

3.5 used to and would

We use *used to* / *would* (+ infinitive) to talk about past states or actions that happened regularly in the past:

- We use **used to** for states (e.g. *be*, *have*, *believe*, *like*, *love*, *live*) or actions:

*I **didn't use to like** travelling by plane. (But I do now.)*

*She **used to write** travel guides. (But she doesn't any more.)*

- We use **would** for actions (but not states), usually in affirmative sentences:

*As a teenager, I **would visit** my grandma every Sunday.*

Affirmative

*I **used to go** backpacking every summer.*

*I **would go** backpacking every summer.*

Negative

*I **didn't use to buy** flight tickets online.*

Yes / No questions

*Did he **use to go** on holiday in August?*

Wh- questions

*What **did he use to** eat?*

Subject questions

*Who **used to go** camping?*

When we talk about a single past action or when we don't want to emphasise the difference between the past and the present, we use the Past Simple instead of *used to/would*.
*I often **travelled** to China.*

We don't use *used to* or *would* for single past actions:
*Two years ago they **went** on holiday to France.*

1 Use the prompts to write sentences with *would*. If