Then and Now: Talking About How You've Changed

Level: B1–B2 · used to / didn't use to · be used to · would for past habits

1 The grammar in one minute

Form	Use	Example
used to + verb	a past habit or state that isn't true now	I used to work late every night.
didn't use to + verb	the negative (no -d after didn't)	I didn't use to drink coffee.
would + verb	a repeated past action (not a state)	On Fridays we would order pizza.
be / get used to + -ing	something is (becoming) normal for you	I'm used to getting up early now.

2 Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Find it and correct it.

1 I use to live with my parents, but now I have my own flat.

2 She didn't used to like spicy food.

3 When I was a student, I would have a red bicycle.

4 I'm still not used to work from home.

5 Did you used to play any sports at school?

6 We used to going to the beach every summer.

3 Speaking cards

Choose a card. Is it true for you now? Was it true five years ago? Talk for one minute. Useful language: I used to… but now I… · I never used to… · Five years ago, I would… · I'm (not) used to… yet.

	Then and now
A	You wake up without an alarm clock.
B	You enjoy a meal on your own in a restaurant.
C	You read the news before you check social media.
D	You plan your week every Sunday.
E	You say no to extra work without feeling guilty.
F	You prefer a phone call to a voice message.
G	You spend more on experiences than on things.
H	You exercise because you enjoy it, not because you have to.
I	You keep a plant alive for more than a year.
J	You ask for help at work as soon as you need it.
K	You listen to music your teenage self didn't like.
L	You've changed your mind about something important.

4 Write

Write a short message (60–80 words) to someone you knew five years ago. Tell them three ways you've changed. Use used to, didn't use to and be used to at least once each.

Answer key

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2 Correct the mistakes

1 I used to live with my parents...

2 She didn't use to like spicy food.

3 When I was a student, I had / used to have a red bicycle. (would isn't used for states)

4 I'm still not used to working from home.

5 Did you use to play any sports at school?

6 We used to go to the beach every summer.

3–4

Students' own answers. Listen for: no -d after didn't / did; -ing after be used to; would only for actions.

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