



## Used to / Would:

### Used to vs Would: Past Repeated Actions

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- When I was young, my dad \_\_\_\_ me a bedtime story every night.  
a) would read  
b) was used to read  
c) would to read  
d) used to reading
- We \_\_\_\_ a house near the lake, but we sold it in 2015.  
a) would own  
b) used to own  
c) were used to own  
d) would to own
- Every Saturday, my grandmother \_\_\_\_ a huge lunch for the whole family.  
a) used to cooking  
b) would to cook  
c) would cook  
d) got used to cook
- She \_\_\_\_ curly hair when she was a teenager.  
a) would have  
b) got used to have  
c) was used to have  
d) used to have
- During the holidays, the children \_\_\_\_ in the river for hours.  
a) would swim  
b) would to swim  
c) used to swimming  
d) were used to swim
- He \_\_\_\_ very tall. He was the shortest in his class.  
a) wouldn't be  
b) wasn't used to be  
c) didn't use to be  
d) didn't use to being
- In summer, we \_\_\_\_ up early and go fishing before breakfast.  
a) were used to get  
b) would to get  
c) used to getting  
d) would get
- This area \_\_\_\_ very dangerous, but it's safe now.  
a) would be  
b) used to be  
c) got used to being  
d) was used to be
- After school, my friends and I \_\_\_\_ football in the park until dark.  
a) used to playing  
b) were used to play  
c) would play  
d) would to play
- I \_\_\_\_ that learning English was difficult, but now I enjoy it.  
a) used to think  
b) would think  
c) was used to think  
d) used to thinking
- On rainy days, we \_\_\_\_ inside and play board games together.  
a) would to stay  
b) got used to stay  
c) would stay  
d) used to staying

12. My sister \_\_\_ afraid of dogs when she was little.  
a) would be  
b) used to be  
c) was used to being  
d) got used to be
13. When we lived by the sea, we \_\_\_ along the beach every evening.  
a) would walk  
b) used to walking  
c) would to walk  
d) were used to walk
14. I \_\_\_ like spicy food at all, but my tastes have changed.  
a) wouldn't  
b) didn't use to  
c) wasn't used to  
d) didn't used to
15. Every winter, it \_\_\_ heavily in this region, but the climate has changed.  
a) used to snowing  
b) was used to snow  
c) would snow  
d) would to snow
16. She \_\_\_ the answer to every question. She was the smartest in class.  
a) would know  
b) was used to know  
c) got used to know  
d) used to know
17. When he was a student, he \_\_\_ up all night studying before exams.  
a) would stay  
b) was used to stay  
c) would to stay  
d) got used to stay
18. There \_\_\_ a bakery on the corner, but it closed down years ago.  
a) would be  
b) used to be  
c) was used to be  
d) got used to be
19. My uncle \_\_\_ us funny jokes whenever he visited.  
a) used to telling  
b) would to tell  
c) was used to tell  
d) would tell
20. I \_\_\_ much about cooking, but I've learned a lot since then.  
a) wouldn't know  
b) wasn't used to know  
c) didn't use to knowing  
d) didn't use to know



## Answers

1. a) would read
2. b) used to own
3. c) would cook
4. d) used to have
5. a) would swim
6. c) didn't use to be
7. d) would get
8. b) used to be
9. c) would play
10. a) used to think
11. c) would stay
12. b) used to be
13. a) would walk
14. b) didn't use to
15. c) would snow
16. d) used to know
17. a) would stay
18. b) used to be
19. d) would tell
20. d) didn't use to know



# Explanations

## 1. “would read” (a)

'Would + infinitive' can describe past repeated actions. 'My dad would read me a story' means he did it regularly in the past. The time clause 'When I was young' provides the necessary past context.

## 2. “used to own” (b)

'Owning a house' is a past state, not a repeated action. We must use 'used to' for past states. 'Would' cannot describe states — 'would own' is incorrect here.

## 3. “would cook” (c)

'Would cook' describes a past repeated action with the time marker 'Every Saturday'. 'Would' works well here because cooking lunch is a repeated action, not a state.

## 4. “used to have” (d)

'Having curly hair' is a past state (physical appearance), not a repeated action. We must use 'used to have', not 'would have'.

## 5. “would swim” (a)

'Would swim' describes a past repeated action during holidays. The time context 'During the holidays' sets up the past frame needed for 'would'.

## 6. “didn't use to be” (c)

'Being tall' is a state. The negative of 'used to' for states is 'didn't use to be'. 'Wouldn't be' is incorrect because 'would' cannot describe past states.

## 7. “would get” (d)

'Would get up' describes a past repeated action in summer. 'In summer' provides the past time context. Getting up early was a repeated activity.

## 8. “used to be” (b)

'Being dangerous' is a past state, not a repeated action. We must use 'used to be'. 'Would be' cannot describe a state.

## 9. “would play” (c)

'Would play' describes a past repeated action — playing football regularly after school. 'After school' provides the habitual time context.

## 10. “used to think” (a)

'Thinking something was difficult' is a past state (belief/opinion), not a repeated action. We use 'used to think', not 'would think'.

## 11. “would stay” (c)

'Would stay' describes a past repeated action. 'On rainy days' provides the recurring time context for using 'would'.

## 12. “used to be” (b)

'Being afraid' is a past state (emotion). We must use 'used to be'. 'Would' cannot replace 'used to' for states like emotions or fears.

## 13. “would walk” (a)

'Would walk' describes a past repeated action. The context 'When we lived by the sea' provides the time frame. Walking was a repeated activity.

**14. “didn't use to” (b)**

'Liking food' is a state (preference). The negative form for past states is 'didn't use to'. 'Wouldn't' is incorrect for states.

**15. “would snow” (c)**

'Would snow' describes a past repeated event with 'Every winter' providing the recurring time frame. Snowing repeatedly is an action/event, so 'would' works here.

**16. “used to know” (d)**

'Knowing the answer' is a past state (knowledge), not a repeated action. We use 'used to know', not 'would know'.

**17. “would stay” (a)**

'Would stay up' describes a past repeated action before exams. 'When he was a student' provides the necessary past time context.

**18. “used to be” (b)**

'There used to be' describes something that existed in the past but no longer exists. This is a state (existence), so 'would' cannot be used.

**19. “would tell” (d)**

'Would tell' describes a past repeated action — telling jokes on each visit. 'Whenever he visited' provides the recurring time context.

**20. “didn't use to know” (d)**

'Knowing about cooking' is a state. The negative 'didn't use to know' is correct. 'Wouldn't know' is wrong because 'would' cannot describe past states.