

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Activity: asking and answering questions from prompts, freer practice (pair work)

Focus

Used to

Present simple

Aim

To ask and answer questions about the way things used to be when you were 12 and the way things are now using *used to* and the present simple.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this *used to* vs. present simple activity, students ask and answer questions about the way things used to be when they were 12 and the way things are now.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Draw the students' attention to the column marked 'When I was 12 years old'. Ask the students to think back to when they were that age.

Go through how to structure the first question with the class and explain that we use *used to* to talk about past habits, routines and states.

Elicit the first question: What did you use to look like? Then, go through the other *did you use to* questions with the class.

Tell the students to write answers to the questions under the heading 'When I was 12 years old'. Students write their answers in sentence form using *used to*, e.g. 'I used to have long brown hair and spots'.

Next, explain that the students are now going to write answers under the heading 'Now', but this time they use the present simple to talk about present habits, routines and states.

Elicit the present simple questions and have the students write their answers in sentence form as before.

Example:

What do you look like now?

Now, I have short blonde hair and I wear makeup.

When the students have finished, divide them into pairs.

Students then take it in turns to ask and answer questions about the way things used to be when they were 12 and the way things are now by referring to the information on their worksheet.

Example:

A: What did you use to look like?

B: I used to have long brown hair in a pony tail and spots.

A: What do you look like now?

B: Now, I have short blonde hair and I wear makeup.

Finally, students tell the class about how their partner has changed.

Questions	When I was 12 years old 	Now 
What / look like?		
What clothes / wear?		
What food / like?		
Where / live?		
What hobbies / have?		
What pets / have?		
What games / play?		
What / do at the weekend?		
What music / listen to?		
What TV programmes / watch?		
What films / like?		
What books / read?		
What sports / play?		
What / be like?		