

Grammar Booster

“Used to” – talking about past habits



Welcome: Talking About the Past (But Different!)

Today we'll learn how to talk about things you **did in the past**, but you **don't do anymore**.

This is helpful to:

- Talk about **your childhood**
- Describe **life changes**
- Share what has **stopped or changed**

We use '**used to**' when something was true before... but not now.



Grammar Rule: “Used to”

We use ‘**used to**’ to describe:

- Habits in the past
- Situations or facts that were true

Structure:

Subject + used to + base verb

Subject	Example
I	used to live in London.
He	used to smoke.
We	used to go to school together.

Tip: Do not use ‘used to’ for present habits.

Use Present Simple for that.

Task: Tutor gives cues: student builds sentences

Example: “childhood” → “I used to play in the park.”



Negative Form & Questions

For **negatives**, use:

didn't use to + base verb

For **questions**, use:

Did + subject + use to + base verb?

Examples:

- “I didn't use to like vegetables.”
- “Did you use to live here?”
- “She didn't use to wear glasses.”

Note: no “-d” on **use** after “did”

“Did” already puts it in the past

Task: Practice: tutor says → student replies with yes/no or negative



Compare “Used to” vs Past Simple

Both are about the past, but:

Used to (repeated past)	Past Simple (specific action)
“I used to walk to school.”	“I walked to school yesterday.”
“He used to play football.”	“He played a match last week.”

Task: Tutor gives verb and time → student creates one of each

Examples:

“go / childhood” → “I used to go to my grandma’s.”

“go / last Sunday” → “I went to my grandma’s.”

Common Mistakes (Fix Them Together)

Review the sentences below with your tutor:

✗ “I use to like sweets.” →

✗ “Did you used to...?” →

✗ “She doesn’t used to...” →

Task: Tutor says mistake → student corrects out loud

Helps with fluency and awareness

Memory Activity: Your Childhood

Tutor prompts: “Think about your life 5–10 years ago.”

Examples:

- “Did you use to eat different food?”
- “What music did you use to like?”
- “Where did you use to go?”

Student replies:

Examples:

“I used to love cartoons.”

“I didn’t use to speak English.”

Then, Add 2–3 memories in speech, taking turns with your tutor



Roleplay: Catching Up with an Old Friend

Situation: Imagine your tutor is a friend and you haven't seen each other in years.

Tutor: “Hey! You used to live near here, right?”

Student:

- “Yes! I used to live on King Street.”
“I used to have long hair!”

Tutor asks:

- “Did you use to work in a shop?”
- “Did you use to play in a band?”

Student responds: Free-form but guided speech



Fluency Game: “Now vs Before”

Task: Tutor says topic → student says 1 thing from past, 1 from now:

Examples:

- “Music” →
- “Hobbies” →
- “Work” →

Fast response game, builds confidence and rhythm

Review & Final Speaking Task

Well done! Today you learned:

- “Used to” = past habit or state that is no longer true
- “Didn’t use to” = negative
- “Did you use to...?” = question
- Real-life examples with memory and reflection

Final task:

Discuss:

3 things you used to do but don’t do now.

Then ask your tutor one question using ‘Did you use to...?’