

# UNIT 25 Used to (I used to do)

a) Study this example situation:

This is Dennis. He gave up smoking two years ago. He no longer smokes.

But he **used to smoke**. He **used to smoke** 40 cigarettes a day.

He **used to smoke** means that he smoked regularly for some time in the past, but he doesn't smoke now:

past ————— now  
 2 years ago  
 ← he used to smoke → he doesn't smoke now

We use **used to** with the *infinitive* (**used to do / used to smoke** etc.) to say that something regularly happened in the past but no longer happens:

- I **used to** play tennis a lot, but now I'm too lazy.
- 'Do you go to the cinema very often?' 'Not now, but I **used to**.'
- Tom **used to** travel a lot. These days he doesn't go away very often.

We also use **used to** for past situations (which no longer exist):

- We **used to** live in a small village but now we live in London.
- This building is now a furniture shop. It **used to** be a cinema.
- Do you see that hill over there? There **used to** be a castle on that hill.
- I've started drinking coffee recently. I never **used to** like it before.
- Ann **used to** have long hair but she cut it some time ago.

b) **Used to + infinitive** is always past. There is no present. You cannot say 'I use to do'. For the present, use the present simple (**I do**). Compare the present and past:

<i>past</i>	he <b>used to</b> smoke	we <b>used to</b> live	there <b>used to</b> be
<i>present</i>	he <b>smokes</b>	we <b>live</b>	there <b>is</b>

c) The normal question form is **did ... use to ...?**:

- **Did you use to** eat a lot of sweets when you were a child?

The negative form is **didn't use to ...** (or 'used not to')

- Jack **didn't use to** go out very often until he met Jill.

d) Be careful not to confuse **I used to do** and **I am used to doing** (see Unit 62). The structures and meanings are different:

- I **used to** live alone. (= I lived alone but I no longer live alone.)
- I **am** used to living alone. (= I live alone and don't find it strange or new because I've been living alone for some time.)

# UNIT 25 Exercises

25.1 In this exercise you have to complete the sentence with **used to ...**

Example: Dennis doesn't smoke any more but he **used to smoke** 40 cigarettes a day.

- 1 The baby doesn't cry so much now but she..... every night.
- 2 She ..... my best friend but we aren't friends any longer.
- 3 We live in Nottingham now but we ..... in Leeds.
- 4 Now there's only one shop in the village but there ..... three.
- 5 When I was a child I ..... ice-cream, but I don't like it now.
- 6 Now Tom has got a car. He ..... a motor-cycle.

25.2 This time you have to write some sentences about a man who changed his life-style. Ron stopped doing some things and started doing other things:

He stopped { studying hard  
going to bed early  
running three miles every morning

He started { smoking  
going out every evening  
spending a lot of money

Make sentences like these:

Examples: He used to study hard.  
He never used to smoke. or He didn't use to smoke.

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....

25.3 Now you have to write some sentences about the present. Remember that there is no present tense of **used to**.

Examples: Ron used to study hard but now **he doesn't study very hard**.  
Ron didn't use to smoke but now **he smokes**.

- 1 Tom used to play tennis a lot but now .....
- 2 Ann never used to drink coffee but now .....
- 3 Jill didn't use to be fat but now .....
- 4 Jack didn't use to go out much but now .....

25.4 Now you have to ask questions. Mr Ford is an old man now. You are asking someone what he used to do when he was younger.

Example: I know he doesn't smoke now but **did he use to smoke** ?

- 1 I know he doesn't play the piano now but ..?
- 2 I know he isn't very rich now but ..?
- 3 I know he doesn't go out very often these days but ..?
- 4 I know he doesn't dance these days but ..?
- 5 I know he hasn't got many friends now but ..?