



Woman: I didn't use to like spiders until I met Kevin. I used to be really scared of them. I used to scream and run away if I saw one.

Reporter: Kevin, did you use to be scared of spiders too?

Man: No, I've always loved them. I used to keep them in a box under my bed when I was a kid.

## Presentation

Use *used to* to talk about ...

- past habitual actions (things that happened regularly in the past): *I used to scream and run away.*

The past habitual action may or may not still be true in the present.

No longer true: *I used to run away from spiders, now I keep them as pets.*

Still true: *I used to scream when I saw a spider when I was a child, and I still do.*

- situations and states that are no longer true: *I used to hate spiders but I don't mind them now.*

You only use *used to* to talk about the past. You cannot use it to talk about the present.

Say *I don't usually do any work at the weekend.* (don't say *I don't use to do any work at the weekend.*)

You can also use the past simple to talk about past habits and situations:

*I kept spiders as pets.* (I used to keep spiders as pets.)

You do not use *used to* to talk about ...

- a specific time or action in the past:

Say *I got up at six this morning.* (don't say *I used to get up at six this morning.*)

- the number of times something happened in total:

Say *We went to the zoo three times last year.* (don't say *We used to go to the zoo three times last year.*)

- when you say how long a single action or situation lasted:

Say *We lived in France for three years.* (don't say *We used to live in France for three years.*)

### Affirmative and negative

I / You / He / She / It / We / They	used to	keep spiders.
	didn't use to	like spiders.

### Questions

Where	did	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	use to	keep the spiders?
	Did	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	use to	be scared of spiders?

### Short answers

Yes,	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	did.	No,	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	didn't.
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**TIP** Be careful with the question and negative forms: there is no *-d* in *use to*:

*Did you use to have pets when you were in school?* (not *Did you used to ...?*)

*I didn't use to like dogs when I was younger.* (not *I didn't used to ...*)

# 1 Choose the correct form.



- 1 When I was a kid, I <sup>1</sup> *used to / didn't use to* think there were monsters under my bed. I never <sup>2</sup> *used to / didn't use to* go to sleep until my mum had looked under the bed.
- 2 I <sup>3</sup> *used to / didn't use to* like dogs. Our neighbours had a big black dog that always <sup>4</sup> *used to / didn't use to* bark at me whenever I went near it. I <sup>5</sup> *used to / didn't use to* cross the road to get away from it.
- 3 I <sup>6</sup> *used to / didn't use to* like visiting my great aunt. She <sup>7</sup> *used to / didn't use to* have any toys for us to play with and she never <sup>8</sup> *used to / didn't use to* let us watch TV.

## 2 Complete the conversation using the correct form of *used to* and short answers. Then listen and check.

- A: <sup>1</sup> ..... (you have) any pets when you were young?
- B: Yes, we <sup>2</sup> ..... We always <sup>3</sup> ..... (have) animals in the house: cats and dogs, and sometimes birds and fish too.
- A: <sup>4</sup> ..... (you help) to look after them?
- B: Yes, my dad said that we could only have pets if we promised to look after them.  
We <sup>5</sup> ..... (take) it in turns. My sister <sup>6</sup> ..... (not like) looking after the birds very much. She <sup>7</sup> ..... (be) scared they'd peck her.

## 3 Rewrite the sentences using *used to* where possible.

- 1 My brother kept snakes when he was younger. *My brother used to keep snakes.*
- 2 He got his first snake when he was eight. ....
- 3 He kept them in a box in the garage. ....
- 4 He looked after them very well. ....
- 5 They lived there for almost six years. ....
- 6 Then he lost interest and he took them all to the local zoo. ....
- 7 He visited them there once a week. ....
- 8 I think he went about nine or ten times before he forgot about them. ....

## 4 Write about three things that used to be true for you when you were younger.

- 1 I used to .....
- 2 I didn't use to .....
- 3 I always used to .....