

Habits in the Past

Look at the following patterns and the examples to build affirmative, negative and interrogative sentences about habits in the past.

Notice that in the negative and interrogatives the verb *use* does not end in *-d*.

Affirmative:

Subject + *used to* + base-form verb + complement

- *We **used to** have a dog when I was a child.*
- *Alan **used to** work in a supermarket three years ago.*
- *Mom **used to** drive me to school.*

Negative:

Subject + *didn't use to* + base-form verb + complement

- *I **didn't use to** smoke when I was 18.*
- *Mary and John **didn't use to** have a car five years ago.*
- *She **didn't use to** go out on weekends before.*

Interrogative:

(Wh-) + *did* + subject + *use to* + base form verb + complement + ?

- *Where **did** you **use to** live when you were a child?*
- *What kind of music **did** you **use to** like when you were younger?*
- ***Did** he **use to** have a girlfriend in high-school? - Yes, he **did**.*
- ***Did** they **use to** go to the park on Sundays? - No, he **didn't**.*

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Notice That...

With *used to* and *didn't use to* sentences you can use the frequency adverbs **always** or **never** to emphasize the idea.

For example:

*I **always** used to visit my grandparents on vacation.*

*We **never** used to go to bed late.*

Observe that in the second example a negative idea is implicit with **never**.

Avoid using **never** with *didn't use to*; it is incorrect since in English a double negative idea does not make sense.

*~~I **never** didn't use to go to bed late.~~*

*We **never** used to go to bed late.*