



### Used to + base verb - Grammar in Action

Read the grammar points on the right. Then find examples of the grammar in the text and underline them.

Hi. In this lesson, we are going to look at how English lessons have changed over the last twenty-five years. So, I started teaching twenty-five years ago, in 1994, and a lot has changed since then.

First, we used to use tape-cassette players a lot. So, the books used to come with a tape-cassette, and we would play the tape-cassette in class. And, usually, only the teachers had access to the tape-cassette 'cause they were kind of expensive. These days books come with CDs, but I don't even think we use CDs anymore. Now, most of the listening is done online.

Also, before, textbooks used to focus on grammar more. We used to study grammar a lot in class. These days, it seems like there is a bigger emphasis on reading and also a bigger emphasis on vocabulary. We still do some grammar, but I think we used to do it a lot more than we do now.

There's some things we didn't do. We didn't used to focus on pronunciation very much, and I think these days we focus a little bit more on pronunciation. Also, we used to do more writing in class, and we used to assign more homework. I don't think we give so much homework these days, and I don't think we assign so many writing assignments as we used to back, you know, in the nineties. Although, maybe, that just depends on the teacher.

Also, I think, in the past, the students used to be older. So, we used to have a lot of students that were adults. And these days, often, the students at language schools are much younger, and there's a bigger emphasis on teaching kids. Maybe it's because, before, people used to have to go to a language school - they would have to drive there and it was not easy to get to - but, these days, I think it's easier to get to language schools because there's more of them, and there's a bigger emphasis on teaching children.

But that's it, that's some of the big changes. I think classroom...classrooms are still the same, pretty much. Now we have smartboards. We used to have, you know, blackboards with chalk. Or sometimes you would have whiteboards. But a lot of things are still kind of the same. I just think the materials have changed, what we focus on in class has changed, and maybe the demographics of the learners in class have changed a bit too.

### Used to + base verb

Use the modal **used to** when talking about past events that no longer occur.

**Point 1:** We often use **used to** when asked about present activities.

**(Q) Do you play golf?**

(A) I **used to** play but not anymore. I don't have time.

**(Q) Do you play any instruments?**

(A) Not really. I **used to** play the guitar but not anymore.

**Point 2:** We often use the phrase **not anymore** to clarify that the action does not happen presently.

**(Q) Do you cook much?**

(A) Not anymore. I **used to** though.

**(Q) Do you see your friend from school?**

(A) Not really. We **used to** meet once a week but now we are too busy with life.

**Point 3:** In a Yes/No question, we can omit the verb and reply by with just **used to** followed by **but** and a reason.

**(Q) Do you study French?**

(A) I **used to** but I gave up.

**(Q) Do you and your family travel much?**

(A) We **used to** but now we don't have time.