

GRAMMAR FOCUS

1.2 Present and past habits

To talk about someone's habits and typical behavior, we can use:

- the Present Simple or the Past Simple, to talk about repeated present or past actions or states:
*When I **get** home, I **do** my homework and then **practice** the violin.*
*My grandfather **picked me up** from school every day.*
- **used to** + infinitive to talk about states (e.g. with the verbs *be, have, believe, like*) or actions that happened regularly in the past but are no longer happening in the present. We do not use this structure to talk about single past actions:
*When I your age, I **used to be** very eager to learn.*
*I **didn't use to fall behind** with my homework.*
***Did you use to like** Chemistry?*
- **would** + infinitive to talk about past actions or behavior typical for someone (but not states):
*Our Math teacher **would give** us loads of homework.*
- **will** + infinitive to talk about present actions or typical behavior (but not states):
*She **'ll watch** TV or play games all day instead of studying for her exams.*
Note: We do not use the verbs *will/would* in this meaning in questions.
- the Present Continuous or Past Continuous with the adverb *always* to complain about someone's behavior:
*She **'s always putting** things off and she's never on time.*
*My neighbors **were always complaining** about the noise.*

Choose the correct options.

- 1 When Mario and I shared a dorm room, he was *always borrowing* / *will always borrow* my things without asking.
- 2 When I was a kid, I *would believe* / *used to believe* that my dad was a spy.
- 3 *Did you use to like* / *Would you like* your elementary school?
- 4 It's so annoying! She *will always lose* / *is always losing* her notebook.
- 5 Martha *would ask* / *was asking* the teacher a lot of questions after every lesson. She was very curious.
- 6 I always *forget* / *will forget* to bring a pen. Can I borrow one of yours?

1.5 Verb patterns

- verb + to-infinitive, e.g. *agree, arrange, can't afford, decide, intend, learn, manage, offer, prefer, refuse, remember, seem, tend*:
*I **decided to leave** school and find a job.*
*My sister **agreed to help** me with my homework.*
- verb + object + to-infinitive, e.g. *advise, allow, cause, enable, encourage, expect, force, remind, urge, warn*:
*Robert's mother **encouraged him to study** Law.*
*The teacher **reminded us not to use** our cell phones during class.*
- verb + object + infinitive without *to*, e.g. *make, let*:
*Do his parents **let him hang out** with his friends?*
*My parents used to **make me do** a lot of house chores.*
- verb + -ing form, e.g. *admit, avoid, can't help, can't stand, enjoy, fancy, imagine, keep, miss, practice, spend/waste time, stop*:
*I **can't stand wearing** a school uniform.*
*She recently **stopped eating** fast food and she feels better already.*
- verb + -ing form/to-infinitive:
After the verbs *begin, continue, hate, intend, like, love, prefer, and start*, we can use both the -ing form and the to-infinitive. The meaning stays the same or changes very slightly:
*I **started playing** chess. I **started to play** chess.*
*He **intends using** the school website. He **intends to use** the school website.*

Change in meaning

- After the verbs *remember, forget, stop, and try*, we can use both the -ing form and the to-infinitive. However, the meaning of the sentence changes:
*Jenny **remembers locking** the door.* (She remembers that she locked the door.)
*Jenny **remembers to lock** the door.* (She always remembers to lock the door.)
*Dad **'ll forget giving** me the money.* (He will forget that he gave me the money.)
*Dad **'ll forget to give** me the money.* (He hasn't given me the money and he'll forget to do it.)
*Liz **stopped drinking** coffee.* (Liz doesn't drink coffee anymore.)
*Liz **stopped to drink** some coffee.* (Liz stopped doing something in order to drink coffee.)
*I **tried turning** the computer off and on again, but it didn't help.* (I tried this as an experiment to see if it would work).
*I **tried to turn** the computer off, but the shutdown command didn't work.* (I made an effort to turn the computer off).