, but not any more:

- ☐ I **used to play** tennis a lot, but I don't play very much now.
- ☐ David **used to spend** a lot of money on clothes. These days he can't afford it.
- ☐ 'Do you go to the cinema much?' 'Not now, but I **used to.**' (= I used to go)

We also use **used to** ... for things that were true, but are not true any more:

- ☐ This building is now a furniture shop. It **used to be** a cinema.
- ☐ I **used to think** Mark was unfriendly, but now I realise he's a very nice person.
- ☐ I've started drinking coffee recently. I never **used to like** it before.
- ☐ Lisa **used to have** very long hair when she was a child.

C 'I used to do something' is past. There is no present. You cannot say 'I use to do'. To talk about the present, we use the present simple (**I do**).

Compare:

<i>past</i>	he used to play	we used to live	there used to be
<i>present</i>	he plays	we live	there is

- ☐ We **used to live** in a small village, but now we **live** in a city.
- ☐ There **used to be** four cinemas in the town. Now there **is** only one.

D The normal question form is **did** (you) **use to** ...? :

- ☐ **Did you use to eat** a lot of sweets when you were a child? (= did you do this often?)

The negative form is **didn't use to ...** (**used not to ...** is also possible):

- ☐ I **didn't use to like** him. (or I **used not to like** him.)

F Compare **I used to do** and **I was doing**:

- ☐ I **used to watch** TV a lot. (= I watched TV often in the past, but I don't do this any more)
- ☐ I **was watching** TV when Rob called. (= I was in the middle of watching TV)

F Do not confuse **I used to do** and **I am used to doing** (see Unit 61). The structures and meanings are different:

- ☐ I **used to live** alone. (= I lived alone in the past, but I no longer live alone.)
- ☐ I **am used to living** alone. (= I live alone, and it's not a problem for me because I've lived alone for some time.)

Exercises

18.1 Complete the sentences with **used to** + a suitable verb.

- Nicola used to travel a lot, but she doesn't go away much these days.
- Sophie a motorbike, but last year she sold it and bought a car.
- Our friends moved to Spain a few years ago. They in Paris.
- Jackie my best friend, but we aren't friends any more.
- I rarely eat ice cream now, but I it when I was a child.
- It only takes me about 40 minutes to get to work now that the new road is open.
It more than an hour.
- There a hotel near the airport, but it closed a long time ago.
- I in a factory. It wasn't my favourite job.

18.2 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box.

- Lisa used to have very long hair when she was a child.
- We to watch TV a lot, but we don't have a TV any more.
- Lisa works in a shop now. She a receptionist in a hotel.
- What games you use to play when you were a child?
- I like big cities, but now I prefer the countryside.
- In your last job, how many hours a day did you to work?
- I don't travel very much these days, but I used
- I used to to run ten kilometres, but I can't run that far now.
- These days I eat more than before. I use to eat as much.

did
didn't
to
use
used
used to
used to be
~~used to have~~
be able

18.3 Compare what Karen said ten years ago and what she says today:

TEN YEARS AGO		TODAY
<u>I travel a lot.</u>	I play the piano.	I haven't played the piano for a long time.
I'm very lazy.	I never drink tea.	I eat lots of cheese now.
I don't like cheese.	I have a dog.	My dog died two years ago.
		I work very hard these days.
		Tea's great! I like it now.
		<u>I don't go away much these days.</u>

Now write about how Karen has changed. Use **used to** / **didn't use to** / **never used to** in the first part of your sentence.

- She used to travel a lot, but she doesn't go away much these days.
- She used but
- but
- but
- but
- but

18.4 Write sentences about yourself. Begin **I used to ...** (**I used to be/work/like/play** etc.)

- I used to live in a small village, but now I live in a city.
- I used to play tennis a lot, but I don't play any more.
- I used, but
- I
-

Now begin with **I didn't use to ...**

- I didn't use to read a lot, but I do now.
- I didn't
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