Used To and Would

GRAMMAR PRACTICE WORKSHEET

B1–B2 | Past habits, past states, repeated actions

How to use this resource: Read the quick guide, then complete Exercises 1–5. Check your answers on page 3.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Quick guide: *used to* and *would*

Used to

- past habits and repeated actions
- past states: *be, have, know, like*
- can stand alone without a time phrase

Would

- repeated past actions
- not normally used for past states
- usually needs a clear past context

Exercise 1: Choose the best answer

Choose *used to*, *would*, or both. In some sentences, both forms are possible.

1. When I was at primary school, I _____ walk home with my best friend every afternoon. (used to / would / both)
2. My grandfather _____ have a small shop near the station. (used to / would / both)
3. Every summer, we _____ spend two weeks by the sea. (used to / would / both)
4. She _____ be afraid of dogs, but she loves them now. (used to / would / both)
5. Before he bought a car, Mark _____ cycle to work. (used to / would / both)
6. Whenever it snowed, the children _____ build a huge snowman in the garden. (used to / would / both)
7. I _____ know everyone in the neighbourhood. (used to / would / both)
8. On Sunday mornings, Dad _____ make pancakes while Mum read the newspaper. (used to / would / both)

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

Complete each sentence with the correct form of used to or would and the verb in brackets.

1. We _____ (visit) our cousins every Christmas when we were children.
2. Lucy _____ (not like) spicy food, but now she eats it all the time.
3. Whenever the teacher left the room, the students _____ (start) talking.
4. _____ you _____ (play) outside after school?
5. My uncle _____ (have) long hair when he was younger.
6. Before the new supermarket opened, people _____ (buy) vegetables at the local market.

Exercise 3: Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. When I was younger, I would be very shy. _____
2. Did you used to collect stamps? _____
3. My parents would have a cottage in the mountains. _____
4. Every Saturday, we would visited our grandmother. _____
5. I didn't used to drink coffee. _____
6. Would you used to play outside when you were a child? _____

Exercise 4: Complete the memory

Complete the paragraph with *used to* or *would*. More than one answer may be possible in some gaps.

When I was a child, my family (1) _____ live in a small village. Every morning, my brother and I (2) _____ walk to school together. We (3) _____ know almost everyone we passed on the way. After school, our friends (4) _____ meet us near the river, and we (5) _____ play there until it became dark. Our parents (6) _____ worry when we came home late, but life felt much simpler then.

Exercise 5: Write about your past

Write four true sentences about your childhood, school days or an earlier period in your life.

1. I used to _____
2. I didn't use to _____
3. Every/Whenever _____, I would _____
4. I used to _____, but now _____

Speaking challenge

Tell a partner about a place you often visited in the past. First establish the time and place, then use *would* to describe two or three repeated actions.

_____

_____

_____

Used To and Would

ANSWER KEY

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1. Both (used to walk / would walk)
2. Used to have
3. Both (used to spend / would spend)
4. Used to be
5. Both (used to cycle / would cycle)
6. Both (used to build / would build)
7. Used to know
8. Both (used to make / would make)

Exercise 2

1. used to visit / would visit
2. didn't use to like
3. would start / used to start
4. Did ... use to play
5. used to have
6. used to buy / would buy

Exercise 3

1. When I was younger, I used to be very shy.
2. Did you use to collect stamps?
3. My parents used to have a cottage in the mountains.
4. Every Saturday, we would visit our grandmother.
5. I didn't use to drink coffee.
6. Accept both: "Did you use to play outside when you were a child?" / "Would you play outside when you were a child?"

Exercise 4

1. used to
2. used to / would
3. used to
4. used to / would
5. used to / would
6. used to / would

Teacher's note

In natural storytelling, *used to* often introduces the past situation. Once the context is clear, *would* can describe the repeated actions that followed.

Exercise 5 and the speaking challenge: answers will vary.

Read the full lesson and try the interactive quiz: myenglishteacher.co.uk/2022/01/04/used-to-and-would/