

Used to and Would

Practice Worksheet with Answer Key

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 46

Quick guide

- Use used to for past habits, repeated actions, and past states.
- Use would for repeated past actions, especially in stories or memories.
- Do not use would with states such as be, have, know, like, or believe.
- After did / didn't, use the base form: use to.

Instructions: Complete each exercise carefully. In some cases, more than one answer may be possible, but choose the most natural one.

Exercise 1 - Choose the correct option

1. When we were children, we used to / would spend every summer at the seaside.
2. My grandfather used to / would be very strict when my mother was young.
3. Did you use to / Would you use to walk to school every day?
4. On winter evenings, Dad used to / would light the fire and tell us stories.
5. We used to / would live in a small flat near the station.
6. I didn't use to / wouldn't like olives, but now I love them.
7. Every Friday after school, my friends and I used to / would stop at the bakery.
8. She used to / would have long curly hair when she was at university.
9. When I worked there, I used to / would arrive early and make coffee for everyone.
10. Did your parents use to / would let you stay up late at weekends?
11. Our old neighbours used to / would know everyone in the street.
12. Before mobile phones, people used to / would write letters much more often.

Exercise 2 - Complete the sentences

1. When I was in secondary school, I _____ wear a school uniform every day.
2. We _____ not have a car, so we travelled everywhere by bus.
3. Every Sunday, my aunt _____ make a huge lunch for the whole family.
4. _____ you use to play any musical instrument when you were younger?
5. My brother never _____ enjoy reading, but now he reads all the time.
6. During the holidays, we _____ stay up late and watch old films.
7. They _____ live next door, but they moved abroad last year.
8. I _____ not be afraid of dogs, but one bad experience changed that.

9. When he was a child, he _____ collect stamps and postcards.
10. Before we had the internet, people _____ go to the library more often.

Exercise 3 - Correct the mistakes

1. My father would have a beard when he was younger.
2. Did you would play outside after school?
3. I didn't used to enjoy maths.
4. My grandmother would be the kindest person in the family.
5. We would go camping every August when I was a child. (correct / incorrect?) If incorrect, rewrite it.
6. She use to be very shy in class.
7. Would you use to visit your cousins in the summer?
8. There used to be a café here, and the owner would know everyone by name. (correct / incorrect?) If incorrect, rewrite it.

Exercise 4 - Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence using used to or would. Keep the meaning the same.

1. In the past, I regularly walked to work. -> _____
2. When we were children, we went fishing every weekend. -> _____
3. She was very quiet when she was younger. -> _____
4. Every summer, my uncle took us to the lake. -> _____
5. People often wrote postcards on holiday in those days. -> _____
6. He did not like spicy food when he was a child. -> _____
7. My parents lived in Bristol years ago. -> _____
8. On cold nights, we sat by the fire and listened to the radio. -> _____

Exercise 5 - Mixed challenge

Choose the best answer or complete the sentence in a natural way.

1. Which sentence is correct?
 - a) I would be very shy as a child.
 - b) I used to be very shy as a child.
2. Complete: When we lived in the village, the postman _____ stop and chat with everyone.
3. Which is more natural without a time reference?
 - a) Bob used to drink a lot.
 - b) Bob would drink a lot.
4. Complete: We didn't _____ have a television at home.
5. Which sentence is correct?
 - a) Would you use to wear glasses at school?
 - b) Did you use to wear glasses at school?
6. Complete: My mother _____ bake bread every Saturday morning, and the whole house smelled wonderful.

7. Choose the best sentence:

a) My grandparents would own a farm.

b) My grandparents used to own a farm.

8. Complete: As children, we _____ spend hours building forts in the garden.

Exercise 6 - Writing

Write 6-8 sentences about your childhood, teenage years, or another past period of your life. **Use used to at least three times and would at least two times.**

Answer Key

Used to and Would

Exercise 1

1. used to / would
2. used to
3. Did you use to
4. used to / would
5. used to
6. didn't use to
7. used to / would
8. used to
9. used to / would
10. Did your parents use to
11. used to
12. used to / would

Exercise 2

1. used to
2. used to
3. would
4. Did
5. used to
6. would
7. used to
8. didn't use to be
9. used to
10. would

Exercise 3

1. My father used to have a beard when he was younger.
2. Did you use to play outside after school?
3. I didn't use to enjoy maths.
4. My grandmother used to be the kindest person in the family.
5. Correct. (It describes a repeated past action.)
6. She used to be very shy in class.
7. Did you use to visit your cousins in the summer?
8. Correct. used to is natural for the past state/existence; would is natural for the repeated action.

Exercise 4 - Sample answers

1. I used to walk to work.
2. When we were children, we would / used to go fishing every weekend.
3. She used to be very quiet when she was younger.
4. Every summer, my uncle would / used to take us to the lake.
5. People would / used to write postcards on holiday in those days.
6. He didn't use to like spicy food when he was a child.
7. My parents used to live in Bristol.
8. On cold nights, we would sit by the fire and listen to the radio.

Exercise 5

1. b) I used to be very shy as a child.
2. would
3. a) Bob used to drink a lot.
4. use to
5. b) Did you use to wear glasses at school?
6. would
7. b) My grandparents used to own a farm.
8. would / used to

Exercise 6 - Sample paragraph

When I was a child, I used to spend a lot of time outdoors. After school, my friends and I would ride our bikes around the neighbourhood and would come home only when it got dark. I used to hate early mornings, but I used to love summer holidays. Every August, my family would visit my grandparents, and my grandfather would tell us stories in the garden.

Teaching note: Accept both used to and would where the sentence clearly describes a repeated past action and the time frame is established. For states, accept only used to.