Before and now

Past habits and states · A2–B1 · Work on your own. Answers are on page 2.

1 Read the old profile

Choose the words that match Mina’s life then and now.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Home: a shared flat
Travel: bus to work every day
Cooking: never
Evenings: played computer games

NOW

Home: lives alone
Travel: cycles to work
Cooking: cooks most days
Evenings: goes swimming

1. Mina used to / didn’t use to share a flat.

2. She used to / didn’t use to cook.

3. She used to / didn’t use to play computer games.

2 Repair the sentences

Each sentence has one mistake. Rewrite it. Keep the meaning and any time words.

4. Did Mina used to take the bus?

5. Mina didn’t used to cook.

6. Mina used to buy a new bike yesterday.

3 Two changes in your life

Complete these on the back. You may invent a person.

I used to _____, but now _____.
I didn’t use to _____, but now _____.

© 2026 How to English with Gav & Em · Free for classroom use

Check what has changed

Used to describes past habits or states that are no longer true.

1 Mina’s old profile

1. Mina used to share a flat. Now she lives alone.

2. She didn’t use to cook. The old profile says never.

3. She used to play computer games. Now she goes swimming.

2 Repair the sentences

4. Did Mina use to take the bus?
After did, use the base form use.

5. Mina didn’t use to cook.
After didn’t, write use to, without -d.

6. Mina bought a new bike yesterday.
This is one finished event, so use the past simple.

3 Your changes: possible answers

I used to walk to work, but now I take the train.
I didn’t use to like olives, but now I love them.

Your ideas can be different. Use the base verb after used to and didn’t use to.

© 2026 How to English with Gav & Em · Free for classroom use