



### **CAT PICTURES USED TO SCARE AWAY BIRDS**

IF LIVE cats will scare birds away, why not use imitation cats as scarecrows? Acting on this unconventional idea, a farmer of Warwickshire, England, is decorating his property with painted likenesses of cats like those illustrated above. Stoppers from mineral water bottles supplied the eyes. Now it remains to be seen whether the birds will be terrified.

# Used to (do)

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# Usually and used to

## Present habits and states

- For present habits and states we use *usually* or *normally* + present simple
  - I usually get up at 8 o'clock on school days.
  - I don't usually go out during the week.
  - Houses in the suburbs usually have gardens.
  - Do you usually walk to work?

## Past habits

- For past habits we use *used to* / *didn't use to* + infinitive. *Used to* does not exist in the present tense.
- We use *used to* for things that were true over a period of time in the past. It usually refers to something which is not true now:
  - I used to smoke (now I don't)
- *Used to* / *didn't use to* can be used with action verbs (wear, go out) and non-action verbs (be, have).
- We often use *not...any more* / *any longer* with the present simple to contrast with *used to*:
  - I used to go to the gym but I don't any more / any longer.

# Form

- **Affirmative**

I used to do

You used to do

He/she/it used to do

We used to do

You used to do (*pl.*)

They used to do

- **Negative**

I did not use to do

You did not use to do

He/she/it did not use to do

We did not use to do

You did not use to do

They did not use to do

- **Question**

Did I use to do?

Did you use to do?

Did he/she/it use to do?

Did we use to do?

Did you use to do?

Did they use to do?

# Use

- We use '*used to*' to talk about habitual or regular actions or states in the past that are now finished.
- I **used to have** a dog when I was a child.  
I **used to used to do** football every weekend but I don't have time now.  
**Did you use to go** swimming when you were at school?  
I **didn't use to like** action films, but I do now.  
I **never used to like** spinach, but I love it now.

# Important points

- We can also use '*would*' to talk about habitual actions in the past, but not to talk about past states.
- When I was young I **used to go** fishing with my father every summer.  
When I was young I **would go** fishing with my father every summer.

She **used to have** a house in the country.

NOT: She **would** have a house in the country.

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We use 'to be used to doing' to say that something is normal, not unusual.

- I'm used to living on my own. I've done it for quite a long time.
- Hans has lived in England for over a year so he is used to driving on the left now.
- They've always lived in hot countries so they aren't used to the cold weather here.
- to get used to doing

We use 'to get used to doing' to talk about the process of something becoming normal for us.

- I didn't understand the accent when I first moved here but I quickly got used to it.
- She has started working nights and is still getting used to sleeping during the day.
- I have always lived in the country but now I'm beginning to get used to living in the city

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