

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking
Activity: writing sentences, asking and answering questions from prompts, freer practice (pair work)

Focus

Used to

Present simple

Aim

To practice *used to* vs. the present simple.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this *used to* vs. present simple activity, students ask and answer questions about the way things used to be when they were 12 and the way things are now.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Explain that first the students are going to answer questions about when they were 12 years old.

Go through the *did you use to* questions from the prompts with the class, e.g. 'What did you use to look like when you were 12 years old?'

Students then write answers to the questions under the heading 'When I was 12 years old'.

Students write their answers in sentence form using *used to*, e.g. 'I used to have long brown hair and spots.'

Next, students answer questions about how they are now.

Go through the question prompts again with the class, but this time using the present simple, e.g. 'What do you look like now?'

Students then write answers to the questions under the heading 'Now' using the present simple, e.g. 'Now, I have short blonde hair, and I wear make-up.'

After that, divide the students into pairs.

Students then take turns to ask and answer the questions about the way things used to be when they were 12 and the way things are now.

Example:

A: What did you use to look like?

B: I used to have long brown hair and spots.

A: What do you look like now?

B: Now, I have short blonde hair, and I wear make-up.

Finally, students tell the class about how their partner has changed.

Questions	When I was 12 years old 	Now 
What / look like?		
What clothes / wear?		
What food / like?		
Where / live?		
What hobbies / have?		
What pets / have?		
What games / play?		
What / do at the weekend?		
What music / listen to?		
What TV series / watch?		
What films / like?		
What books / read?		
What sports / play?		
What / be like?		