

Verb Tense Review: Used To, Would

FORM

SUBJECT + used to + VERB

SUBJECT + would + VERB

USE

Used to + VERB and would + VERB refer to past habits. If the past habit was an action (*walk, work, see*), then either construction may be used.

I used to walk to school when I was a child.
I'd walk to school when I was a child.

However, if the past habit was a state (*be, live IN A PLACE, have, love, hate*), then used to + VERB is the only construction possible.

He used to be very slim when he was younger. Not: *He would be slim...*
I used to live in Barrie, but I moved in 1990. Not: *I would live in Barrie...*

Fill in the blanks with WOULD whenever possible; otherwise, put USED TO.

1. We _____ live in a town that was surrounded by mountains.
2. When Rob was younger, he _____ go running every morning.
3. When Adam was a small boy, he _____ cry a lot.
4. My dad _____ be a member of the Italian Soccer League.
5. We _____ visit my aunt every Sunday afternoon when we were kids.
6. Years ago, I _____ have a motorcycle.
7. There _____ be quite a lot of clothing stores on this street, but now there aren't any.
8. Frank _____ love chocolate chip ice cream but now he prefers chocolate fudge.
9. Maureen _____ whistle the same song over and over again to tease her sister.
10. When David was 5 years old, he _____ follow the family dog everywhere.

Intermediate 2 – Exercise 3 – Verb Tense Review: Used To, Would

Complete the sentences using WOULD or USED TO.

1. I _____ (be) afraid of the dark.
I _____ (sleep) with all the lights on in my room.
2. My parents _____ (have) a station wagon. It _____
(always, stall) when it was cold outside.
3. I remember Mrs. Frost's Grade 3 class very well. She _____ (throw) chalk
at students who _____ (fall asleep) in her class. She
_____ (punish) students who were loud, by giving them extra math
homework. I _____ (love) math so much that I _____ (talk)
loudly in her class, so I could do more math homework. I _____ (be)
very strange as a child.
4. During the summer I _____ (live) on a small island off the coast of
Maine. I _____ (watch) the sunrise from my bedroom window and then I
_____ (walk) the dog in the early morning. Before dinner
I _____ (swim) in the ocean. But the island has changed a lot since that
time. It _____ (be) very quiet. Now, there are too many people on the
island.