



9

Things ain't what they used to be!

Expressing habit · *used to do/doing* · Homonyms/Homophones · Making your point



TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

- Match a line in A with a line in B. Underline the words that express habit. Which are past and which are present?
- Choose the correct ending for these sentences.
He used to work hard because he's a builder.
He's used to hard work but now he's retired.

A	B
1 A reliable friend	my Dad would read me a story at bedtime.
2 In the 1960s, hippies	are always talking about themselves.
3 I think my sister's depressed.	will never let you down.
4 When I was a kid	She'll spend hours staring into space.
5 My first teacher was Miss Mills.	used to wear flowers in their hair.
6 Big-headed people	She used to read us stories at the end of every day and we'd go home happy.

FRIENDS REUNITED

Expressing habit – *used to do/doing*

- One of the most popular websites in Britain is *Friendsreunited.co.uk*. What sort of website do you think it is? Is there a similar website in your country?
- Read the email from Alison to an old school-friend. Complete it with the lines a–l.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a used to sit | g went |
| b 'd get | h was |
| c got | i used to call |
| d 's always talking | j used to calling |
| e used to go | k were always giggling |
| f 'd go | l 'll always end up |

T 9.1 Listen and check.

- Which actions in the email happened again and again? Which only happened once?

From: Alison Makepeace <AliMakepeace72@glosmail.uk.com>
Date: Mon 17 September, 18.36
To: sallydavies@talksmail.co.uk
Subject: Allendaes School

Dear Sally

I'm sending this through Friends Reunited. Do you remember me? We 1_____ to Allendaes School together. You were the first person I 2_____ to know when I started there.

We 3_____ next to each other in class, but then the teachers made us sit apart because we 4_____ so much.

I remember we 5_____ back to your house after school every day and listen to music for hours on end. We 6_____ all the Beatles records as soon as they came out. Once we ate all the food in your fridge and your mother 7_____ furious.

Do you remember that time we nearly blew up the science lab? The teacher 8_____ crazy, but it wasn't our fault. We 9_____ him 'Snowy' because he had white hair.

I still see Penny, and she's still as mad as ever. We meet up every now and again, and we 10_____ chatting about old times together. She'll _____ about a school reunion. So if you're interested, drop me a line.

Looking forward to hearing from you.
 Your old schoolmate
 Alison Makepeace

PS I'm not 12_____ you Sally Davies! To me, you're still Sally Wilkinson!



4 Look at these two sentences.

We used to go to school together ...
We'd go back to your house ...

Which sentence is more factual?
Which is more nostalgic?

5 Match a line in A with a line in B. Practise saying them. Pay attention to contracted forms and weak forms.

A	B
we used to go	him 'Snowy'
we used to sit	to school together
we were always giggling	you Sally Davies
we'd go back	so much
we used to call	to your house
I'm not used to calling	next to each other

T 9.2 Listen and check.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

1 Look at the sentences that express present habit.

- a *My brother **works** in a bank.*
- b *He's **always borrowing** my things without asking me.*
- c *He'll **go out** on a Friday night and **won't be back** till late.*

Which sentence expresses ...

- my attitude to this habit of his? (I find it annoying.)
- a simple fact about him?
- characteristic behaviour? (This is typical of him.)

2 Put sentences a–c into the past. Express sentence a in two ways.

3 Look at these sentences.

- a *I've lived next to the airport for years, so I'm **used to** the noise.*
- b *I **used to** live in Rome, but now I live in Paris.*
- c *I'm **getting used to** travelling on the Metro.*

In which sentence is *used* a verb? In which is *used* an adjective?

Which sentence expresses ...

- a past habit now finished?
- a situation which is familiar, and no longer strange?
- a situation which is still strange, but becoming easier?

▶▶ Grammar Reference pp150–151

PRACTICE

What's she like?

1 Choose an adjective from the box to describe the people in the sentences.

easy-going	clumsy	mean	absent-minded
argumentative	sensitive	sensible	stubborn

- 1 He's always losing things, or forgetting where he's put things.
- 2 She'll always cry at the end of a sad film.
- 3 Nothing ever upsets her, or annoys her, or worries her.
- 4 I'm always dropping things, or bumping into things.
- 5 She's ruled by her head, not her heart. She'll always think things through before she acts.
- 6 He just won't listen to anyone else's suggestions.
- 7 I remember that bloke Dave. He'd never buy you a coffee.
- 8 And he'd pick a fight with anyone about anything.

