

## Past Simple and "Used to"

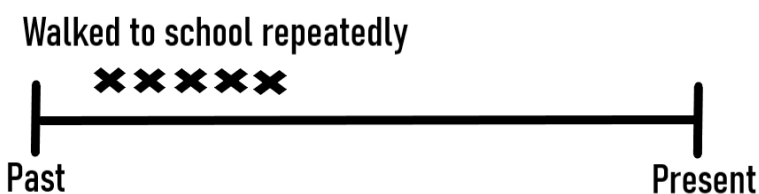
We use the structure "used to + infinitive" to show that something happened for a long time in the past but is finished now, or for something that happened many times in the past, but no longer happens.

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? *Yes*
- b) Does Ben still want to move back to Chicago? *No*

**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? *No*
- b) Did she ride the other horses a lot? *No*

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? *He left his job and started a business*
- b) Did Samantha think this career change was a good idea? *Yes*



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: *Sang*

g) Ride: *Rode*

b) Hit: *Hit*

h) Take: *Took*

c) Say: *Said*

i) Come: *Came*

d) Wear: *Wore*

j) Ring: *Rang*

e) Shoot: *Shot*

k) Grow up: *Grew up*

f) Change: *Changed*

l) Play: *Played*

 4. Listen to the song “Bang Bang” by Nancy Sinatra<sup>1</sup> and fill out the missing words.

I was five and he was six  
 We *rode* on horses made of sticks  
 He *wore* black and I *wore* white  
 He would always win the fight  
 (chorus)Bang bang, he *shot* me down  
 Bang bang, I *hit* the ground  
 Bang bang, that awful sound  
 Bang bang, my baby *shot* me down  
 Seasons *came* and *changed* the time  
 When I *grew up* I called him mine  
 He would always laugh and say  
 "Remember when we *used to play*?"  
 (chorus)Bang bang, I *shot* you down  
 Bang bang, you *hit* the ground  
 Bang bang, that awful sound  
 Bang bang, I *used to shoot* you down  
 Music played and people *sang*  
 Just for me the church bells *rang*  
 Now he's gone, I don't know why  
 And to this day, sometimes I cry  
 He *didn't* even *say* goodbye  
 He *didn't take* the time to lie  
 (chorus)Bang bang, he *shot* me down  
 Bang bang, I *hit* the ground  
 Bang bang, that awful sound  
 Bang bang, my baby *shot* me down

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