

Life used to be different

Used to: past habits and states | A2-B1 | Teens & adults | 45-60 minutes

UT1 | TEACHER NOTES AND ANSWERS

Share: Give learners pages 1-3 or the separate learner PDF. Keep the answers private.

Aim: Describe past habits and states, explain what has changed, and ask follow-up questions.

Prepare: Print or share the learner pages. No separate audio, cards or props are needed.

A flexible 45-60 minute lesson

1. Look and explain | 7 minutes. In pairs, describe each before-and-now picture. Use the captions to check the facts. Ask: What did Amina use to do? What does she do now? Check that learners understand the change before focusing on form.

2. Check the grammar | 8 minutes. Read the short grammar box. Complete page 2, task 1. Compare answers and explain one choice. After **did / didn't**, use **use to + base verb**. For a current habit, use the present simple.

3. Sort and compare | 5 minutes. Sort A-F into old habits/states or single past events. Ask which time expressions help. A past habit can also use the past simple; here we are practising **used to**.

4. Reply to Sam | 8-10 minutes. Allow one minute to prepare. Learner A calls Sam or reads a written reply. Learner B is Sam and asks what changed. Swap roles. Use real experiences or an invented person. Encourage a natural response to Sam's invitation as well.

Possible reply: I used to play cards after college, and I used to walk home with friends. I didn't use to cook much, but now I cook most evenings. Let's meet on Saturday! **Follow-up:** Why did you start cooking?

5. Ask and answer | 15-20 minutes. Choose questions from page 3. Allow thinking time; ask for examples and follow-up questions. Feed back on a few useful phrases and errors, then let learners improve one answer. Finish by sharing something learned about a partner.

Answers and teaching tips

Page 1: Amina used to work in an office; now she works from home. Ken used to watch TV most evenings; now he practises with a band twice a week. Ellie used to take the bus to college; now she cycles.

Page 2, task 1: 1 **watch** (base verb); 2 **use** (after didn't); 3 **take** (base verb); 4 **joined** (one event last Tuesday).

Task 2: Old habits/states: **A, C, E**. Single past events: **B, D, F**.

Page 3 homework: 1 **share**; 2 **use**; 3 **work**; 4 **called**.

Support / online / one-to-one: Let learners prepare two notes and use I used to..., but now... . Be the partner in a one-to-one lesson. Learners may invent answers or pass; do not infer personal history from appearance.

Shorter, 30-minute route: Pictures and grammar (7), task 1 (5), Sam (8), four speaking questions and feedback (10). Leave sorting for homework.

Extra challenge: Give two true past habits and one invented habit. A partner asks follow-up questions and guesses the invented one.