2 Add similar sentences to support these statements.

- 1 My flatmate is the **untidiest** person in the whole world.
- 2 My younger sister **is** really jealous of me.
- 3 Marc is just the **coolest** guy I know.
- 4 My mother really **gets on** my nerves.
- 5 But my grandma **was** so sweet.
- 6 My horse Bruno **was** my best friend.
- 7 Your problem is **you're** self-obsessed.
- 8 My sister's so **nosy**.



Discussing grammar

3 In pairs, decide which line in B best continues the line in A.

A	B
1 My friend Joe buys and sells cars. 2 He's always buying new things for himself – a DVD, a palm top. 3 He'll buy a shirt and only wear it once.	He's a real techno-geek. Don't you think that's wasteful of him? He earns loads of money.
4 When I was young, we used to have holidays by the seaside. 5 My dad and I would build sandcastles and go swimming together. 6 One year we went to East Africa.	What an adventure that was! We'd go to the same place year after year. I remember those days with such fondness!
7 John usually does the cooking 8 He used to do the cooking 9 He's used to doing the cooking 10 He's getting used to doing the cooking	because he's been doing it for years. but he still burns things. Maybe one day he'll get it. but then he stopped. but he isn't tonight. I am.

Parents

4 **T 9.3** Listen to four people talking about their relationship with their parents. Is/Was it a good relationship?

5 **T 9.3** Listen again. These lines are similar to what they say. What are their actual words?

- 1 ... she talked to me very openly ...
... we used to go out shopping ...
- 2 My wife always asks me questions ...
... we didn't talk very much ...
... every week he took me to the hairdresser.
- 3 ... she always tells me to pick things up ...
She goes on for hours ...
- 4 We did a lot together as a family.
... he brought us each a treat ...

6 Write a few sentences about the relationship between you and your parents. Tell your partner about it.

Answering questions

7 Answer the questions with a form of *used to do*, *be / get used to doing/sb/sth*.

- 1 A You don't like your new teacher, do you?
B Not a lot, but we're getting used to her.
- 2 A How can you get up at five o'clock in the morning?
B No problem. I _____.
- 3 A How come you know Madrid so well?
B I _____ live there.
- 4 A How are you finding your new job?
B Difficult, but I _____ it bit by bit.
- 5 A Do you read comics?
B I _____ when I was young, but not any more.
- 6 A You two argue so much. How can you live together?
B After twenty years' marriage we _____ each other.

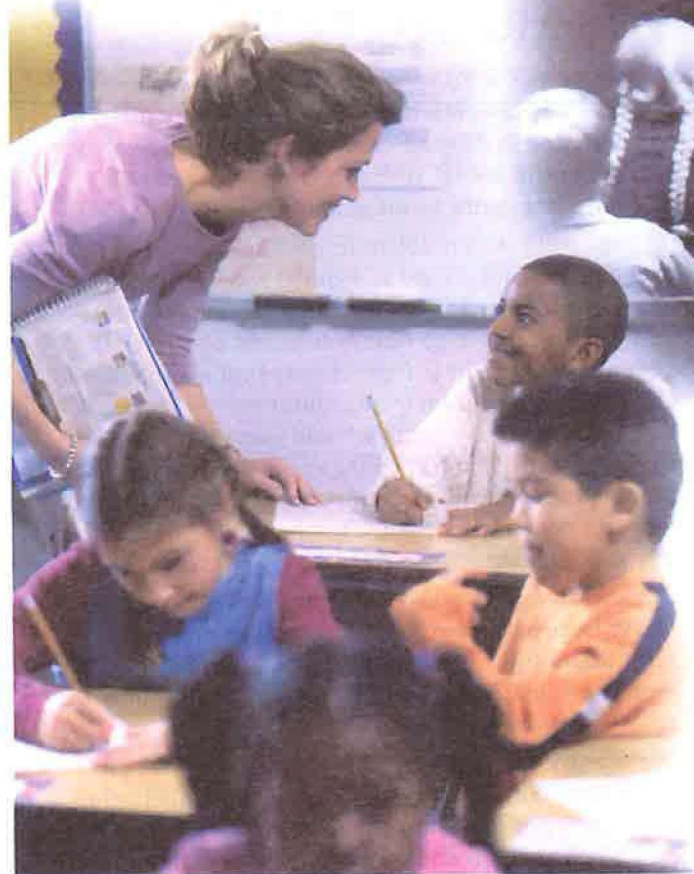
T 9.4 Listen and check.



