

Used to and Would ('d) Answer Key

We use, **Used to** to talk about an action we did as a habit in the past but we don't now. (I used to smoke, but I quit.) **Would + verb** can also describe a habit in the past. (When I was in university, I would often study all night.)

(used to is a periphrastic modal, would is a simple modal)

Summers on the Farm

I used to spend the summer with my Uncle Joe on his farm. I'd get up at the crack of dawn and I'd milk cows, bring in the hay, and feed the chickens. I'd complain like hell about the work, but it really was a good experience.

Writing My Thesis

When I was completing my thesis, I used to write from 9:00 in the morning until 11:00 at night. I did that seven days a week for 4 months. I'd grab a cup of coffee, sit down at the computer and boot it up. I'd review my notes and my data, and I'd get busy typing. Sometimes, I'd forget to take a break. At the end of the day, everybody would leave and I'd still be writing. I was often the only person left in the building. When I finally left for the night, I'd often feel quite nervous.

Answer these questions:

1. Where does *used to* occur? *(beginning of the paragraph)*
2. Where does *would ('d)* occur? *(throughout the paragraph)*
3. Which form introduces the topic? *(used to)*
4. Which form introduces supporting details? *(would)*
5. Which form expresses *past habits* most clearly? *(would)*
6. How is the past tense used? What kind of information does it introduce? *(to provide background information)*

First Job Away from Home

My son's first job away from home _____ (be) at a summer resort in the off-season. It _____ (be) very isolated. There _____ (be) no TV and the radio only _____ (pick up) one station. He _____ (be) really lonely and bored. He _____ (wait) until 6:00 p.m. when the long distance became free, and then he _____ (begin) phoning everyone he knew. First he _____ (phone) me and we _____ (chat) for awhile. Then he _____ (phone) his two grandmas. He _____ (call) each of his friends then and talk to them. At about 11:00, he _____ (call) me again and we _____ (do) a crossword puzzle over the phone. Finally, he _____ (go) to bed and read until he fell asleep.

Now write a paragraph about something you used to do.