

UNIT 9

Expressing habit

Present Simple

- Adverbs of frequency come before the main verb, but after the verb to be.
We hardly ever go out.
She frequently forgets what she's doing.
We don't usually eat fish.
I rarely see Peter these days.
We are seldom at home in the evening.
Is he normally so bad-tempered?
- Sometimes, usually, and occasionally can come at the beginning or the end of a sentence.
Sometimes we play cards.
We go to the cinema occasionally.
The other adverbs of frequency don't usually move in this way.
**Always I have tea in the morning.*

Present Continuous

- The Present Continuous can be used to express a habit which happens often and perhaps unexpectedly. It happens more than is usual.
I like Peter. He's always smiling.
She's always giving people presents.
- However, there is often an element of criticism with this structure. Compare these sentences said by a teacher.
Pedro always asks questions in class. (This is a fact.)
Pedro is always asking questions in class. (This annoys the teacher.)
- There is usually an adverb of frequency with this use.
I'm always losing my keys.
She's forever leaving the bath taps running.

will and would

- Will and would express typical behaviour. They describe both pleasant and unpleasant habits.
He'll sit in his chair for hours on end.
She'd spend all day long gossiping with the neighbours.
Would cannot be used to express a state.
**He'd live in a large house.*
- Will and would, when decontracted and stressed, express an annoying habit.
He WILL come into the house with his muddy boots on.
She WOULD make us wash in ice-cold water.

used to + infinitive

- This structure expresses a past action and/or a state. It has no present equivalent.
When I was a child, we used to go on holiday to the seaside. (action)
He used to live in a large house. (state)
- Notice the negative and the question.
Where did you use to go?
We didn't use to do anything interesting.
- We cannot use used to with a time reference + a number.
**We used to have a holiday there for 10 years/three times*
But ...
We used to go there every year.
In a narrative, when expressing a series of past actions, it is common to begin with used to, then continue with would, for reasons of style.
When I was a child, we used to go on holiday to the seaside. We'd play on the beach, then we'd eat at a small café at lunchtime

be/get used to + noun + -ing form

- This is totally different from used to + infinitive. It expresses an action that was difficult, strange, or unusual before, but is no longer so. Here, used is an adjective, and it means familiar with.
I found it difficult to get around London when I first came, but I'm used to it now.
I'm used to getting around London by tube.
- Notice the use of get to express the process of change.
I'm getting used to the climate.
Don't worry. You'll get used to eating with chopsticks.



9

Things ain't what they used to be!

Expressing habit → *used to do/doing* • Homonyms/Homophones • Making your point



TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

- Match a line in A with a line in B. Underline the words that express habit. Which are past and which are present?
- Choose the correct ending for these sentences.
He used to work hard because he's a builder.
He's used to hard work but now he's retired.

A	B
1 A reliable friend	4 my Dad <u>would read</u> me a story at bedtime.
2 In the 1960s, hippies	6 <u>are always talking</u> about themselves.
3 I think my sister's depressed.	1 <u>will never let</u> you down.
4 When I was a kid	3 She'll <u>spend</u> hours staring into space.
5 My first teacher was Miss Mills.	2 <u>used to wear</u> flowers in their hair.
6 Big-headed people	5 She <u>used to read</u> us stories at the end of every day and <u>we'd go</u> home happy.

FRIENDS REUNITED

Expressing habit – *used to do/doing*

- One of the most popular websites in Britain is *Friendsreunited.co.uk*. What sort of website do you think it is? Is there a similar website in your country?
- Read the email from Alison to an old school-friend. Complete it with the lines a–l.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a used to sit | g went |
| b 'd get | h was |
| c got | i used to call |
| d 's always talking | j used to calling |
| e used to go | k were always giggling |
| f 'd go | l 'll always end up |

T9.1 Listen and check.

- Which actions in the email happened again and again? Which only happened once?



