

Lesson Plan: Used to / would for past habits

Level	Intermediate (B1)
Time	60–75 minutes
Skills	Grammar, speaking, writing
Focus	Used to for past states and habits; would for past habitual actions

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use used to correctly for past habits and states that are no longer true
- Use would to describe repeated actions in the past
- Understand why would cannot be used for past states
- Reflect on and discuss personal change using both structures

TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

Used to — habits and states

- I used to live in Paris. (past state)
- She used to eat meat. (past habit)
- Did you use to watch cartoons as a child?
- I didn't use to enjoy exercise.

Would — repeated past actions

- Every summer we would visit my grandparents.
- He would always bring flowers when he visited.
- After school, she would walk to the park.

Would — NOT for past states

- I would live in Paris. (WRONG for states)
- I would know him well. (WRONG)
- Used to (not would) for: like, hate, believe, know, be, have

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up (10 min)

Task: Students write 3 things they did regularly as children but don't do now.

- Share with the class. Elicit used to naturally.

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Introduce used to and would with a personal story from the teacher or a text.

- Highlight: both describe past habits, but only used to works for past states.
- Drill negative and question forms: didn't use to / did you use to?

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Which sentences can use would? Rewrite where possible.

- 'I used to believe in Santa.' → cannot use would
- 'I used to walk to school every day.' → I would walk to school every day. (OK)

4. Speaking task (20 min)

Task: Then and now: students compare their lives 5–10 years ago with today.

- Prompt topics: food, hobbies, friends, technology, travel.
- Partner asks follow-up questions.

5. Writing task (5–10 min)

Task: Write a short nostalgic paragraph about the past.

- Must use used to at least twice and would at least twice.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Write a paragraph about how your town or city has changed using used to and would.
2. Interview an older family member about their childhood and report back using used to.
3. Write a story paragraph set in the past using would for at least 4 habitual actions.