

Used To



We use *used to* is when we speak about past habits or accustomed routines and practises that have changed or are no longer common now.

She used to play in a band.

She used to go to band practise twice a week.

She used to be the best bass player in music school.



She played the bass, she went to classes and she was the best player, but not anymore.

Used to is not to be confused with **use to + infinitive**. Look at the following example:

What do you use to play an electric bass?

An electric bass guitar, some cables, and a speaker are used to play the bass.

→ to use + infinitive

→ used to passive form

Used to with 'did'

Negative

We use **didn't use to** or **didn't used to** when we explain something wasn't particularly a habit or reoccurring event.

note: although neither form is officially incorrect; didn't used to isn't accepted in most exam formats.

She **used to** be a great bass player, but she **didn't use to** do well in school.

Except for music, she **didn't use to** like any subjects and **didn't use to** do her homework.

If she **didn't use to** be so lazy, she would have become very famous.

Formal negative 'used to'

In very formal styles, we can use the negative form **used not to**

She **used not to** have much interest in social activities.

Questions

The most common form of question is **auxiliary did + use(d) to**.

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Did she use to have any other hobbies?

Didn't she use to play in that band we saw last week?

Questions tags

We normally add tags after used to with auxiliary **did**

She **used to be** very popular and talented, **didn't she?**

She **didn't use to** have a twin brother, **did she?**

Emphatic did (informal)

We can use the emphatic auxiliary **did** with used to. In this case used to functions more as an *intensifier* or *emphasiser*.

She **didn't use to** make a lot of effort at school, but she **did used to** be a promising artist.

She **didn't use to** pay attention in class, but she **did used to** be very inspiring.

