

Used to – use to

Except in negatives and questions, the correct form is **used to**. However, in negatives and questions using the auxiliary verb **do**, the correct form is **use to**, because the form of the verb required is the infinitive.

Oxford American Dictionary

1 The construction used to is standard, but difficulties arise with the formation of negatives and questions. Traditionally, used to behaves as a modal verb, so that questions and negatives are formed without the auxiliary verb **do**, as in *it used not to be like that* and *used she to come here?* In modern English, this question form is now regarded as very formal or awkwardly old-fashioned, and the use with **do** is broadly accepted as standard, as in *did she use to come here?* Negative constructions with **do**, on the other hand (as in *it didn't use to be like that*), although common, are informal and are not generally accepted.

2 There is sometimes confusion over whether to use the form **used to** or **use to**, which has arisen largely because the pronunciation is the same in both cases. Except in negatives and questions, the correct form is **used to**: *we used to go to the movies all the time* (not *we use to go to the movies*). However, in negatives and questions using the auxiliary verb **do**, the correct form is **use to**, because the form of the verb required is the infinitive: *I didn't use to like mushrooms* (not *I didn't used to like mushrooms*)