

## Mother's Day

*"I like it when my mother smiles. And I especially like it when I make her smile."*

– Adriana Trigiani



### Warm up:

- What's your mother's name, and how old is she?
- Does your mother work? What does she do?
- What is a nice memory you have of your mother?
- What makes your mother happy?
- Is your mother funny, kind, or strict?
- Do you buy your mother a gift on Mother's Day? What type of gifts does she like?



### 1. Read the text and answer the questions below.

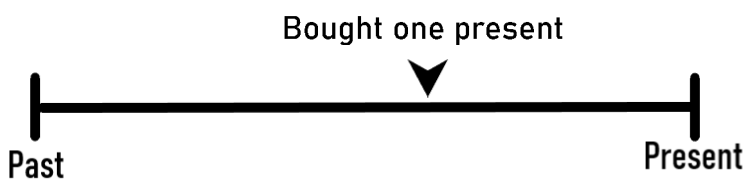
**Tom:** "I love my mum, she is the kindest person I know. She always gives me a hug when I see her. Even though I'm 25 years old, it still makes me feel like a kid again. When I was a teenager, she used to hug me in front of my friends, which was very embarrassing for me, but now I love it. My dad is much stricter than my mum, but she can still be strict too, particularly about homework. When I was in high school, she used to wake me up an hour early every day so I could do homework in the morning. At the time I hated it, but now I can see she did it because she cares about me. When I was younger my sister and I used to wake up early on Mother's Day and make her a nice breakfast with lots of fruit, she loves fruit. But we don't do that anymore because we moved out of her house. I don't buy my mum any presents for Mother's Day because she doesn't like getting presents, but now we have a nice family tradition of making her a music playlist every year. She used to be a professional musician, so she really loves music."

- Why didn't Tom like his mother hugging him when he was younger?
- Why did Tom's mum wake him up early every day?
- What was Tom's family tradition for Mother's Day when he was younger, and why did he stop?
- What does Tom do instead of buy his mother a present?
- What was Tom's mother's job when she was younger?

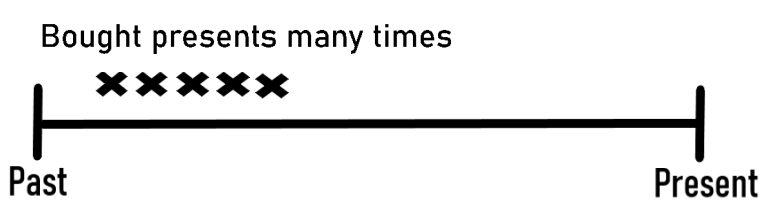
'Used to' for the past

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.

For example: "I bought my mother a present for Mother's Day." (1 time, finished)



"I used to buy my mother a present for Mother's Day." (Happened many times over a long period, no longer happens)



 2. Read the story from exercise 1 again and find any 3 examples of 'used to'

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....

 3. Complete the sentences with 'used to' + any verb that makes sense in the context.

- a) My brother and I ..... e.g. "used to cook/make" ..... my mum dinner for Mother's Day.
- b) My Dad ..... my mum flowers for Mother's Day.
- c) My family ..... my grandmother on Mother's Day.
- d) My mum ..... read stories to me before bed.
- e) We ..... movies together on rainy weekends.
- f) I ..... football with my brother in the garden.
- g) My mum ..... us little hints about what she wanted for Mother's Day.
- h) I ..... handmade cards for my mum on Mother's Day.

**4. Write a 'used to' sentence that has the same meaning as the sentences above.**

a) When I was young my mother always helped me with my homework.

For example: *"My mother used to help me with my homework"*

b) I rode my bike every day when I was a kid.

c) For a long time, I hated vegetables, but now I kind of like them.

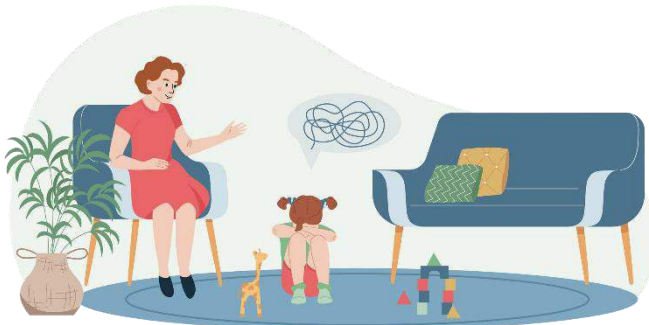
d) I played a lot of sports when I was younger, but I don't anymore.

e) My family lived in a small house for many years.

f) My dad always drove me to school when I was in primary school.

g) My mum told me many times that I shouldn't talk to strangers.

h) My mum always gave me a hug when I was in a bad mood.



**5. Write 5 sentences about your family or family members using 'used to' and read them to a partner and discuss.**

1) .....

2) .....

3) .....

4) .....

5) .....



**6. Read people discussing what their mothers like and don't like, and then say which gift below would be best for which mother and why.**

**Cassandra:** "I think my mom prefers experiences as presents more than things. For example, last year I got her a frying pan, and I think she was a bit disappointed. She also really likes experiences that she and I can do together."

**Jeff:** "My mom has a lot of hobbies, so she's very easy to buy presents for. She used to love horse riding, but a few years ago she had an injury that made her stop riding. These days she loves drawing and gardening."







**Lucy:** "It's super hard to find a good present for my mum. Last year I got her a pot plant, but I don't think she liked it, and it died a few months later. She likes clothes, but I never know exactly what clothes she will like. She said that she wants to do more exercise this year, but she hates going to the gym."

**Anais:** "I used to paint my mum a picture every year for Mother's Day, but I think I'm a bit too old for that now. She recently started a new job in an office, so a gift for work could be nice. I could also get her a book, but she only reads horror stories, and I don't want to get her one of those."

**Nicholas:** "I used to just get my mum a card for Mother's Day, but this year I want to get her a present. She loves music, but she also really doesn't like crowds. She started horse riding lessons recently, so maybe something to do with that."

**Markus:** "My mom always says we shouldn't get her anything for Mother's Day, but then if we don't, she seems a bit disappointed, so this year I'll get her a present. She loves yoga, but I think she already has everything you need for yoga. I always hear her complaining when she cooks because all of our kitchen stuff is bad quality."

**Note:** In American English the correct spelling is 'mom', but in British English it is 'mum.'

<p><u>Business Jacket</u></p> 	<p><u>Pot Plant</u></p> 	<p><u>Yoga Mat</u></p> 
<p><u>Frying Pan</u></p> 	<p><u>Concert Tickets</u></p> 	<p><u>Saddle</u></p> 



7. Write a text about your mother, what she likes and doesn't like, and include something you think would be a good present for her.

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8. Listen to Rob<sup>1</sup> talk about his mother and answer the questions.

- What did Rob do when he got a bad mark at school?
- What did Rob used to make for his mother on Mother's Day?
- Why did Rob used to get angry at his mother?
- What did Rob do that made his kitchen smell bad?
- Why didn't Rob's mum help him with his math homework?
- What does Rob think you should say on Mother's Day?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://quick-and-easy-english.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/mothers-day.mp3>