LISTENING AND SPEAKING

A teacher I'll never forget

- 1 Look at the pictures. What are the teachers doing? What are the students doing? How have teaching styles changed over the years?



'That's an interesting question Timmy, I suggest you ask your search engine.'

- 2 **T 9.5** Listen to four people talking about a teacher they'll never forget. What characteristics of a good and a bad teacher do they mention?

- 3 Discuss the questions.

- 1 Why did Alan like his teacher? What are some of the things he'd do?
- 2 Why didn't John like his teacher? What are some of the things he used to do?
- 3 What does Lizzie say about her teacher? What will she never forget?
- 4 Why does Kate have two opposing views of Mr Brown?
- 5 What comments do Alan, John and Kate make about their teacher's name?

What do you think?

Who is a teacher you'll never forget? Why? What was/is she/he like?

SPOKEN ENGLISH Adjective intensifiers

Look at these lines from the tapescript.

All the kids were **scared stiff** of him.
... she made it seem **dead easy**.

These are compounds that intensify the meaning of the adjective.

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

brand stiff freezing tiny wide great boiling fast

- 1 They live in this _____ big house in the centre of London.
- 2 I made one _____ little mistake in my driving test, but I still failed.
- 3 Careful with the soup – it's _____ hot. Don't scald yourself.
- 4 It's _____ cold in here. Can't we put on the heating?
- 5 Do you like my car? It's _____ new.
- 6 Don't worry. You won't wake the children. They're _____ asleep.
- 7 I have a cold shower every morning. After that I feel _____ awake.
- 8 'I'm fed up with this lesson.' 'Me, too. I'm bored _____'

READING AND SPEAKING

People and their money

- 1 Look at the pictures of the people. They are: an aristocrat, a young mother, and a tax inspector. Which of them do you think is the wealthiest? How do you think their lifestyles differ? What role do you think money plays in their lives?
- 2 Which of the three people do you think said these lines? There are two for each person. Check new words in your dictionary.
 - a 'Money's been tight since my husband lost his job four years ago.'
 - b 'In my job it's possible to become a bit of a social leper.'
 - c 'I get most of my clothes from charity shops.'
 - d 'She'll spend £70.00 at the hairdressers and I won't penny-pinch on the kind of shoes I buy.'
 - e 'Sometimes I go wild and buy something just to cheer myself up, but I always regret it.'
 - f 'We'll even put down buckets to catch the leaks.'
- 3 Read all *three* texts quickly and find out who said what. Were there any surprises?
- 4 Choose *two* of the texts and read them more carefully. Answer the questions.
 - a Does he/she have a job? How much does he/she earn?
 - b What does he/she say about clothes and food?
 - c What else does he/she spend money on?
 - d Does he/she give any money to charities or good causes?
 - e In what ways does he/she try to save money?
 - f Does he/she have any extravagances?
 - g What do you learn about his/her friends and/or family?
- 5 Find a partner who chose different texts from you. Go through the questions together and compare the information.

What do you think?

- Who do you think has the best lifestyle? Who has the worst? Why?
- Who do you think is the happiest? Why?
- How does money (or the lack of it!) affect your life?

PEOPLE AND

Who's rich and who's poor these days?

THE ARISTOCRAT

LADY MIRANDA BURDON-CARR, 61, has lived in Greystoke House, Northumberland since her marriage to Lord Gideon Burdon-Carr, 40 years ago. They have two grown-up sons. Greystoke House has been the Burdon-Carr family home since 1634.

