# Unit 8 · Describing Past Habits

STUDY NOTES

## The unit in one line

- **past habits**: things done again and again, or true for a long time, that have **stopped**: *We used to swim in the river.*
- how places and people change: **then and now**

## Song: a dream of childhood

- in a dream the singer is a child again, playing with three or four friends
- they **crack jokes**, laugh out loud, **ignore** the rain and clouds, play in the **mire** (mud) all day, never hungry or tired
- the end: where have those happy days gone? the singer wishes for the same dream again
- **used to** three times: the dream that came again and again, playing, not caring about the rain
- a **memorable event** happened **once** → past simple (*went, woke up, ran*), not *used to*

## Reading I: Gairigaun: Then and Now

- **Mukesh**, 11, Grade 6, Gairigaun; his English teacher says the village used to be very different; he asks his **grandfather**
- the **Bar Pipal Chautaro**: a resting place for travelers in the middle of the village, with two trees, a *bar* (banyan) and a *pipal*
- **then:**
  - people came for rest and **recreation**
  - birds sang **melodiously**
  - villagers sat on big flat stones and talked about village matters; a water **tap** nearby
  - children played games all day; schoolchildren stayed longer on the way home
  - **public property**: it belonged to everyone
- **now:** both trees cut down; a **road** built beside it; its beauty gone; nowhere to rest
- **chautaro / chautari** = a raised stone platform with shade trees beside a footpath; a village's meeting place

## Reading II: Anne Frank: A Short Life

| Year | What happened |
|---|---|
| 1929 | born **12 June**, **Frankfurt**, Germany; a **Jewish** family; sister **Margot**, three years older |
| 1933 | **Hitler** and the **Nazis** came to power and **blamed** the Jews; the family moved to **Amsterdam**; father **Otto Frank** set up a company |
| 1934 | Anne arrived; learned Dutch, made friends, liked school |
| 1939 | Germany **invaded** Poland: the Second World War in Europe began |
| 1940 | 10 May: the Germans **occupied** the Netherlands; law after law against the Jews over the next two years |
| 1941 | Jewish children had to go to Jewish-only schools |
| 1942 | 12 June: a **diary** for her 13th birthday; 6 July: into **hiding** in the **Secret Annex**, behind Otto Frank's office; eight people in all by November |
| 1944 | 4 August: found; all eight **arrested** at 263 Prinsengracht; the diary's pages **scattered**, gathered and hidden by a helper |

- **the rules against Jews:** no businesses; no trams, buses, cars; no cinemas, parks, pools; shopping only 3–5 p.m.; indoors from 8 p.m.; from May 1942, a yellow star
- **after:** died at **Bergen-Belsen**, Feb. or March **1945**, aged fifteen; **Miep Gies** gave the diary to Otto; printed **1947** (*Het Achterhuis*); now in over seventy languages; the **Anne Frank House** is a museum
- **diary** = a daily record; **dairy** = where milk becomes curd, butter, ghee

## Key words

**attract**: make someone interested.

**peaceful**: quiet and calm.

**recreation**: things done for fun and rest.

**melodious**: sweet to listen to.

**public**: for all the people, not one person.

**property**: something that belongs to someone.

**blame**: say something bad is someone's fault.

**invade**: enter another country with an army.

**occupy**: take control of a country by force.

**confide in**: tell your secrets to someone you trust.

**arrest**: (police) take and hold someone.

**scattered**: spread about untidily.

## Grammar: used to

| | Pattern | Example |
|---|---|---|
| habit, stopped | **used to** + plain verb | *I used to walk to school, but now I go by bus.* |
| state, stopped | **used to** + plain verb | *She used to have long hair.* |
| negative | **didn't use to** + plain verb | *It didn't use to snow much.* |
| question | **Did** … **use to** + plain verb? | *Did they use to have a dog?* |

- after **did / didn't**: **use to**, no *d* (*did* already shows the past); both sound the same
- **once**, at one time → past simple: *I **visited** Pokhara last year.*
- read the second half first: *I **didn't use to** play the guitar, but I do now.*
- **used to ≠ be used to** (= it is normal for me): *I am used to getting up early.*
- past forms in the Anne Frank text: regular *blamed, moved, invaded, occupied, arrested*; irregular *was, came, became, began, had, said, gave, wrote, told, went, made, left, kept*
- a question in the past: **did** + plain verb (*Why did they move?*); with *be*, no *did* (*When was she born?*)

## Speaking: then and now

- *What did you use to play? — I used to play hide and seek.* (Rina) / *dandi biyo* (Ronish)
- *Does she still play it? — No, she doesn't. She used to play it.*
- **dandi biyo:** a long stick (*dandi*) flicks and hits a short peg (*biyo*); fewer children play it now

## Writing

- **what I used to do:** ask your parents; *used to* and *didn't use to*; end with what is true now
- **two pictures:** describe each with the clues (greenery, less population, pollution, big buildings); link them: *there used to be green hills where the city now stands*
- **your timeline:** a line down the page; years on one side, events on the other
- **project:** an old photo and a new one from the same place; one paragraph on how it **used to be**, one on how it is **now**

## Extra bit: alphabetical order

- dictionary order: by the **first** letter; if the same, the **second**, then the **third**…
  - *ash, credit, epic, manual, water*
  - *credit, cricket* (e before r)
  - *debate, decide, demand*
  - *deaf, dear* (f before r)
- a word inside another comes first: *key, keyword; know, knowledge*
- by spelling, not sound: *kill, king, knife, knit, know*

## Listening: Dadagaun then and now

- **ten years ago:** a remote village; small houses with **thatched** roofs; no road, no transport; patients carried on a **stretcher** to hospital; children walked about two hours to school
- **now:** developed; roads; **electricity**; children go by **school bus** and **van**

### COMMON MISTAKES

✗ I use to live in Ilam.
✓ I **used to** live in Ilam.

✗ Did you used to walk to school?
✓ Did you **use to** walk to school?

✗ I used to visit Pokhara last year.
✓ I **visited** Pokhara last year.

✗ I didn't used to like spinach.
✓ I didn't **use to** like spinach.

✗ She kept a dairy.
✓ She kept a **diary**.

✗ knife, kill, king
✓ **kill, king, knife**