



Woman: I didn't use to like spiders until I met Kevin. I used to be really scared of them.
I used to scream and run away if I saw one.

Reporter: Kevin, did you use to be scared of spiders too?

Man: No, I've always loved them. I used to keep them in a box under my bed when I was a kid.

Presentation

Use *used to* to talk about ...

- past habitual actions (things that happened regularly in the past): *I used to scream and run away.*
- situations and states that are no longer true: *I used to hate spiders but I don't mind them now.*

You only use *used to* to talk about the past. You cannot use it to talk about the present.

Say *I don't usually do any work at the weekend.*
(don't say *I don't use to do any work at the weekend.*)

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

I kept spiders as pets. (I used to keep spiders as pets.)

You do not use *used to* to talk about ...

- a specific time or action in the past:

Say *I got up at six this morning.* (don't say *I used to get up at six this morning.*)

- the number of times something happened in total:

Say *We went to the zoo three times last year.* (don't say *We used to go to the zoo three times last year.*)

- how long a single action or situation lasted:

Say *We lived in France for three years.* (don't say *We used to live in France for three years.*)

Affirmative and negative

I / You / He / She / It / We / They	used to	keep spiders.
	didn't use to	like spiders.

Questions

Where	did	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	use to	keep the spiders?
	Did	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	use to	be scared of spiders?

Short answers

Yes,	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	did.	No,	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	didn't.
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TIP Be careful with the question and negative forms:
there is no *-d* in *use to*:

Did you use to have pets when you were in school? (not *Did you used to ...?*)

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

Exercises

1 Choose the correct form.

- 1 When I was a kid, I ¹*used to / didn't use to* think there were monsters under my bed. I never ²*used to / didn't use to* go to sleep until my mum had looked under the bed.
- 2 I ³*used to / didn't use to* like dogs. Our neighbours had a big black dog that always ⁴*used to / didn't use to* bark at me whenever I went near it. I ⁵*used to / didn't use to* cross the road to get away from it.
- 3 I ⁶*used to / didn't use to* like visiting my great aunt. She ⁷*used to / didn't use to* have any toys for us to play with and she never ⁸*used to / didn't use to* let us watch TV.

2 Complete the conversation using the correct form of *used to* and short answers. Then listen and check.

- A: ¹..... (you have) any pets when you were young?
- B: Yes, we ²..... We always ³..... (have) animals in the house: cats and dogs, and sometimes birds and fish too.
- A: ⁴..... (you help) to look after them?
- B: Yes, my dad said that we could only have pets if we promised to look after them. We ⁵..... (take) it in turns. My sister ⁶..... (not like) looking after the birds very much. She ⁷..... (be) scared they'd peck her.

3 Choose the correct verb form.

- 1 When we were young, my grandparents *used to visit* / *visit* us every Sunday.
- 2 I didn't *use* / *used to* like cats but now I do.
- 3 They *use to study* / *studied* English at school for five years.
- 4 Where did you *use* / *used to* live?
- 5 She *used to get* / *got* her first job when she was 18.
- 6 We don't usually *used to do* / *do* any homework at weekends.
- 7 I *used to listen* / *listened* to this music in the eighties but now it sounds awful!
- 8 When did you *used to move* / *move* into this house?

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

- 1 My brother kept snakes when he was younger. *My brother used to keep snakes.*
- 2 He got his first snake when he was eight.
- 3 He kept them in a box in the garage.
- 4 He looked after them very well.
- 5 They lived there for almost six years.
- 6 Then he lost interest and he took them all to the local zoo.
- 7 He visited them there once a week.
- 8 I think he went about nine or ten times before he forgot about them.