

33 used to and would

Sir Ranulph Fiennes is an explorer. He **used to be** a soldier but started exploring in the 1960s. When he was younger, he **used to go** on very difficult expeditions and he **would take** risks that many other explorers wouldn't. In 2000, for example, he attempted to walk to the North Pole, alone and unsupported.



1 Form of used to

POSITIVE	<i>I used to work there. He used to be a soldier. We used to have a cat.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I did not (didn't) use to work.* He did not (didn't) use to be an explorer. They did not (didn't) use to have a cat.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Did you use to work? (Yes, I did.) Did they use to have a cat? (No, they didn't.) Where did he use to work?</i>

* It is also possible to form the negative and question with *used to*: *didn't used to* / *did you used to?*

⚠ There is no present form of *used to*: ~~✗ I use to go to work by bus.~~ ✓ *I go to work by bus.*

⚠ Do not confuse *used to do* with *be/get used to doing*:

I'm used to spending time on my own. (= I'm often alone; it isn't unusual for me.)

I used to spend time on my own. (= I spent time on my own in the past; I don't any more.)

2 used to

We use *used to* + infinitive to talk about regular past actions that do not happen now:

I used to take the bus to work every day. (But now I take the train.)

People used to write a lot of letters. (But now they send emails.)

We often use adverbs of frequency (e.g. *always, once a week, every year*) with *used to*:

I always used to swim before breakfast. We often used to hold parties for our friends.

We never used to stay up late when we were young! (= We didn't use to stay up late.)

We also use *used to* + infinitive when we talk about past situations that are no longer true:

He used to be a soldier. (But now he's an explorer.) *France used to have a king.*

🔊 **Pronunciation** ▶ 1.13

3 would

We can also use *would* + infinitive to talk about regular past actions that do not happen now:

When we first moved here, people would stop and talk in the street. They don't now.

When we start descriptions of past actions with *used to*, we usually continue with *would*:

When he was younger, he used to go on very difficult expeditions and he would take risks ...

⚠ *Would* is used for past actions, not situations:

~~✗ France would have a king.~~ ✓ *France used to have a king.*

🔊 **Pronunciation** ▶ 1.14

4 used to or past simple?

We often use *used to*, not the past simple, when we want to emphasise a difference between the past and the present: *My sister works in an office now but she used to work on a farm.*


We use the past simple for

- single actions in the past: ~~✗ I used to have an exam last week.~~ ✓ *I had an exam last week.*
- periods of time: ~~✗ He used to be in Greece for two years.~~ ✓ *He was in Greece for two years.*
- a number of times: ~~✗ We used to swim in the pool twice when we stayed there.~~
✓ *We swam in the pool twice when we stayed there.*

Practice

1 Choose the correct words in *italics>. In two sentences, both answers are possible.*

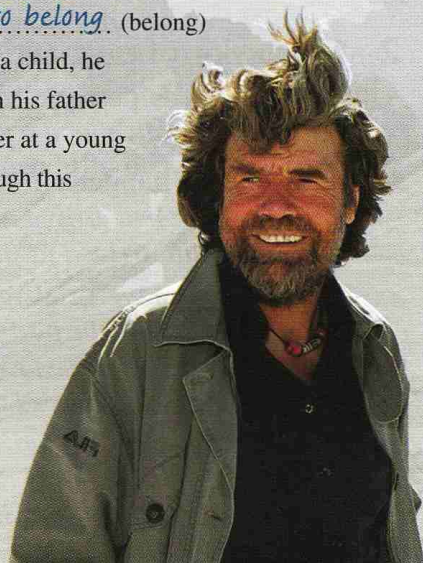
- 0 When we lived in the country, people in shops *would* / *used to be* much friendlier.
 1 When I was a child we *didn't use* / *weren't used* to fly – we couldn't afford it.
 2 *Do* / *Did* you use to wear a uniform at your last school?
 3 When Matt was in his twenties, he *used to* / *would* play rugby every Sunday.
 4 Last week we *interviewed* / *used to interview* over twenty candidates.
 5 *Did you use to* / *Would you* have dark hair when you were a girl?
 6 In the nineteenth century people *worked* / *used to work* longer hours than they do now.

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the text with the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple, *used to* or *would*. (Remember not to repeat *used to* too much.)  3.01 Listen and check.**The greatest mountain climber of all time?**

Reinhold Messner is often called 'the greatest mountain climber of all time'; he was the first person to climb all fourteen peaks of over 8,000 metres.

Messner was born near Bolzano, Italy, in 1944. This area (0) *used to belong* (belong) to the Austrian Empire, and is still German-speaking. When Reinhold was a child, he (1) (go) climbing in the Dolomite Mountains with his father and brothers. He (2) (become) a very good climber at a young age. He first (3) (climb) the Himalayas in 1970, though this expedition was a tragedy because his brother (4) (die) on the way down.

Messner was well-known for his attitude to the mountains: he (5) (climb) with only light equipment, he (6) (not request) any outside support and he (7) (not take) any extra oxygen – at a time when it was thought impossible to climb the highest peaks without oxygen. Apart from mountaineering, Messner (8) (make) a number of Arctic and Antarctic crossings.

3 Find six more mistakes and correct them. Tick (✓) the correct sentences.  3.02 Listen and check.

- 0 Messner didn't use to ~~take~~^{take} extra oxygen when he climbed.
 1 When we went to Nepal, I used to climb to Everest Base Camp once.
 2 When we were children, we'd often visit our grandparents at the weekends.
 3 People today use to spend a lot of time on their computers.
 4 Did they use to have electric lighting in the 1800s?
 5 Centuries ago people would be a lot shorter than today.
 6 We never use to stay at school for lunch in those days.
 7 Before the 1960s men wouldn't have long hair.
 8 Were you used to learn French when you were at school?

