

Past Simple and "Used to"

We use the structure "used to + infinitive" to show that something happened for a long time in the past but is finished now, or for something that happened many times in the past, but no longer happens.

Eg. *I walked to school yesterday.* (1 time, finished)



vs

I used to walk to school when I was a kid. (Happened over a long period, no longer happens)



1. Read the text below and answer the questions.

Ben: "I grew up in Chicago, but when I was 16 I moved to London. I used to hate London. I hated the food, the weather, and I used to find the British accent hard to understand. Most of all I hated that I didn't have any friends here. But all that changed after a few years, and now I love it here. I used to tell my parents that I wanted to go back to Chicago, and they always said that as soon as I was 18 years old I could move back. But by the time I was 18 I found new friends, and now I don't want to live anywhere else."

- a) Does Ben like London?
- b) Does Ben still want to move back to Chicago?

Charlotte: "I used to ride horses when I was younger because I grew up on a farm. I used to love riding horses, it was my favourite thing in the world. We had 6 horses, but I only used to ride one of them. She was called "princess" and she was a lot smaller and calmer than the others. One day I rode the biggest horse on the farm, and it was too scary for me, so I went back to riding "princess." I used to be really good at riding, but I rode a horse last week, and I was surprised at how difficult it was!"

- a) Is Charlotte as good at riding horses as she used to be?
- b) Did she ride the other horses a lot?

Jeff: I have my own business now, but I used to work for a big company in an office. I used to be very unhappy at my old job. Every day I went to work tired, and every day I came home tired and grumpy. But then I met Samantha, and she told me over and over that I should quit my job and start my own company. I used to say "Samantha are you crazy? I don't know how to run a business!" 10 years later I have my own successful business, and Samantha is my wife!

- a) What career change did Jeff make?
- b) Did Samantha think this career change was a good idea?



2. Make five sentences comparing the past and present with "used to."

Eg. *I used to play football, but now I'm too busy.*

Or *I used to love facebook, but now I use Instagram more.*

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)



3. You are going to listen to a song which contains the following verbs in the past simple. Write down the past tense for the following verbs

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| a) Sing: | g) Ride: |
| b) Hit: | h) Take: |
| c) Say: | i) Come: |
| d) Wear: | j) Ring: |
| e) Shoot: | k) Grow up: |
| f) Change: | l) Play: |

 4. Listen to the song “Bang Bang” by Nancy Sinatra¹ and fill out the missing words.

I was five and he was six

We on horses made of sticks

He..... black and I..... white

He would always win the fight

(chorus)Bang bang, heme down

Bang bang, Ithe ground

Bang bang, that awful sound

Bang bang, my baby me down

Seasons and the time

When II called him mine

He would always laugh and say

"Remember when we?"

(chorus)Bang bang, I you down

Bang bang, you the ground

Bang bang, that awful sound

Bang bang, Iyou down

Music played and people

Just for me the church bells

Now he's gone, I don't know why

And to this day, sometimes I cry

He even goodbye

Hethe time to lie

(chorus)Bang bang, he me down

Bang bang, I the ground

Bang bang, that awful sound

Bang bang, my baby me down

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEFa4ztm9P0>