



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Used To in Family and Relationships

Family and Relationships | Past habits and changes | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	Describe something you used to do when you were younger.
2	How did you use to communicate with friends or family?
3	Name one habit that has changed in your family.
4	Did you use to have a role model when you were younger?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

How Relationships Change

When I was younger, I **used to spend** every weekend with my cousins. We **used to play** outside for hours and rarely checked our phones.

My grandparents **didn't use to send** text messages, but now they use family group chats every day. They **used to call** relatives on the phone, especially during celebrations.

Friendships change too. Some people **used to feel** shy at school, but they become more confident as they get older. Others may ask: **Did you use to argue** with your siblings when you were younger?

3. Notice the pattern

Use used to for past habits or past situations that are not true now.

Use	Form / signal	Example
Positive	used to + infinitive	I used to visit my cousins every weekend.
Negative	didn't use to + infinitive	She didn't use to text her grandparents.
Question	Did + subject + use to	Did you use to argue with your siblings?
Now contrast	used to ... but now ...	We used to call, but now we message.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	I / spend / every weekend with my cousins.	used to	
2	My grandparents / not send / text messages.	didn't use to	
3	you / argue / with your siblings?	Did ... use to	
4	We / call / relatives, but now we message them.	used to	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Describe how your friendships or family routines have changed.
Writing	Write a short paragraph comparing your life now with your life when you were younger.
Reading	Underline examples of used to in the context text and decide whether they are positive, negative or questions.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	I use to visit my cousins when I was younger.	
2	She didn't used to send messages.	
3	Did you used to argue with your brother?	
4	We used to called our relatives.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. What games did you use to play when you were younger?
2. How did families use to communicate before smartphones?
3. What habit did you use to have but no longer have?
4. Do friendships change as people get older? Why?

Used To in Family and Relationships

4. Build accurate sentences

1. I used to spend every weekend with my cousins.
2. My grandparents didn't use to send text messages.
3. Did you use to argue with your siblings?
4. We used to call relatives, but now we message them.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. I used to visit my cousins when I was younger.
2. She didn't use to send messages.
3. Did you use to argue with your brother?
4. We used to call our relatives.

Notes for checking

1. Positive: used to + infinitive - I used to visit my cousins every weekend.
2. Negative: didn't use to + infinitive - She didn't use to text her grandparents.
3. Question: Did + subject + use to - Did you use to argue with your siblings?
4. Now contrast: used to ... but now ... - We used to call, but now we message.