

## Grammar: Past tenses, *used to* and *would*



18  
CD2

- 12** 1 Listen while you read the text below describing a childhood memory.

I remember my granddad often used to take me to school when I was little. I used to live quite far from my school and my granddad let me cycle there, following behind me on foot. I kept stopping to wait for him to catch up. Then when we had arrived at school, he would push my bike home again. One day, I was cycling along happily. Suddenly I looked back and my granddad was nowhere to be seen. I waited and waited but he didn't come. I began to get worried so I cycled back the way I had come and, to my horror, found him lying on the ground. He had tripped on some loose paving. I helped him up and then took him to the doctor's, although he kept insisting he was fine. The doctor examined him and, luckily, he wasn't injured. I was so relieved and always cycled more slowly after that.

- 2** The text uses a variety of ways to talk about the past. Read it again and notice the different structures and tenses.

- 13** 1 We use *used to* + infinitive to describe past habits or past states that are now finished. The negative form is *didn't use to*.

- a** Find an example in the text of *used to* to describe a past habit.
- b** Find an example in the text of *used to* to describe a past state.



18  
CD2

- 2** Listen again to Track 18. How is *used to* pronounced? Repeat the sentences with *used to*. Note that you cannot use a present form of *used to* to talk about present habits, e.g. ~~*I use to travel to university by car.*~~ Just use the present simple: *I travel to university by car.*

- 3** We can also use *would* + infinitive to describe past habits. However, we cannot use it to describe extended past states. The negative form is rarely used.

- a** Find an example in the text of *would* to describe a past habit.
- b** Listen to Track 18 again and notice how *would* is pronounced.

- 14** We can also use the past simple to describe past habits or past states. The past simple has other uses: to describe single completed actions in the past, or a series of actions in the order they took place.

- 1** Read the text in Exercise 12 again and find the first example of:

- a** the past simple used to describe a past state \_\_\_\_\_
- b** the past simple used to describe a past habit \_\_\_\_\_
- c** the past simple used to describe a single completed action. \_\_\_\_\_

- 2** There is one mistake in each set of sentences below. Find what is wrong, say why, and correct the mistakes.

- a** When I was a little girl, I would see my cousin every weekend and going with him to the local park.
- b** Years ago I would own a horse. I loved riding her but she was expensive to keep so I had to sell her.
- c** Last week I used to see Sam at the cinema. He didn't say 'hello' to me, probably because he felt awkward as he was with his new girlfriend.