

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.

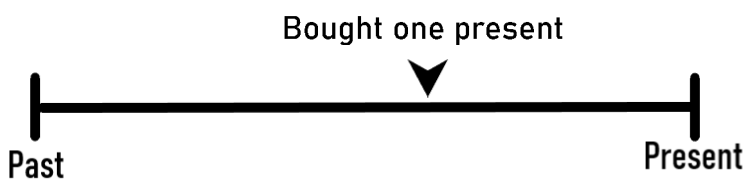
Tom: "I love my mum, she is the kindest person I know. She always gives me a hug when I see her. Even though I'm 25 years old, it still makes me feel like a kid again. When I was a teenager, she used to hug me in front of my friends, which was very embarrassing for me, but now I love it. My dad is much 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? *He found it embarrassing in front of his friends.*
- Why did Tom's mum wake him up early every day? *So he could do homework.*
- What was Tom's family tradition for Mother's Day when he was younger, and why did he stop? *He used to make his mum breakfast, he stopped because he moved out of home.*
- What does Tom do instead of buy his mother a present? *Makes her a music playlist*
- What was Tom's mother's job when she was younger? *A professional musician.*

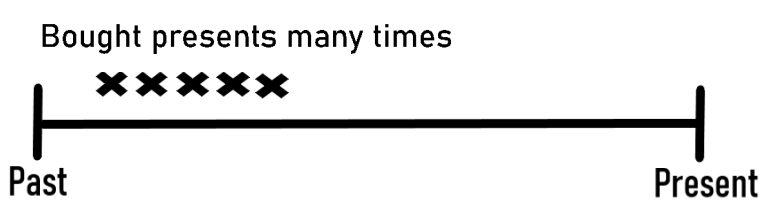
'Used to' for the past

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.

I used to ride my bike every day when I was a kid.

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

I used to hate vegetables.

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

I used to play a lot of sports when I was younger.

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

My family used to live in a small house.

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

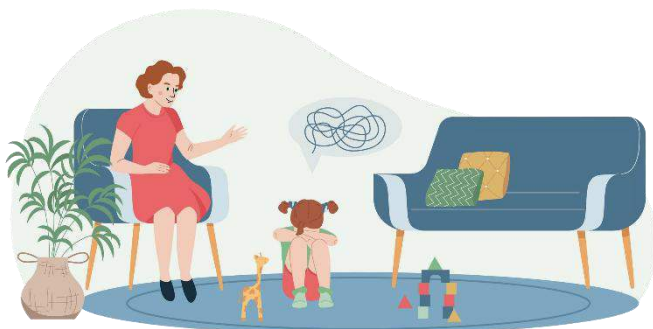
My dad used to drive me to school when I was in primary school.

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

My mum used to tell me that I shouldn't talk to strangers.

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

My mum used to hug me 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." *Concert tickets*

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." *Pot plant*







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." *Yoga mat (exercise at home)*

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." *Business jacket*

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." *Saddle*

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." *Frying pan.*

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 Rob¹ talk about his mother and answer the questions.

- a) What did Rob do when he got a bad mark at school? *Tried to hide it.*
- b) What did Rob used to make for his mother on Mother's Day? *Ugly cards (and breakfast)*
- c) Why did Rob used to get angry at his mother? *She used to wake him up and that made him angry*
- d) What did Rob do that made his kitchen smell bad? *Burned eggs*
- e) Why didn't Rob's mum help him with his math homework? *She is very bad at maths.*
- f) What does Rob think you should say on Mother's Day? *I love you*

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

Audio Transcript

My mum is a very nice woman, but she can also be very strict sometimes. When I was young, if I got a bad mark on a test or a school assignment I used to try to hide it from her. But somehow, she always found them!

I also used to make Mother's Day cards at school, I'm not good at drawing, and I'm not very creative, so they were absolutely terrible, some of the ugliest cards I have ever seen. But that didn't matter to my mum, she loved them. She still has two of those cards on her fridge. She's very nice like that.

But it wasn't always so easy, I used to get really angry when my mum woke me up every morning for school. I never wanted to get out of bed. She used to say, "Get up now! Don't be so lazy!" every morning. Sometimes she had to wake me up 4 or 5 times, and once she even threw water on me to get me out of bed. Sometimes she still does that when I visit her.

When we were teenagers my sister and I used to cook breakfast for mum on Mother's Day. It was usually a disaster. I can't draw, and I also can't cook. One year we tried to make her eggs and burned them. The kitchen smelled terrible for two days. I think my mum was angry, but she didn't show it because she knew we were trying to do something nice for her.

She also used to help me with homework. She was really helpful with everything, except she wasn't much help with my math homework. Any time I asked her a question about math she used to say "What am I? A calculator? Ask your math teacher!" I didn't realise it at the time, but I'm pretty sure the reason she didn't help me is because she is really bad at math.

I think mothers are superheroes. They clean, cook dinner, help with homework, work, and work and work, and still smile at the end of the day.

So, on Mother's Day, don't forget to say 'I love you' to your mum, it's just a little thing, but it means a lot to them!