



Pearson

Grammar

B2

used to and would

Recommended for:

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High Note

2019

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B2 B2+ C1

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high note

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Function: When do we use them?

used to and would



When I was a teenager, I used to rollerblade to school every day.

I remember that! You used to have blue hair and we would point at you from the bus!



I used to rollerblade every day. Was this a one-time event or an action that was repeated/a habit?

It was repeated/a habit.

Take notice of when we use *used to* and/or *would* here.

I used to rollerblade every day. In this sentence, is this an activity/habit or a situation/state?

An activity/habit

We would point at you. In this sentence, is this an activity/habit or a situation/state?

You used to have blue hair. In this sentence, is this an activity/habit or a situation/state?

A situation/state

An activity/habit

Function: When do we use them?

2. *used to* and *would*

<i>used to</i>	<i>would</i>
For past habits or activities I used to rollerblade to school every day.	For past habits or activities We would point at you from the bus!
For past situations or states You used to have blue hair.	

Notice how we can only use *used to* for states and situations. E.g.

State: She used to have a Ferrari.

Situation: She used to live in New York.



When referring to the past, we can only use *would* with habits and activities. We CANNOT say, for example, *When I was a child, I would live in New York*, as this is a situation, not an activity.

How do we form the present tenses?

Form: How do we make these structures?



You **used to have** blue hair and we **would point** at you from the bus!

What form of the verb follows *used to* and *would*?



You **used to have blue hair**. Change this into the negative and question form.

The bare infinitive (with no 'to').

*You didn't use to have blue hair.
Did you use to have blue hair?*

Form: How do we make these structures?



You **used to have** blue hair and we **would point** at you from the bus!

<i>used to</i>	<i>would</i>
+ Subject + used to + bare infinitive - Subject + did not (didn't) + use to + bare infinitive ? (Question word) + did + subject + use to + bare infinitive	+ Subject + would + bare infinitive - Subject + would not (wouldn't) + bare infinitive

Notice how this changes in the negative and question form.

We tend not to use *would* in the question form.

We do not stress the *to* in *used to*, so we pronounce it /tə/.

