

I used to be poor ...

Student's sheet

With your partner, compare the past and the present using "used to".

<p>poor ⇔ rich</p> <p><i>I used to be poor but now I'm rich.</i></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>bicycle ⇔ sports car</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>short hair ⇔ long hair</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>take part in running competitions ⇔ go fishing</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>eat fastfood ⇔ cook meals</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>smoke ⇔ go hiking</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>camp every summer ⇔ hotels</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>buy food in the supermarket ⇔ order food online</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>map ⇔ satnav</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>student ⇔ engineer</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Which of the examples is true for you? Discuss with another partner.

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Teacher's notes

Preparation:

The aim of this activity is to practise "used to" in the correct context. Have a copy of the student's sheet ready for every student in class.

In class:

Write "used to" on the board and tell students a few things which used to be true in your life years ago, and which are different now, e.g. "I used to be a student at ... school / university, but now I'm a teacher", "I used to hate vegetables when I was a child, and now I'm a vegetarian." Tell your students they are going to do a similar activity now with their partner.

Hand out a copy for every student in class. In pairs, students take turns commenting on the examples and make sentences with "used to", "didn't use to". Walk around and encourage conversations about what used to be true for students, and what has changed.

Extension activity:

After the activity have a conversation in the whole group and find out which of the examples is true for the most people in class.