

## GRAMMAR SUPPLEMENT

### USED TO

#### 1.1 USE

<b>We use "used to" in English to talk about a habit, state, or action that was true in the past but is no longer true in the present. It describes something that happened regularly or existed over a period of time in the past but has since changed or ended:</b>
I used to eat a lot of candy. (Now I don't do this.)
People used to smoke on airplanes. (Now this is prohibited.)
There weren't many people online in 1995. (Now there are.)
<b>We use "used to" to describe past habits and repeated actions:</b>
Mary used to play with her doll collection when she was little.
I used to practice the viola every day when I was in a children's orchestra.
<b>We use "used to" to describe past states or situations:</b>
There didn't use to be a supermarket here. (Now, there is.)
The Four Seasons used to be one of the most popular groups in the 60s.
<b>We use "used to" to create a contrast between the past and the present:</b>
She used to eat meat but she gave it up a few years ago.
There used to be huge dinosaurs walking around the earth.

#### 1.2 FORM

<b>"Used to" is always followed by the base form of the verb:</b>
I used to <b>drink</b> sugary drinks.
We used to <b>sleep</b> more.
There used to <b>be</b> a garden here.
<b>When using the negation form, treat "used to" as a past tense verb. Use "didn't use to":</b>
The faculty <b>didn't use</b> to have a computer lab.
I <b>didn't use</b> to like tomatoes.
<b>When using the question form, treat "used to" as a past tense verb. Use "did...use to...?":</b>
<b>Did you use</b> to read more than now?
<b>Did most parents use</b> to treat their kids differently?
<b>Do not confuse "used to" with "get used to" or "be used to"—these expressions have different uses and meanings.</b>
I'm getting <b>used to</b> the new program.
The cat's <b>not used to</b> the new food.

#### 1.3 Practice Exercise A

Complete the spaces with *used to* and one of the verbs in the box below. In some cases you need to use the negative form.

erupt	be	listen	live	sing	major	rain	be	make	wear
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1. I \_\_\_\_\_ in a small apartment on La Cienega Street. I barely remember that time.
2. Larissa \_\_\_\_\_ in nuclear physics before she switched to social work.
3. The entrance to the park \_\_\_\_\_ located on the other side.
4. Jorge \_\_\_\_\_ such a gym fanatic. Now he goes every day.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ opera, but now he's a rapper.
6. This volcano \_\_\_\_\_ very regularly, but it has been dormant for 100 years now.
7. That bakery \_\_\_\_\_ black forest cake, but they started because of customer requests.
8. Our teacher \_\_\_\_\_ glasses before she got contact lenses.
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ to the radio a lot, but I've changed to podcasts.
10. It \_\_\_\_\_ more. Now it has gotten a lot drier.

#### 1.4 Practice Exercise B

Rewrite the simple past sentences below using “used to”.

1. People didn't watch many animal videos in the past.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The shore of the ocean was about 100 meters further out.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. TV variety shows were shown a lot more on TV in the past.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. I didn't have a netbook because I didn't know I needed one.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. This shop closed at 6 pm on the weekends.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. They used certain pesticides that are illegal now.  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 1.5 Practice Exercise C

Put the words/phrases in order to create correct sentences or questions.

1. build / used / impressive / the Aztecs / pyramids / to

- .....
2. play / board games / use / did / to / you ?
- .....
3. before / an old house / there / used / the mall / here / they / be / to / built
- .....
4. didn't / Instagram / popular / be / use / at all / to
- .....
5. trash / throw / to / in the river / people / used
- .....

## ANSWER KEY

### 1.3 Practice Exercise A

Complete the spaces with *used to* and one of the verbs in the box below. In some cases you need to use the negative form.

erupt   be   listen   live   sing   major   rain   be   make   wear
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1. I **used to live** in a small apartment on La Cienega Street. I barely remember that time.
2. Larissa **used to major** in nuclear physics before she switched to social work.
3. The entrance to the park **used to be** located on the other side.
4. Jorge **didn't use to be** such a gym fanatic. Now he goes every day.
5. He **used to sing** opera, but now he's a rapper.

6. This volcano **used to erupt** very regularly, but it has been dormant for 100 years now.
7. That bakery **didn't use to make** black forest cake, but they started because of customer requests.
8. Our teacher **used to wear** glasses before she got contact lenses.
9. I **used to listen** to the radio a lot, but I've changed to podcasts.
10. It **used to rain** more. Now it has gotten a lot drier.

#### 1.4 Practice Exercise B

Rewrite the simple past sentences below using “used to”.

1. People didn't watch many animal videos in the past.

**People didn't use to watch many animal videos in the past.**

2. The shore of the ocean was about 100 meters further out.

**The shore of the ocean used to be about 100 meters further out.**

3. TV variety shows were shown a lot more on TV in the past.

**TV variety shows used to be shown a lot more on TV in the past.**

4. I didn't have a netbook because I didn't know I needed one.

**I didn't use to have a netbook because I didn't know I needed one.**

5. This shop closed at 6 pm on the weekends.

**This shop used to close at 6 pm on the weekends.**

6. They used certain pesticides that are illegal now.

**They used to use certain pesticides that are illegal now.**

#### 1.5 Practice Exercise C

Put the words/phrases in order to create correct sentences or questions.

1. build / used / impressive / the Aztecs / pyramids / to

**The Aztecs used to build impressive pyramids.**

2. play / board games / use / did / to / you ?

**Did you use to play board games?**

3. before / an old house / there / used / the mall / here / they / be / to / built

**There used to be an old house here before they built the mall.**

4. didn't / Instagram / popular / be / use / at all / to

**Instagram didn't use to be popular at all.**

5. trash / throw / to / in the river / people / used

**People used to throw trash in the river.**