

Book: Passages 1	Level: 10 <sup>th</sup>	Unit: 9
Objective: Using <i>used to</i> and <i>would</i> for repeated actions or habits in the past.		

**Used to vs Would**

If we say something *used to* happen we are talking about repeated events and actions in the past, usually things that happened a long time ago and are now finished. To express this we can use either *used to* or *would*.

*When I was young I used to play with my dolls. = When I was young I would play with my dolls.*

If you want to talk about repeated states or habits in the past, you must use *used to*, you cannot use *would*:

- My dog used to bark at cats.*
- I used to smoke.*
- I used to be an administrative assistant.*
- I used to live in England.*



In the negative you cannot use *would* without a change in meaning.

- I didn't use to play with my dolls.*
- If I said I wouldn't play with my dolls. It would mean I refused to play with my dolls.*
- We didn't use to go out much in the winter months.*
- If I said we wouldn't go out much. It would mean we refused to go out much.*

Note - The general rule is when there is *did* or *didn't* in the sentence, we say *use to* (without d) when there is no *did* or *didn't* in the sentence, we say *used to* (with d).