'Money is always a problem to us. The house is open to the public and is used as a conference centre but any money we make goes into maintaining the house and gardens. I have no money to spend on myself. I get most of my clothes from charity shops. I spend about £1,000 a year on them. About twenty years ago, when the boys were small, we sold some of the land to developers and that helped for a while. We hope the boys will keep the house, but running it is a full-time job with not much reward. They have good jobs in the city and are used to living well.

I'm always worrying about money. My husband and I have huge arguments about it. He likes going to restaurants and entertaining friends. Sometimes at weekends, he'll invite up to 20 people. I don't think they realise how hard up we are.

We save money by doing a lot of our own repairs to the house. We'll put up wallpaper or paint the kitchen. We'll even put down buckets to catch the leaks. I make and mend curtains and I do a lot of gardening. It took me years to get used to being so careful with money. My own family were quite well off, as a child I never wanted for anything. I'd get everything I asked for. I used to have my own pony. I don't let myself think about it. I just get on with life.'



THEIR MONEY

Gina Brookes tracks down three people from very different walks of life.

THE MUM

ANGIE CROSS, 27, has four children, aged from 5 to 10. She lives in Frinton-on-Sea in Essex, England. She gets £650 a month state benefit and also works as a part-time waitress for £30 a week.

'Money's been tight since my husband lost his job four years ago. The kids always come first, but special occasions for them are rare. They're lucky if we go to McDonald's once a month. All their school uniforms are second-hand. When I was a kid I used to get lots of treats. I'd go riding and I used to have piano lessons. I feel dreadful not being able to give my kids the things I had. Every month I work out exactly what has to be paid and what can't wait. I have to be very careful with money, and that doesn't come easily because by nature I'm very extravagant. My biggest extravagance now is a packet of ten cigarettes.

My monthly food bill comes to about £450, and towards the end of the month we have beans on toast three nights out of seven. I usually make the kids a packed lunch for school, but occasionally I don't have enough food to make one, so I tell the kids to have a school dinner and say they've forgotten their dinner money. It's not really telling lies because I'll always pay as soon as I can.

I get very depressed and I frequently sit down and cry. Sometimes I go wild and buy something just to cheer myself up, but I always regret it. I once spent £40 on some clothes but I felt really guilty. What I want more than anything else is a holiday and new shoes for the kids. Who knows? I might be rich one day!'

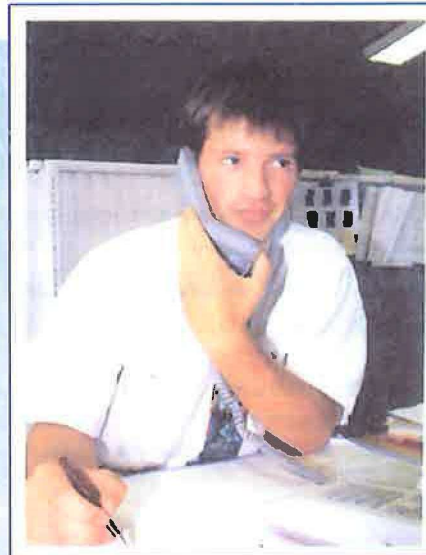
THE TAXMAN

BOB WILDEN, 24, is a tax inspector. He earns £33,558 per annum. His wife, Denise, earns £12,000 as a part-time secretary. They live in Maidenhead, Berkshire, England. They have no children.

'I'm mean in some ways, generous in others. I'll be first in the canteen to buy a round of coffees, but I'd balk at buying biscuits as well. I'll go hungry rather than stop for a snack at a motorway service station. We always buy food in bulk, so it's cheaper. We frequently cook in bulk, too and put it in the freezer. Denise and I never row about money. We both indulge ourselves now and then. She'll spend £70.00 at the hairdressers and I won't penny-pinch on the kind of shoes I buy. I never spend much on clothes, though, probably about £150 at the most. I don't need to look smart to be a taxman.

Denise generally gives £30 a month to animal charities, but she won't donate to beggars wearing £100 trainers. I'll give the real down-and-outs a quid sometimes. My widowed mum is a pensioner and lives alone, so I always make sure that she has enough to eat.

