

USED TO in Songs (2020 – 2000) A fun activity with music videos for ELT



WELCOME TO THE SONG ACTIVITY FACTORY!

This week you're going to take your students on a **journey through time!**

I hope you have a lot of **fun** with this lesson plan!!

Quick Lesson Overview:

In this song-based activity with multiple video extracts, students have to **IDENTIFY** the structure **USED TO + VERB** in 5 different songs. They are going to travel back in time with each song taking them further back till 2000! You can use it as extra grammar practice, review or just for fun! **OBS:** This lesson plan was made to be used for **ONLINE TEACHING**, but it can be modified for face-to-face instruction, as well.



Language level: B1

Learner type: All ages

Skills: listening, writing

Topic: USED TO

Materials: Vimeo video [LINK](#)

Duration: about 30 min

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Check out the latest song-based lesson plan from the Song Activity Factory:
[Boost Your ESL Classroom with Damiano David: Creative Song Activity for B2 Students](#)

How to Teach English with Used To Songs: Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1

Warm up

Ask your students: Do you and your parents like the same kind of music? And have students share their answers as a class.

Step 2

Used to Review

Write USED TO + VERB on the board and ask students to explain when to use it and give you example sentences. Write some on the board.

Ask the following questions:

Did your tastes in music change with time? What kind of music did you use to listen to? Why do you think people change their tastes in music?

Step 3

Divide students into pairs or trios (it can also be done individually, depending on the number of students), and tell them they are going to watch 5 extracts of music videos that have verbs with USED TO. In their answers, they only have to write used to + verb ex: used to love

Check to see if the students have a sheet of paper to write their answers on.

Play the first video, and pause it before the second one. Repeat the extract 2 more times. Then, check the answers by walking around and assigning points for the correct answers. If you are doing this online, have a captain for each team to send you the answers for you to check and assign points. Repeat this for the other video extracts.

The team with more points in the end is the winner!

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BAD CONNECTION tips:

If your connection is not good for you to play the video to your students. You can share the link with them, and they watch it individually 2x (about 6- 7 min) and then come back to class and send their answers via chat box.

Answers

2020 (Dermot Kennedy - Giants)

*That day in the park/ When the hurt would hide from me / Those eyes **used to know** me, it's been way too long / You are the moon and the stars, and all they gaze upon /Time won't ever move slowly, what you waiting on? /What you waiting on? / We **used to be** giants / When did we stop? / Say the word and I'll be yours / You know I never forgot*

2019 Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott - A Whole New World (from Aladdin)

*Soaring, tumbling, freewheeling / Through an endless diamond sky / A whole new world / (Don't you dare close your eyes) / A hundred thousand things to see / (Hold your breath, it gets better) / I'm like a shooting star / I've come so far / I can't go back to where I **used to be** / A whole new world / (Every turn, a surprise) / With new horizons to pursue / (Every moment, red-letter)*

2015 Gwen Stefani - Used to love you

*I don't know why I cry / But I think it's 'cause I remembered for the first time / Since I hated you / That I used to love you /I don't know why I cry / But I think it's 'cause I remembered for the first time / Since I hated you /That I **used to love** you*

2009 Daughtry - no surprise

*But I know in time we'll find this was no surprise / Our favorite place we **used to go** / The warm embrace that no one knows / The loving look that's left your eyes / But I know in time we'll find this was no surprise*

2000 Madonna - American Pie

*A long long time ago, I can still remember / How that music **used to make** me smile And I knew if I had my chance That I could make those people dance /And maybe, they'd be happy for a while*

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Step 4 Creative Response Options

Students choose ONE of the following activities:

Option A: Personal “Used To” Verses

- Write a 4-6 line verse using “USED TO” about changes in your life
- Follow the pattern of one of the songs studied
- Perform your verse for a small group or record it

Option B: Then & Now Visual Representation

- Create a visual contrasting “Then” (USED TO) and “Now”
- Include 3-5 written sentences with “USED TO”
- Present your visual and explain the changes represented

Option C: Time Capsule Letters

- Write a letter to your future self (5 years ahead)
- Include at least 5 sentences with “USED TO” describing current habits
- Predict which of these might change in 5 years

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