

used to / would /  
past simple

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Talking about past

## used to vs. would

1. repeated events or actions happened in the past => a long time ago and finished:

e.g. *I **used to** go to the countryside in summer.*

e.g. *I **would** go to the countryside in summer.*

e.g. *I **went** to the countryside in summer. (fact)*

2. talk about past states:

e.g. *I **used to** live in Manchester. – I ~~would~~ live in Manchester.*

e.g. *I **used to** be much slimmer. – I ~~would~~ be much slimmer.*

e.g. *I **lived** in Manchester. (fact)*

3. talk about something that was in the past and it is not true now:

e.g. *I **used to** work for a company, now I am self-employed.*

e.g. *I **worked** for a big company. (fact)*

states vs action



states

be  
have  
live  
love  
like  
think  
believe  
know  
remember  
want



## used to vs. would

(-)

*I didn't use to eat milk soup.*

*I never used to eat milk soup. => more natural*

(?)

*Did you use to like milk soup?*

~~*Would you eat milk soup?*~~

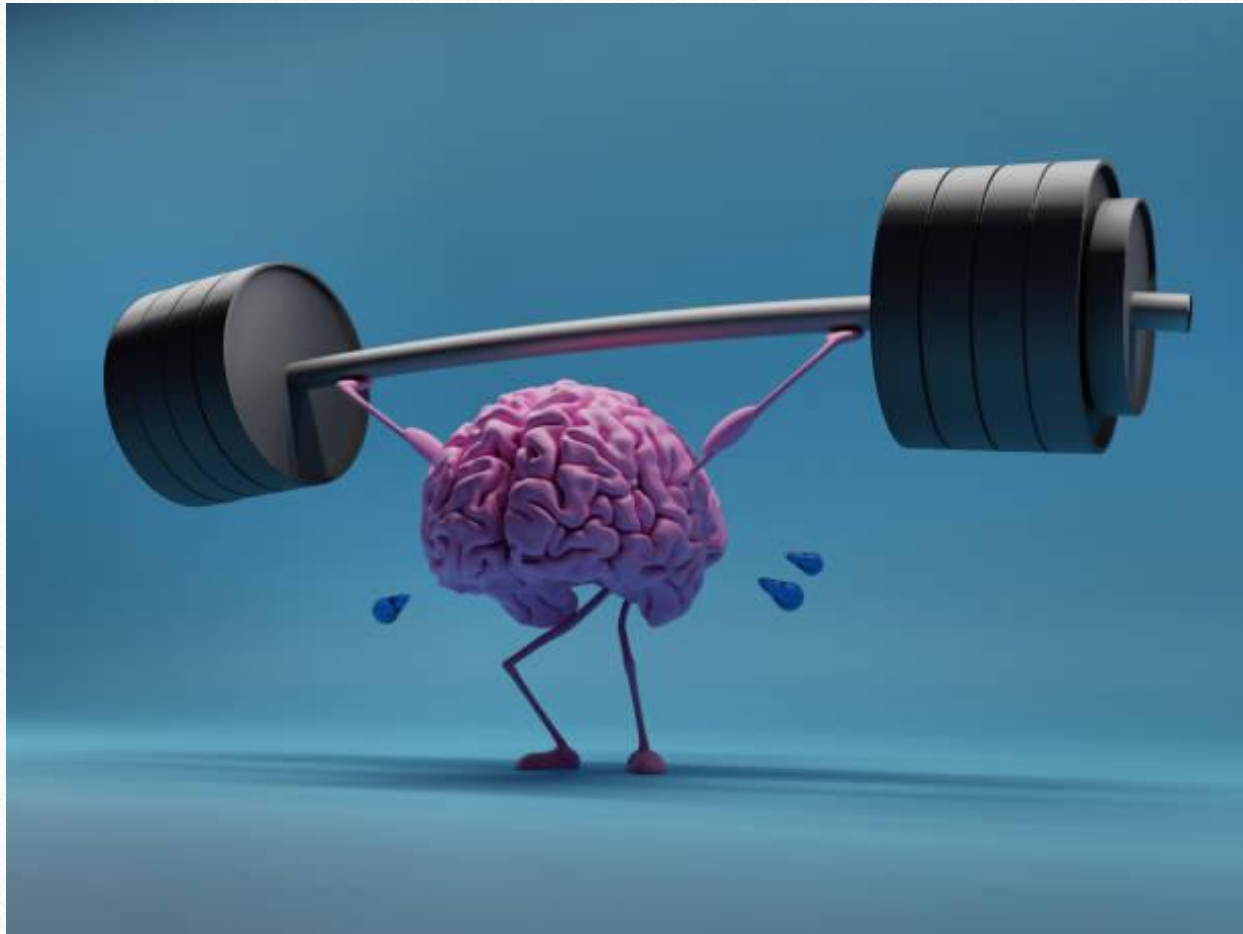
## used to vs. would

	facts	repeated actions	repeated states	past $\neq$ present
used to				
would				
past simple				

## used to vs. would

	facts	repeated actions	repeated states	past $\neq$ present
used to	red	green	green	green
would	red	green	red	red
past simple	green	red	red	red

used to vs. would



PRACTICE





# CHILDHOOD DREAMS

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When I **was** a boy, I spent afternoons imagining that I **had** my own rocket ship. I **would invite** my cousins my friends to join my crew, and we **would lie** on our backs inside a very large cardboard box and go through a countdown, blast off into space, spend the whole day exploring other planets, and be back in time for dinner. So that **was** sort of the beginning – my earliest memories of being fascinated by space.

*Chang Diaz, rocket scientist*



# CHILDHOOD DREAMS

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We **used to** live in France, and as a child, I **would collect** small insects that I **found** in the fields near my house. One day I **found** a butterfly. It couldn't fly, so I put it in a jar and looked after it.

The next morning, when I **opened** the jar, the butterfly opened its wings and flew away. That was when I **realized** what I **wanted** to do with my life.

*Lowri Davis, veterinary surgeon*