From: Alison Makepeace <AllMakepeace72@glosmail.uk.com>
Date: Mon 17 September, 18.36
To: sallydavies@talksmail.co.uk
Subject: Allendaes School

Dear Sally

I'm sending this through Friends Reunited. Do you remember me? We 1 e to Allendaes School together. You were the first person I 2 c to know when I started there.

We 3 d next to each other in class, but then the teachers made us sit apart because we 4 k so much.

I remember we 5 f back to your house after school every day and listen to music for hours on end. We 6 b all the Beatles records as soon as they came out. Once we ate all the food in your fridge and your mother 7 h furious.

Do you remember that time we nearly blew up the science lab? The teacher 8 g crazy, but it wasn't our fault. We 9 i him 'Snowy' because he had white hair.

I still see Penny, and she's still as mad as ever. We meet up every now and again, and we 10 l chatting about old times together. She 11 j about a school reunion. So if you're interested, drop me a line.

Looking forward to hearing from you.
 Your old schoolmate
 Alison Makepeace

PS I'm not 12 you Sally Davies! To me, you're still Sally Wilkinson!

Discussing grammar

3 In pairs, decide which line in B best continues the line in A.

A		B
1 My friend Joe buys and sells cars.	2	He's a real techno-geek.
2 He's always buying new things for himself – a DVD, a palm top.	3	Don't you think that's wasteful of him?
3 He'll buy a shirt and only wear it once.	1	He earns loads of money.
4 When I was young, we used to have holidays by the seaside.	6	What an adventure that was!
5 My dad and I would build sandcastles and go swimming together.	4	We'd go to the same place year after year.
6 One year we went to East Africa.	5	I remember those days with such fondness!
7 John usually does the cooking	10	because he's been doing it for years.
8 He used to do the cooking	7	but he still burns things. Maybe one day he'll get it.
9 He's used to doing the cooking	8	but then he stopped.
10 He's getting used to doing the cooking	9	but he isn't tonight. I am.

Parents

4 **T 9.3** Listen to four people talking about their relationship with their parents. Is/Was it a good relationship?

5 **T 9.3** Listen again. These lines are similar to what they say. What are their actual words?

- 1 ... she talked to me very openly ...
... we used to go out shopping ...
- 2 My wife always asks me questions ...
... we didn't talk very much ...
... every week he took me to the hairdresser.
- 3 ... she always tells me to pick things up ...
She goes on for hours ...
- 4 We did a lot together as a family.
... he brought us each a treat ...

6 Write a few sentences about the relationship between you and your parents. Tell your partner about it.

Answering questions

7 Answer the questions with a form of *used to do*, *be / get used to doing/sb/sth*.

- 1 A You don't like your new teacher, do you?
B Not a lot, but we're getting used to her
- 2 A How can you get up at five o'clock in the morning?
B No problem. I'm used to it
- 3 A How come you know Madrid so well?
B I used to live there.
- 4 A How are you finding your new job?
B Difficult, but I'm getting used to it bit by bit.
- 5 A Do you read comics?
B Used to when I was young, but not any more.
- 6 A You two argue so much. How can you live together?
B After twenty years' marriage we've used to each other.

T 9.4 Listen and check.



Homophones

6 Homophones are words with the same pronunciation, but different spellings and different meanings.

/rəʊd/ the road to the town centre
She rode a horse.
I rowed across the river.

Write the word in phonetics in the correct spelling.

1 /həʊl/ the whole world
a hole in the ground

2 /pi:s/ a piece of cake
war and peace

3 /flaʊə/ a rose is a flower
flour to make bread

4 /seɪlz/ a yacht has sails
buy clothes in the sales

5 /sel/ salespeople sell things
a prisoner lives in a cell

7 Think of a homophone for these words.

bored caught war hire pair plain waist seas sure aloud

8 **T 9.7** A lot of children's jokes are made with homonyms and homophones. Here are two! Which word makes the joke?



T 9.8 Listen to some more jokes. Which word makes the joke?
Practise telling them to each other.