

2 Language Excellence

Presentation: A magazine article

1 Read the extract from a magazine article and circle T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Gina and her family don't use phones or tablets on Sundays. T / F
- 2 Alex sleeps really badly. T / F
- 3 In Chloe's house, they don't talk at mealtimes now. T / F
- 4 Michela is in favour of technology. T / F



SMART PEOPLE ARE SWITCHING OFF

Michela Cole reports

In this age of 'technology addicts', more and more people are discovering the benefits of switching off their digital devices, even for a few hours a day. Take Gina, for example. She used to spend more time with her tablet than with her kids. 'We didn't use to chat or do anything together.' Now they have 'No tech Sundays'. 'We're a happier family now,' she says.

Alex used to check his phone several times during the night. Now, he always switches it off when he goes to bed. 'I didn't use to sleep very well,' he says. 'Now, I sleep like a baby!'

In Chloe's house, mealtimes used to be silent. 'We used to eat with our phones in our hands. We didn't use to talk at all.' Last month, her family banned phones at meals. 'Now, we eat more slowly and we have real conversations. It's great!'

I love technology and I use it every day, but I also agree with Gina, Alex and Chloe: it's important to know when to switch it off.

A magazine article

Use the title to capture the reader's attention: *Smart people are switching off*

Present the context and the facts at the beginning: *... more and more people are discovering the benefits of ...*

Use quotations from real people to make the article more interesting: *'I didn't use to sleep very well,' he says.*

Include a personal opinion at the end: *'I love technology and I use it every day ...'*

Remember!

We use *used to* to talk about something that happened regularly in the past, but doesn't happen anymore. *Used to* does not have a present form. You can't say *I use to walk to school*. You can say *I usually walk to school*.

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Practice: A magazine article

Used to affirmative	Used to negative
I / You used to leave the phone on at night.	I / You didn't use to switch off the phone at night.
He / She used to leave the phone on at night.	He / She didn't use to switch off the phone at night.
We / You / They used to leave the phone on at night.	We / You / They didn't use to switch off the phone at night.

Used to interrogative	Used to short answers
Did I / you use to leave the phone on at night?	Yes , I / you did .
Did he / she use to leave the phone on at night?	No , he / she did not .
Did we / you / they use to leave the phone on at night?	Yes , we / you / they did .

Typical errors

- I ~~didn't used to~~ send so many texts. ✗
 I didn't use to send so many texts. ✓
 Did you ~~used to~~ make more phone calls? ✗
 Did you use to make more phone calls? ✓

1 Circle the correct words.

- I used to / didn't use to write a blog, but I stopped last year.
- Ashley **used to** / **didn't use to** like swimming, but now he loves it.
 - I **used to** / **didn't use to** like Ellie, but now we're really good friends.
 - Does Sam play a lot of video games? Not now, but he **used to** / **didn't use to** play them all the time.
 - Before they opened that club, this street **used to** / **didn't use to** be so noisy at night.
 - There **used to** / **didn't use to** be a DVD shop on that corner, but it closed five years ago.

2 Complete the sentences and questions with the correct form of *used to* and the verbs in brackets.

- Before he retired, my uncle
 _____ *used to work* _____ (work) as a fire officer.
- I _____ (read) the newspaper much. Now I read it every day on my tablet.
 - _____ (you / have) a car?
 Yes, I did, but someone stole it.
 - We _____ (use) computers at my school. Now we have them in every classroom.
 - That guy _____ (be) homeless. Now he's a successful website designer.
 - Where _____ (they / live) before they moved here?

3 Correct the underlined errors. Rewrite the sentences.

- There didn't used to be so many TV channels.
There didn't use to be so many TV channels.
- When I was a boy, video games didn't used to have such good graphics.

 - I use to walk to school, but today I'm taking the bus because it's raining.

 - Used you to write letters to your friends, Grandad?

 - I usually eat meat, but I have been vegetarian for two years.

Final Writing Task

A magazine article

Write a short article comparing people's technology habits now and in the past. Use Michela's article to help you.

- Think of a title that captures the reader's attention.
- Present the context at the beginning.
- Include quotations and a personal opinion.
- Try to include examples of *used to*.