



Remember to watch the video first! Then read the conversation between Sophie and Tomas, a student that Sophie met on her travels. Sophie's helping Tomas understand how to use *used to*.



**Grammar
Snacks**

We use *used to* + verb for talking about states or actions that were true or happened in the past, but are not true or do not happen now.

Can you give me some examples?



Tomas

Yes, of course.

*London's nothing like it **used to be!**
She **used to go away** on really long trips.*



Sophie

OK. So now she doesn't go away on really long trips?

Exactly. *Used to* is always for talking about actions or states in the past that are not true now.

*The record shop I always **used to visit** is now a really cool café.
(I don't visit the place now.)*

Why can't you use the past simple?



Well, you can, of course. But we use *used to* to emphasise that the state or action is not true now or does not happen now.



What about the negative?

We use *do* in the past + *not* + the infinitive, *use to* + verb. The question is formed in a similar way.

*He **didn't use to wear** nice clothes and recently he's been looking quite cool.
So what else **did you use to go** to London for?*



That's quite a long construction – three verbs!

Yes, but *used to* doesn't change – it's always in the past simple.

Always in the past simple? So you can't use it in the present?

No, it's a strange verb. We only use it in the past.



I think I *used to use* it in the present too.

Oh dear. You won't any more, will you?

No, I *didn't use to know* the rules, but now I do.



Watch the video on our website!

