



Semi-modal verb **USED TO**

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The semi-modal verbs (or marginal modals) are: dare, need, used to and ought to. They behave similarly to modal verbs but also share some characteristics with main verbs. For example, unlike modal verbs, some semi-modal verbs are followed by to, but like modal verbs, they do not change form for person.

We can use the semi-modal **USED TO** to speak about a past habit, condition, or fact that is no longer the case.

AFFIRMATIVE : **USED TO is followed by the base form of the verb and can be used with both stative and action verbs. Stative verbs describe a state rather than an action.**

- This car used to belong to my father. / He used to play football for the local team, but he's too old now.
- There used to be a restaurant here but they knocked it down / I used to smoke, but I quit last year.

NEGATIVE : The negative of **USED TO** is most commonly "didn't use to" not "**didn't used to**", which is sometimes used by native speakers , but should not be used in exams.

- I didn't use to like him much when we were at school / There didn't use to be a cinema here

USED NOT TO can be used in very formal styles. USED N'T is also used, but it sounds rather old-fashioned.

- She used not to live as poorly as she does now.

QUESTIONS : Questions are also formed with "DID" : **DID/DIDN'T + SUBJECT + USE TO + VERB (without to)**

- Did you use to play in the streets by yourself? / Didn't you use to have long hair?

In a more formal style, question are possible without DO, but this form is less often used:

- Used you to play the organ in church before you became a monk?

Don't confuse USED TO with BE/ GET USED TO

Used to + infinitive and **be/get used to** + -ing look similar but they have very different uses.

Be used to means 'be familiar with' or 'be accustomed to'.

Get used to is used to talk about the process of becoming familiar with sth /sb..

QUESTION TAGS

We normally make tags after used to with auxiliary **DID**:

- He used to be your boss, did he?
- We used to love going to the museum, didn't we?