4 Use the words in brackets to write about things that have changed in your life.

- 0 (holidays) *When I was young we would go to the mountains on holiday, but now I go abroad.*
 1 (holidays)
 2 (music)
 3 (friends)

ANSWER KEY

UNIT 33

- 1 1 didn't use 2 Did 3 used to/would
4 interviewed 5 Did you use to
6 worked/used to work
- 2 1 used to go/would go 2 became 3 climbed
4 died 5 used to climb 6 wouldn't request
7 wouldn't take 8 made
- 3 1 I ~~used to climb~~ climbed
2 ✓
3 ~~use to spend~~ spend
4 ✓
5 ~~would~~ used to
6 ~~use~~ used
7 ~~wouldn't~~ didn't use to
8 ~~Were you used~~ Did you use

4 Model answers

- 1 *When I was young I would go to my cousins' house for holidays, but now I usually go to the Mediterranean.*
2 *I used to like folk singing, but now I prefer classical music.*
3 *I used to have two best friends when I was a child, now I have a lot of friends.*

UNIT 34

- 1 1 2, 1 2 1, 2 3 1, 2 4 1, 2 5 2, 1 6 1, 2
7 2, 1 8 2, 1
- 2 1 had seen 2 had never been 3 had met 4 felt (same time as 'walked'), had said (something that had happened before 'walked') 5 reached (series of actions – stepped, reached, wrapped), had left (an action before the series of actions), wrapped
- 3 1 didn't know (hadn't known also possible) 2 had recovered 3 made 4 had decided 5 had set out 6 had achieved 7 realised 8 had ever done

UNIT 35

- 1 1 How long had you been working there when you became a director?
2 I hadn't been sleeping well for weeks when I had the accident at work.
3 Paul had been working really long hours for six months when he became ill.
4 How long had Sarah been taking the medicine before she got better?
5 We hadn't been saving hard enough so we couldn't go on holiday with the others.
- 2 1 had been raining 2 hadn't been listening
3 had been working 4 had been playing
5 hadn't been wearing
- 3 1 B 2 F 3 D 4 E 5 C 6 G 7 A

REVIEW

- 1 1 had 2 was getting 3 did this happen 4 was hoping 5 arrived 6 was shining 7 started 8 didn't stop
- 2 ... She ^{used to} ~~would~~ be a really fun-loving person but she's changed. It all started when she ~~would go~~ ~~went~~ to Africa after college and worked in a village, helping poor children. She ~~used to be~~ ~~was~~ there for two years. She obviously loved it there, but she's become really serious. She never ~~use~~ ~~used~~ to be like that. When we were at college together, we would go out in the evenings – to the cinema, to cafés and so on, we

didn't ~~used~~ ~~use~~ to worry about anything. We would often go away at the weekend with a group of friends and Sarah ~~used to be~~ ~~used to be~~ ready to try anything – horse-riding, sailing, surfing – all that. But now she prefers to stay at home because she thinks we shouldn't spend money on these things. She ~~is never~~ ~~used to~~ ~~never used~~ to criticise me so much – now she says that I need to take life more seriously. She ~~used to tell~~ ~~told~~ me the other day that I was wasting my life! I know that she's learnt a lot from her work in Africa and that she's right in some ways, but you still need to have some fun, don't you?

- 3 1 B 2 A 3 B 4 A 5 B
- 4 1 travelled 2 had ever travelled 3 enjoyed
4 was 5 had passed away 6 used to 7 had been writing 8 was travelling 9 collected
10 wrote 11 returned 12 had just broken out
- 5 1 three days ago 2 used to drive 3 had enquired 4 was rehearsing when 5 had been living 6 didn't use to swim

TEST

- 1 B 2 C 3 A 4 C 5 B 6 C 7 C 8 C
9 A 10 A 11 B 12 A 13 B 14 C 15 B
16 C 17 B 18 A 19 B 20 A

Module 7

UNIT 36

- 1 1 We've played five games this season.
2 Have you eaten anything today?
3 Our friends haven't had a pet before.
4 Sally's broken her mobile phone.
5 Has Clive used this computer?
6 I've never driven an American car.
7 Have the children seen all the Harry Potter films?
8 Mr Lopez hasn't come to work today.
- 2 1 G 2 F 3 B 4 C 5 H 6 A 7 E
- 3 1 already 2 still 3 been 4 recently
5 never 6 just 7 ever 8 before
- 4 1 yet (E) 2 still (A) 3 recently (B) 4 already (D)
- 5 DAVE Have ^{you brought} ~~brought you~~ the new car?
ALISON Yes. I've ~~park~~ ~~parked~~ it outside. Come and have a look...
DAVE It's lovely. How fast does it go?
ALISON I don't know. I ~~yet~~ haven't driven it on the motorway ~~yet~~.
DAVE I bet it's really fast. Pete's got one of these and he says he's ~~did~~ ~~done~~ over 125 mph in it!
ALISON Oh, that's too fast for me. I've ~~never~~ ~~driven~~ ~~never~~ over 80 or 90.
DAVE I haven't driven a car like this ~~already~~ ~~before~~ before. Could I have a go?
ALISON I'm afraid not. ~~Just~~ I've ~~just~~ arranged the insurance and I'm the only person that's allowed to drive it.
DAVE That's a pity. How do you turn on the CD player?
ALISON Mmm, I'm not sure. ~~I've~~ ~~I haven't~~ looked at the manual yet.
DAVE Has it got air-conditioning?
ALISON Yes. I'm really looking forward to the hot weather so I can try it out. I've never had ~~before~~ a car with air-conditioning ~~before~~!