

Used to

Used to is used to express past habit. It is always followed by a base form verb.

We use *used to* to talk about things that happened regularly in the past.

I *used to ride* my bike to work, but I don't any more. Now I take the bus.
Bob *used to go* to the beach every summer, but now he goes to the mountains.

We use *used to* to talk about past states or past facts that are not true anymore.

I *used to have* long hair but now I have short hair.
A bus ticket *used to cost* \$1.50 but now it costs \$2.00.

The negative form of *used to* is *didn't use to*. Note that the auxiliary verb *didn't* is followed by the base form *use*.

I *didn't use to have* any pets but now I have two dogs and a cat.
I *didn't use to exercise* regularly but now I go to the gym every day.

Questions are formed with the auxiliary verb *did* and the base form *use*.

Did Mary *use to drive* a smaller car?
Where *did* you *use to live*?

Be careful not to confuse *used to* with *used*, the past tense of the verb *use*.

Used to is followed by the base form of the main verb.

I *used to eat* cake but I now I am on a diet..

Used is a main verb and is followed by a noun.

I *used* three eggs to make the cake.

Directions: Complete each sentence with use to, used to, or used.

1. The company _____ have an office in London but we closed it last year.
2. I _____ the copy machine on the first floor.

3. I didn't ____ understand French, but now I can speak it a little.
4. I ____ attend that conference every year but I haven't gone recently.
5. Did John ____ be the supervisor in this department?
6. I ran out of copy paper, so I ____ some paper that I found in your office.
7. The stores ____ close at 6:00 but now they stay open until 9:00.
8. When did you ____ work there?
9. There didn't ____ be any restaurants near the office but now there are two.
10. This ____ be a quiet street but now it is crowded and noisy.

Answers

1. used to 2. used 3. use to 4. used to 5. use to 6. used 7. used to 8. use to 9. use to 10. used to