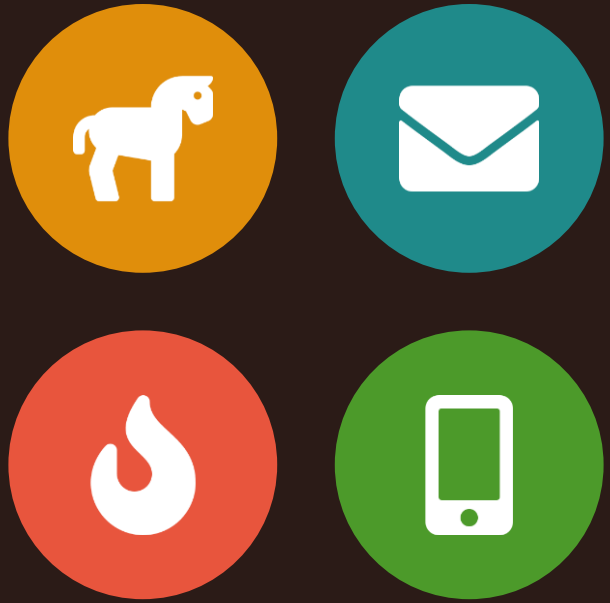
Life Now and in the Past

Unit 9 | Session 1

I used to...



Today's plan

Use used to for habits and situations in the past

Listen to a talk about the Sami people

Say "used to" naturally (/ˈjuːstə/)

Lesson timeline (60 min)

Review	15 min
Then or now? game	3 min
Vocabulary	6 min
Used to	13 min
Mime game	5 min
Listening	11 min
Pronunciation + wrap-up	7 min

Review: Unit 8

15 min

1 If we recycle, we _____ (save) energy.

2 There are too _____ cars in my city. (many / much)

3 She walks _____ in the forest. (quiet / quietly)

4 What will happen if the ice melts?

5 Say one if + will sentence about the sea.

6 Act out: "eat slowly".

Homework check: read your paragraph about an environmental issue to a partner (5 min).

GAME: Hot seat! One learner sits with their back to the board and guesses the word. (6 min) Then class check (4 min).

GAME: Then or now?

3 min



horse and cart



smartphone



candle



electric light



paper letter



video call

Teams: point LEFT for THEN (the past) and RIGHT for NOW. Fastest correct team scores!

Life in the past: words

6 min



candle

a stick of wax that gives light when it burns



horse and cart

a way to travel or carry things before cars



letter

a message written on paper and sent by post



by hand

done with your hands, not with a machine



farm

land where people grow food or keep animals



invention

a new thing that someone makes for the first time

Meaning: then and now

4 min

THEN

People **used to** travel by horse and cart.
I **used to** write letters.

NOW

Now people travel by car.
Now I send messages on my phone.

We use **used to** for habits and situations in the past that are not true now.
Is it still true? No! Is it about the past? Yes!

Used to: form

4 min

+	**subject + used to + base verb**	We used to walk to school.
-	**subject + didn't use to + base verb**	I didn't use to like coffee.
?	**Did + subject + use to + base verb?**	Did you use to play outside?
!	**Use the same form for all subjects (no -s)**	He used to live on a farm.

Practice: used to

5 min

1 People _____ (travel) by horse and cart.

2 My grandmother _____ (write) letters to her friends.

3 We _____ (not have) phones when I was a child.

4 _____ you _____ (play) outside after school?

5 He _____ (live) on a farm, but now he lives in a city.

6 They _____ (not wash) clothes by machine.

GAME: Used-to mime!

5 min

How to play

1. Pick a card with an old-time activity (wash clothes by hand, write a letter, ride a horse, light a candle).
2. Mime it without speaking.
3. Your team guesses: You used to wash clothes by hand!
4. **Correct guess = 1 point.**

IDEAS

wash clothes by hand | write a letter | ride a horse | light a candle | milk a cow | cook on a fire | carry water

Best actor of the past wins a prize!

A talk: the Sami people

3 min

reindeer	a large animal with antlers that lives in cold places
herd	a group of animals that live or move together
tradition	something people have done for a very long time
tent	a shelter made of cloth that people can move
culture	the customs and ideas of a group of people

Predict: How did the Sami people live in the past? How is their life different now?

Listen to the talk

8 min

3 min Listen 1: gist

Where do the Sami people live? What is an important tradition for them?



5 min Listen 2: detail

Find two differences between life in the past and life now. Write them with used to. Compare with a partner.

Say it with used to!

Say "used to" naturally

4 min

We used to walk to school.
Did you use to play outside?

1

"used to" is said as one word: /ˈjuːstə/.

2

"to" is weak and short: /tə/.

3

In questions and negatives: "use to" sounds the same!

Wrap-up and homework

3 min



Exit ticket

Write one sentence: I used to ... but now I ...



Homework

Write 6 sentences about how life in your family was different in the past.



Joke of the day

Why did the old coin look sad? It didn't make any cents!

Next time: phrasal verbs, the Silk Routes and a quiz show about wonders!