



**Ryan** We **were walking** home when we **found** a bag of rubbish.

**Dad** I **saw** something good! I **was cycling** home when I **saw** a new house. I think it's an eco home.

### The past continuous and the past simple

We often use the past continuous with the past simple. The past continuous talks about a longer action which started first.

*We **were walking** home when we saw a bag of rubbish.*

The past simple talks about a short action which happened during the longer action.

*We **were walking** home when we **saw** a bag of rubbish.*

We can make two actions into one sentence by connecting them with **when**.

*I **was cycling** home **when** I saw a new house.*

We can make either the past simple or the past continuous part of the sentence into a question. We use the matching short answer.

***Were you walking** home when you saw a bag of rubbish? **Yes, we were.***

***When you were walking** home, **did you see** a bag of rubbish? **Yes, we did.***

### 1 Complete the sentences. Use the past continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- Mr Smith was driving (drive) home when the storm started.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a DVD on my computer when it stopped working.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) on the bus when we saw the new shops.
- What \_\_\_\_\_ (you do) when the phone rang?
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (shop) when she lost her purse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (you read) a book when your headache started?
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) outside when it started to rain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (you play) football when you hurt your leg?

2 Read the sentences. Tick the action that started first.

1 I was watching television when the lights went off.

I was watching television. ☒ The lights went off. ☐

2 It was raining when I went out.

It was raining. ☐ I went out. ☐

3 We were walking through the town when I saw the new shop.

I saw the new shop. ☐ We were walking through town. ☐

4 Mum was shopping when she met an old friend.

Mum was shopping. ☐ She met her old friend. ☐

3 Complete the sentences. Use the past continuous or the past simple of the verbs in brackets.

1 I was painting (paint) a picture when my mobile rang (ring).

2 George \_\_\_\_\_ (use) a hammer when he \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) his hand.

3 Penny \_\_\_\_\_ (help) us when Mum \_\_\_\_\_ (come) in.

4 Mr and Mrs Feathers \_\_\_\_\_ (get) ready to go out when their son  
\_\_\_\_\_ (call).

5 We \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) to school when we \_\_\_\_\_ (see) her.

6 I \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) TV when Mum and Dad \_\_\_\_\_ (come) home.

7 They \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) breakfast when I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive).

8 Dad \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) when the play \_\_\_\_\_ (finish).

4 Look at the picture. Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

~~do his homework~~ make a poster clean  
talk loudly read a book

What were the children doing when the programme started?

1 Ryan was doing his homework.

2 Julia \_\_\_\_\_

3 Tommy \_\_\_\_\_

4 Maddy and Beth \_\_\_\_\_

5 Martin \_\_\_\_\_







## An eco home

From the outside, Simon and Alice's house looks normal. But on the inside it's very different – their Mum and Dad have changed it since they moved in. Why? They wanted to help the environment and waste less energy. Also the energy bills **used to** be expensive and they wanted to save money.

These are some of the changes they've made: Simon and Alice's family **used to** use a lot of electricity. Now they get energy from solar panels on the roof. They **used to** throw a lot of rubbish away. Now they recycle lots of rubbish.

The old owner of the house **didn't use to** grow vegetables. Now there are fruit trees and vegetables growing in the garden.



## Used to

We use **used to** to describe past situations or habits. These actions or habits are finished. We do not do them any more.

*The energy bills **used to be** expensive.*

We use **used to** + base form to make the affirmative form.

*We **used to** spend a lot of money.*

We use **didn't + use to** + base form to make the negative form.

*The old owner **didn't use to look after** the garden.*

We make questions with **did** + subject + **use to** + base form. We make short answers with **did** or **didn't**.

***Did they use to use a lot of energy?**  
**Yes, they did. / No, they didn't.***

## 5 Tick (✓) the correct answer.

1 Mum used to go to a drama club.

Mum goes to a drama club now. ☐

Mum doesn't go to a drama club now. ☒

3 People used to drop a lot of rubbish in the park.

People drop a lot of rubbish in the park now. ☐

People don't drop a lot of rubbish in the park now. ☐

2 Dad didn't use to be a policeman.

In the past, Dad was a policeman. ☐

In the past, Dad wasn't a policeman. ☐

4 I used to drink a lot of fruit juice.

In the past, I drank a lot of fruit juice. ☐

I drink a lot of fruit juice now. ☐

6 Match 1–6 with a–f.

- 1 a I ride a bike now.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Grandma's hair is grey.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ We go to France for our holidays.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ My uncle had an exciting job.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ When Grandpa was young he did a lot of sport.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ My brother keeps his bedroom tidy now.

- a I used to walk everywhere.
- b He used to be a pilot.
- c It used to be black.
- d He used to be very healthy.
- e It used to be untidy.
- f We used to go to Spain.

7 Complete the sentences. Use words from the box and **used to**.

~~drive the car~~ come from fossil fuels watch TV drink coffee  
drop rubbish do no exercise eat meat be more animals

- 1 Dad takes the bus to work now. Dad used to drive the car
- 2 Mum drinks tea now. Mum \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 We have salad for dinner now. We \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 The park is very clean now. People \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Our town has a wind farm now. All the energy \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 The park doesn't have many wild animals now. There \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 We play a lot of sport now. We \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 I read a lot now. I \_\_\_\_\_

8 Look at the underlined sentences in exercise 7. Write negative sentences.

- 1 Dad didn't use to take the bus to work.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_

**9 Write questions and short answers. Use *used to*.**

1 Mr Thompson / drive a car ✓

Did Mr Thompson use to drive a car? Yes, he did.

2 the children / drink orange juice ✗

3 we / eat cheese ✓

4 the swimming pool / be clean ✓

5 Cathy / have long hair ✗

6 the zoo / have lots of animals ✗

7 Max and Jack / play lots of tennis ✓

8 you / watch TV every day ✗

**10 Write the words in the correct order to make sentences and questions. Use *use to* or *used to*.**

1 they / eat lots of fruit?

Did they use to eat lots of fruit?

2 he / play basketball / every day.

3 you / not / read books.

4 I / live in the city.

5 she / recycle rubbish?

6 we / take the bus / to the supermarket?

7 they / walk / to school.

8 you / not / study hard.



11 Look at the picture of the Casey family two years ago. Write sentences with **used to** or **didn't use to**.



- 1 They / have a TV. They didn't use to have a TV.
- 2 Mum / wear glasses. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 The children / have any homework. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 The Casey family / have a garden. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Dad / do lots of sport. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 The town / be polluted. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Julia / read books. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 They / recycle rubbish. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Ryan / eat fruit. \_\_\_\_\_

12 Answer the questions about yourself. Use short answers.

When you were five years old ...

- 1 ... did you use to like school? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 ... did you use to tidy your own room? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 ... did you use to watch DVDs? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 ... did you use to play with dolls? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 ... did you use to eat fruit? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 ... did you use to like drawing pictures? \_\_\_\_\_