



THE SIESTA STORY

Workday Time Travel: Used to vs. Today

When we talk about habits or routines in the past that are different now, we use **used to** or **would**.

- **Used to:** For things that happened regularly in the past, or things that were true in the past. (Use for general states, e.g., "The cities *used to* be quieter.")
- **Would:** For actions that happened repeatedly in the past. (Can replace "used to" for actions, e.g., "Farmers would start work before dawn.")

Task 1: Past Habits (Used to or Would?)

Fill in the blanks with **used to** or **would**. Use **would** only for repeating actions, and **used to** for facts/states or when it is not possible.

1. In the 1800s, many businesses in Spain _____ close for three hours in the afternoon.
2. Before globalization, people in rural villages _____ spend more time eating lunch with their whole family.
3. The midday heat in summer _____ be the main reason for resting.
4. Roman soldiers _____ stop working exactly at the sixth hour.
5. My grandmother _____ hate taking a nap, but now she sleeps every afternoon!
6. People _____ not have electric fans, so resting in the shade was the only option.

Task 2: Past vs. Present Contrast

Complete the sentences by writing about the PRESENT reality. Use the correct Present Simple form (e.g., closes, don't take).

Example:

- Workers **used to** return home for a long meal, but now they **eat lunch quickly at their desks**.
7. Traditional workdays **used to** be split into two halves, but most big companies today _____.
 8. My parents **used to** always take a nap after lunch, but I _____ because I have evening classes.
 9. Shops in the city **used to** close completely from 2 PM to 5 PM, but now most major stores _____.
 10. The word *siesta* **used to** only mean a long sleep, but now it _____ a **power nap**.

Teacher's Key

Task 1: Past Habits (Used to or Would?)

1. would (or used to)
2. would (or used to)
3. **used to** (This is a past state, so only *used to* is correct.)
4. would (or used to)
5. **used to** (This is a past state/feeling, so only *used to* is usually preferred here.)
6. **used to** (This is a fact/state about the past.)

Task 2: Past vs. Present Contrast

(Answers will vary slightly but must use correct Present Simple negation/affirmation.)

7. Traditional workdays **used to** be split into two halves, but most big companies today **run a continuous day / do not have a split schedule.**
8. My parents **used to** always take a nap after lunch, but I **don't have time / don't take a nap** because I have evening classes.
9. Shops in the city **used to** close completely from 2 PM to 5 PM, but now most major stores **stay open all day / don't close at all.**
10. The word *siesta* **used to** only mean a long sleep, but now it **also refers to / also includes a power nap.**