

USED TO and WOULD (exercises)

We use **used to** or **would** to talk about habits or situations in the past that are now finished.
She **used to** like ice cream, but she doesn't now.

We don't use **used to** or **would** when we say how long a situation or habit in the past **continued**; we use **the past simple**.
Ann **wore** the same black coat for **3 years**.

We don't use **would** with **state verbs**. We use **used to**.
My mother **used to** be a teacher./not **would be**

never used to and **would never** are common **negative forms**
Sam **never used to** go to the kindergarten.

If we stress the word **would**, it means that we found **the habit annoying**.
Ted **would** go out rather than do his homework.

1) Replace USED TO with WOULD in these sentences, where possible

- As a student, Peter used to work on a farm every summer. _____
- We used to live in Oxford in the 1980s. _____
- Our cat used to be scared of our neighbour's dog. _____
- My sister used to go swimming every week. _____
- Most of the time your school used to beat our school at football. _____
- Jane's just had a message from someone she used to know at primary school. _____
- My parents used to take me to the theatre once a month. _____



2) Choose the correct endings: a, b or both.

- Before getting his driving licence, Mark _____
a) used to ride a bicycle everywhere. b) would ride a bicycle everywhere.
- While he was at university, Sam _____
a) used to spend two summers working in a café. b) spent two summers working in a café.
- John Brown _____
a) worked for the same company all his life. b) used to work for the same company all his life.
- Mr. Smith sometimes got angry with his son because _____
a) he would interrupt his phone calls. b) he constantly interrupted his phone calls.
- When Mary was a small girl _____
a) she never used to go dancing. b) she didn't use to go dancing.
- Centuries ago people _____
a) used to be a lot shorter than today. b) would be a lot shorter than today.



3) Correct sentences, where necessary.

- Did Sam used to work in a factory?

- He's not used to wear suits, but he does now. _____
- Ted would have a nice big house.

- Jill used to be a doctor for 20 years.

- She would never return my phone calls.

4) Complete the sentences to suggest criticism using WOULD and a verb given below.

leave run insist spend

- Sam spent days trying to train his dog, but it _____
_____ off whenever they went out.
- The man _____ his suitcases in the middle of the hall where people would trip over them.
- It's obvious that Sally failed her end of year tests – she _____
_____ so much time doing nothing.
- Dad warned Nick not to go to the forest alone, but he _____
_____ on doing it.

KEY

Exercise 1)

1. As a student, Peter **WOULD** work on a farm every summer.
2. We used to live in Oxford in the 1980s. - correct
3. Our cat used to be scared of our neighbour's dog. - correct
4. My sister **WOULD** go swimming every week.
5. Most of the time your school **WOULD** beat our school at football.
6. Jane's just had a message from someone she used to know at primary school.- correct
7. My parents **WOULD** take me to the theatre every month.

Exercise 2)

1. both 2 b 3 a 4 both 5 both 6 a

Exercise 3)

1. Did Sam **USE** to work in a factory?
2. He **DIDN'T** use to wear suits, but he does now.
3. Ted **USED TO** have a nice big house.
4. Jill **WAS** a doctor for 20 years.
5. She would never return my phone calls. – correct

Exercise 4)

1. would run
2. would leave
3. would spend
4. would insist