

# CHILDHOOD

## Discussion

### Basic questions

1 What did you like to do when you were a child?

*\*When I was a child, I liked to...*

2 Where did you grow up?

*\*I grew up in...*

3 Did you have a nickname? Why did you get this nickname?

*\*Yes, I had...*

4 Who took care of you when you were little?

*\*My... took care of me when I was a little.*

5 Describe the first memory you had of going to school.

*\*The first memory I had of going to school was...*

6 Who used to be your favorite relative when you were a child? What was he/she like? (Personality)

*\*My favorite relative was...she's/he's like a...*

### Extended questions

1 What is your most vivid memory of the home where you grew up?

*\*My most vivid memory of the home where I grew up is...*

2 Did you use to have any irritating habits when you were a child?

*\*Yes, I used to have... / No, I don't have any...*

3 What do you think are the best things about being a child?

*\*The best things about being a child are...*

4 What do you think are the worst things about being a child?

*\*I think the worst things about being a child are...*

## Vocabulary

- 1 **memory** (/ˈmeməri/)  
(noun) A thought of something that you remember from the past  
*Ex. I have vivid memories of my grandparents.*
- 2 **Grow up** (/ɡrou/)  
(verb) To develop into an adult  
*Ex. She grew up in Boston.*
- 3 **Unforgettable** (/ˌʌnfərˈgetəbl/)  
(adjective) If something is unforgettable, you cannot forget it, usually because it is so interesting and enjoyable.  
*Ex. The music is what makes the movie so unforgettable.*
- 4 **Recall** (/rɪˈkɔ:l/)  
(verb) To remember something  
*Ex. I could not recall his name*
- 5 **Blurred** (/blɜ:rd/)  
(adjective) Difficult to remember clearly  
*Ex. She has blurred memories of her childhood.*
- 6 **Reminiscent of somebody/something** (/ˌremɪˈnɪsnt/)  
(adjective) Reminding you of somebody, something  
*Ex. The way he laughed was strongly reminiscent of his father.*



## Grammar

In English, we often use the structures used to + infinitive and would + infinitive to talk about things that we did regularly in the past, but not now.

### 1) Used to + infinitive

-We use used to + infinitive when we talk about things that happened regularly in the past but do not happen now.

-In the negative we say didn't use to + infinitive

*Ex. I used to play in the snow every winter.*

*I used to get up early to go to school.*

*I didn't use to go to bed so late.*

## 2) Would + infinitive

-When we are telling a story or recalling a situation from a long time ago, we often prefer to use would + infinitive to describe repeated behaviour in the past. However, both would and used to are possible:

*Ex. I remember growing up in home town. My life was completely different. I would get up early every day and go to school.*

*In the winter, I would play in the snow with my friends.*

## Idioms / Useful Expressions

1 a / somebody's second childhood – a situation in which someone starts to behave like a child, especially because of mental weakness caused by old age

*Ex. Her grandfather's in his second childhood and talks nonsense most of the time.*

2 be etched on your memory – something/someone you cannot forget and think often

*Ex. The scene will be etched on my memory forever.*

3 a trip/walk down memory lane - time that you spend thinking about and remembering the past or going to a place again in order to remind yourself of past experiences.

*Ex. Visiting my old school was a real trip down memory lane.*