

13 Past habits and states

When you talk about habits or states in the past you can use "used to" or "would." English often uses these forms to contrast the past with the present.

⚙️ **New language** "Used to" and "would"

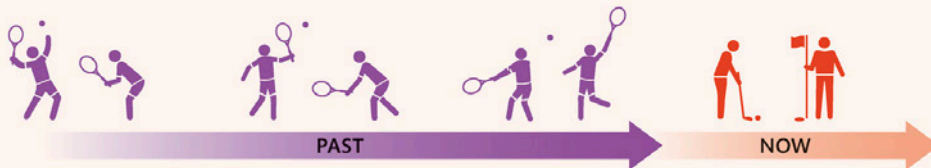
Aa **Vocabulary** Family values

🧩 **New skill** Contrasting the past with the present

13.1 KEY LANGUAGE "USED TO"

You can use "used to" with an infinitive to talk about past habits.

Refers to a past habit.
We used to play tennis every day, but now we prefer golf.



You can also use it to talk about fixed states at some indefinite time in the past.

Refers to a past state.
We used to live in London before we moved to Sydney.



13.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES "USED TO"



Did you use to ride a scooter when you were a student?



I didn't use to believe in ghosts until I visited a haunted house.

"Used" becomes "use" in the question and negative forms.



13.3 ANOTHER WAY TO SAY "USED TO" WITH HABITS

You can also use "would" to talk about past habits. It is a little bit more formal.



When I was little, we would go for a picnic every Saturday.



Whenever there was soccer on TV, we just wouldn't do our homework.



13.4 ⚠ COMMON MISTAKES "USED TO"

You cannot use "used to" when you're talking about definite time frames in the past, or if you said you did something a certain number of times.

We used to play lots of board games when I was young. ✓

We used to play lots of board games yesterday. ✗

We used to play board games twenty times. ✗



13.5 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN BRACKETS

Whenever my uncle visited, he would bring (would / bring) presents for us all.

- 1 My mother _____ (use to / walk) five miles to school and back.
- 2 I _____ (not / use to / like) using the internet, but now I think it's great!
- 3 _____ (do) you _____ (use to / eat) your lunch at school?
- 4 My grandmother's house _____ (not / use to / have) electricity.
- 5 Whenever I had a toothache, my dad _____ (would / take) me to a scary dentist.



13.6 REWRITE THE HIGHLIGHTED PHRASES, CORRECTING THE ERRORS

used to be

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

When my grandmother tells me about how things **did used to be**, I realize how lucky I was as a child. I **use to complain** about having to walk to school in the rain, whereas she **would to walk** five miles to school in all types of weather, including snow! I **used to got upset** when a teacher told me off in class. I had usually done something really bad, but my grandmother **didn't used to do** anything bad. She **used to wrote** with her left hand, but back then, teachers **will be** punish you just for that!



13.7 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Rui and Livia are having a debate about changing family values.

What does Rui say about young people?

- They don't watch movies any more ☐
- They watch movies on their own ☒
- They don't go to the movies any more ☐

1 What does Livia say about families?

- They don't watch movies together ☐
- They still watch movies on the TV ☐
- They go to the movies together ☐

2 What beneficial internet content does Livia mention?

- Documentaries and old movies ☐
- Documentaries and news archives ☐
- Documentaries and new movies ☐

3 Where does Rui think young people used to get their values from?

- Older family members ☐
- Movies ☐
- The internet ☐

4 What does Livia say young people think about honesty?

- It's very important to them ☐
- It's not that important any more ☐
- It's important for adults to be honest ☐

5 What does Livia say is important in today's world?

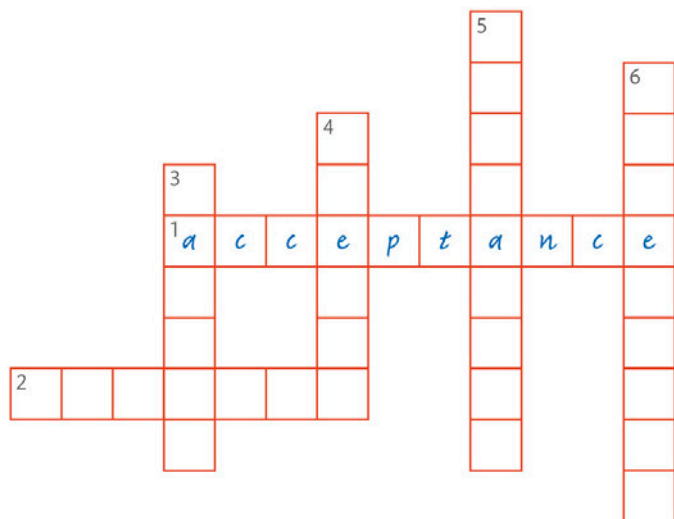
- Understanding historical values ☐
- Communicating with other people ☐
- Understanding other people's values ☐

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13.8 READ THE CLUES AND WRITE THE ANSWERS IN THE CORRECT PLACES ON THE GRID

- 1 Agreeing with or tolerating something
- 2 Telling the truth
- 3 What a person believes is right or wrong
- 4 Wanting more things than you really need
- 5 The qualities of someone's personality
- 6 To say or do something that stops another person's actions

values ~~acceptance~~ interrupt
character greedy honesty





13.9 READ THE BLOG POST AND WRITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS AS FULL SENTENCES

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Researching my roots

HOME | ENTRIES | ABOUT | CONTACT

A long lost brother

A few years ago, my grandfather told me about a brother who he hadn't seen in a very long time. They lost touch over 50 years ago while they were both serving in the army overseas. I decided that I would try to find my great-uncle, the brother who my grandfather used to talk about so fondly.

I was in the library when I met a man called Robert who was also researching his family history. His grandfather also had a brother he hadn't seen for 50 years. The more we talked, the more similarities we had. Our grandfathers had both become teachers after they left the army. We realized after talking for an hour that our grandfathers were brothers. Astonishingly, they lived less than 20 miles apart from each other, and even used to live on the very same street! Last week my grandfather and my great-uncle met again for the first time in half a century.

When did the author's grandfather and great-uncle lose touch?

They lost touch over 50 years ago while they were both serving in the army overseas.

1 Why did the author and Robert start talking?

2 What similarities did the author's grandfather and Robert's grandfather have?

3 Why was it surprising that the author's grandfather and great-uncle hadn't met in 50 years?

4 What happened last week?

13 CHECKLIST



"Used to" and "would" ☐

Aa Family values ☐



Contrasting the past with the present ☐