

Used to

1. I **used to have** shoulder length hair.
2. I **used to dance** ballet when I was a child.
3. I **used to be** a builder before I was a teacher.

What does used to mean here?

A past state or habit which is not true now.

What are the negative and interrogative forms?

I used to dance ballet.

I _____ to dance ballet.

_____ you _____ dance ballet?

Remember: Used to only exists in the past, to talk about present habit we use the present simple with adverbs of frequency.

I **usually/normally/tend to** go to the gym twice a week.

Would

“**Would**” can replace “**used to**” in one of the three sentences at the top of the page with exactly the same meaning. In which sentence is would possible?

2. I **would/used to** dance ballet when I was a child.

We can use “would” with the same meaning as “used to” only when we’re talking about past actions or habits not when we’re talking about states.

When I was at uni I would/used to **get up** at 11am. (get up = action/habit)

When I was a child I ~~would~~/used to **have** blonde hair. (have = state)

Look at the following sentences, decide if we can only use “**used to**” or if “**would**” is also possible.

1. When I lived in Japan I **would/used to** eat sushi every day.
2. When I was at school we **used to/would** play hopscotch in the playground.
3. When I was a kid I **didn't use to/wouldn't** like olives.
4. My dad **used to/would** have a big green land rover.
5. He **used to/would** drive it through the forest on bumpy tracks.
6. When I was a teenager I **used to/would** love heavy metal music, now it's too loud for me.

Discussion

1. What games did you use to play when you were a child?
2. Where did you use to go on holiday?
3. Are there any foods or drinks that you used to hate when you were young that you like now?
4. What did you use to look like when you were a teenager?
5. What hairstyle did you use to have?
6. What clothes did you use to have?
7. Were you badly behaved at school? What bad things did you use to do?
8. What did you use to do at the weekends?
9. What did you use to do at Christmas?
10. How has the place where you grew up changed in your lifetime?

There used to be a (park/playground etc.)

Homework

Write a composition detailing all of the things that you used to do when you were younger and explain why you don't do them anymore.