I have four credit cards, but one is never used. A bill for £800 arrived this morning for one of them. It frightened us to death. Occasionally we have to get loans to clear our credit card debts. In my job it's possible to become a bit of a social leper. Some friends are always boasting to me about how they dodge paying tax. I don't like that. I don't like paying tax either, but I'd never dodge it.'



VOCABULARY AND PRONUNCIATION

Homonyms and homophones

1 Work on your own. What do these words mean?

fine match park book cross mean

2 **T 9.6** Write down the words you hear.

3 Work with a partner. Compare your answers to exercises 1 and 2. Do you have any differences? What are they?

Homonyms

4 Homonyms are words with the same spelling and more than one meaning.

a **bank** in the High Street
the **bank** of a river
I've supported you up till now, but don't **bank** on it forever.

Complete the pairs of sentences with the same word used twice.

1 You'll like Paul. He's a really _____ guy.
Easy-going, and very friendly.

There was a lovely _____ breeze coming off the sea.

2 'What's today's _____?' 'The third.'
'I'll meet you at the cinema at 8.' 'OK, that's a _____.'

3 *Grey's Anatomy* is _____ in Seattle.
My wife bought me a chess _____ for my birthday.

4 He goes to the gym every day. He's very _____.

The trousers are too small. They don't _____ you.

5 I can't _____ people who never stop talking about themselves.

My four-year-old son won't go anywhere without his teddy _____.

5 Think of two meanings for these words.

wave suit fan miss type
point train right mind fair

Homophones

6 Homophones are words with the same pronunciation, but different spellings and different meanings.

/rəʊd/ the **road** to the town centre
She **rode** a horse.
I **rowed** across the river.

Write the word in phonetics in the correct spelling.

1 /həʊl/ the _____ world
a _____ in the ground

2 /pi:s/ a _____ of cake
war and _____

3 /fləʊə/ a rose is a _____
_____ to make bread

4 /seilz/ a yacht has _____
buy clothes in the _____

5 /sel/ salespeople _____ things
a prisoner lives in a _____

7 Think of a homophone for these words.

bored caught war hire pair plain waist seas sure aloud

8 **T 9.7** A lot of children's jokes are made with homonyms and homophones. Here are two! Which word makes the joke?



A How do you keep cool _____ at a football match?

B I don't know.

A Sit next to a fan.

A Why did the teacher _____ wear sunglasses?

B I don't know.

A Because her students _____ were so bright.



T 9.8 Listen to some more jokes. Which word makes the joke? Practise telling them to each other.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Making your point

1 **T 9.9** Listen to Victor, Al, and Bob talking about whether people should pay more tax on fast food. Who is for it, who is against it, and who is undecided?



2 Match a line in A with a line in B as they appear in the tapescript on p135.

A	B
If you	is that ...
Another thing	the point.
That's not	I understand it ...
The point	you the truth ...
To tell	my opinion ...
I suppose	worries me is that ...
As far as	I'm trying to make is that ...
Anyway, as I	point is that ...
if you want	the problem is that ...
As	was saying ...
But the main	I'm concerned ...
What really	ask me ...

T 9.10 Check your answers. Listen carefully and practise the lines.

Music of English

Notice the stress patterns in the expressions for making your point. It's important that you get the stress pattern right if you want to make your point forcefully.

3 Write the adverbs that end in *-ly* in tapescript 9.9.

firstly secondly personally

4 Match a line in A with a line in B.

A	B
1 First of all,	there are problems with the cost.
2 As well as this,	I'd like to give my conclusion.
3 Finally,	I'd like to look at the general problem.
4 In my opinion,	how do you educate people to have a better diet?
5 Generally speaking,	fast food should be totally banned.
6 The problem is,	as a nation we don't do enough exercise.
7 As far as I know,	I don't know the answer to this problem.
8 To be exact,	there are five others like this.
9 To be honest,	this problem is quite common.

5 Have a class debate. Choose a topic you feel strongly about, something local to your situation perhaps, or one from this list.

- Being vegetarian
- Smoking in public places
- Diets
- Experiments on animals

Divide into groups to prepare your ideas. When you're ready, conduct the debate.

▶ **WRITING** Writing for talking – *What I want to talk about is...* p120