

## English B1 · used to

Intermediate English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

## The museum label

used to is a museum label: this habit lived here; it doesn't any more.

## The forms, and the vanishing d

|           | Form                    | Example                      |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| statement | used to + base          | I used to play football.     |
| negative  | didn't use to + base    | I didn't use to like coffee. |
| question  | Did + subject + use to? | Did you use to live here?    |

### Use the evidence

did eats the d: didn't use to, did you use to.

## Your turn: who ate the d

### Your turn

Did you \_\_\_\_ to play the piano?

- A. used
- B. use
- C. using
- D. uses

## used to or would

### used to — actions AND states

I used to play football. — an action

I used to be shy. — a state

### would — actions only

Every summer, we would cycle to the river.

Never: I would be shy.

## Your turn: action or state

### Your turn

I \_\_\_\_ have a bike when I was ten. (a state)

- A. would
- B. used to
- C. use to
- D. am used to

## The three families

| Form                | Meaning                            | Example                             |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| used to + base verb | a past habit, now gone             | I used to drink milk.               |
| be used to + -ing   | accustomed now                     | I am used to getting up early.      |
| get used to + -ing  | the process of becoming accustomed | I'm getting used to the new school. |

### Use the evidence

In be used to, the to is a preposition — so the verb takes -ing.

## Your turn: which planet

### Your turn

I'm used to \_\_\_\_ up early.

- A. get
- B. getting
- C. got
- D. got to

# Habits, not accidents

## The museum labels habits

I used to break my arm last year. — impossible: one event, one break.

I broke my arm last year. — the past simple.

## Say it aloud

Open your museum: I used to believe the homework would do itself.



Add the epilogue: I was young and hopeful.



Show growth: I didn't use to like vegetables. Now I'm used to eating them.



Interview: Did you use to have a pet? — Yes, a goldfish. We used to understand each other.

## Check yourself

- I used to play football every day — a past habit, gone.
- She used to be shy — a state; would cannot carry states.
- Did you use to live here? — did ate the d.
- I'm used to getting up early — the preposition to takes -ing.