

used to / would /
past simple

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?*

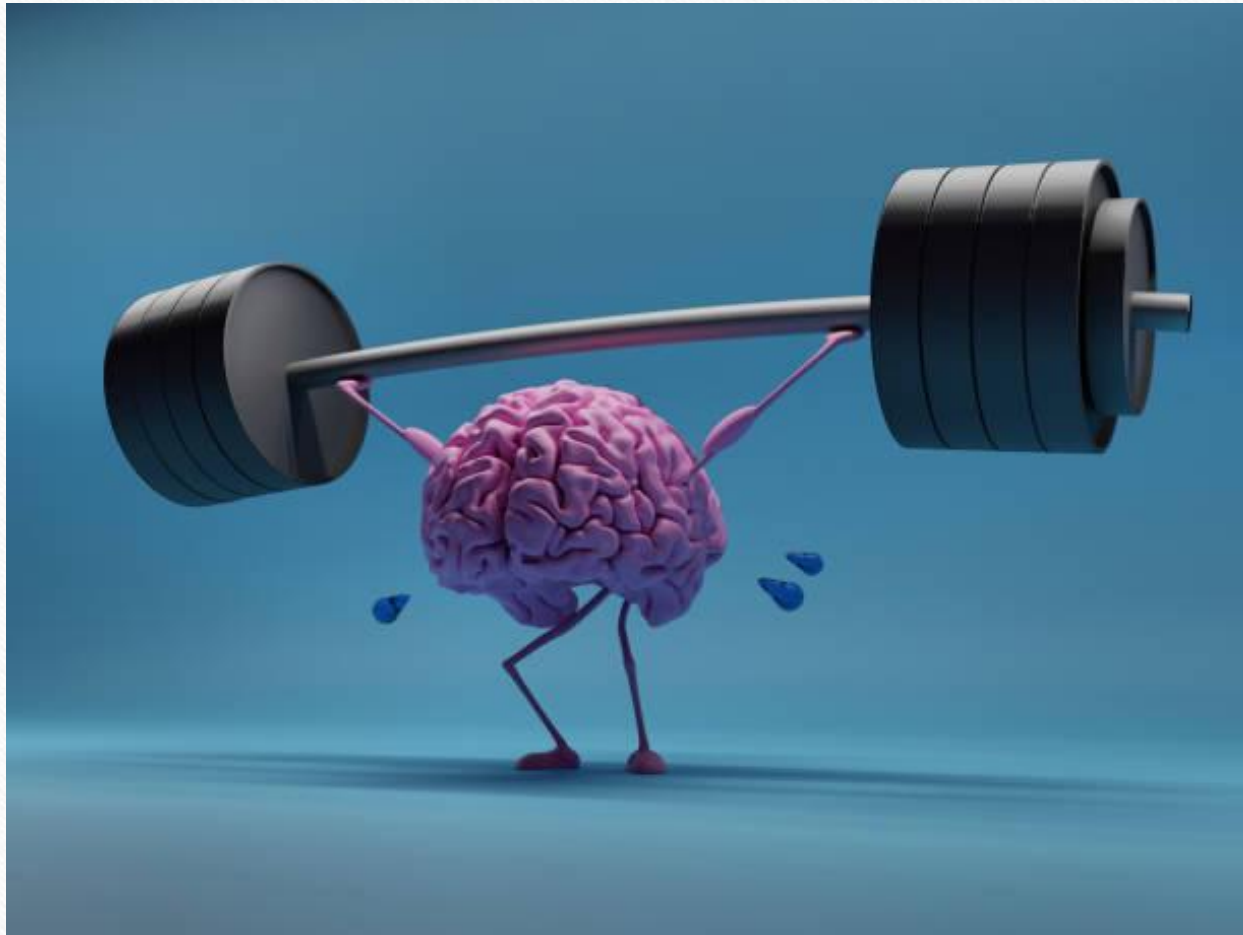
used to vs. would

	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

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

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