Tell Me About It!

UNIT CONTENTS
Vocabulary Media; Time expressions
Grammar Past tense review; Review of used to + infinitive and would
Listening Cell phones were huge!

1. How much information can you see in this photo? How does it make you feel?
2. How do you get information about local or world events?
3. What important things are happening in your area right now?
1. I watch the news on TV every night. My brother gets his news online.

2. Did you see the big headline in today's paper? The article is about a tiger escaping from the zoo.

3. The reporter did an interview with a local teen about a neighborhood fire.

4. I'm going to read the report before I go see that movie.

5. The blogger wrote about common trends in teen fashion on her website. She included a review about the most popular places to shop.

2. Listen, check, and repeat.

3. Work with a partner. Put the words from Exercise 1 in the correct categories. Some words can go in more than one category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things you read</th>
<th>Things you watch</th>
<th>Things you listen to</th>
<th>People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>article</td>
<td>interview</td>
<td>report</td>
<td>reporter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blogger</td>
<td>news / the news</td>
<td>paper</td>
<td>review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>headline</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. YOUR TURN Work with a partner. When was the last time you did each of these things? Explain what each one was about.

- watched the news on TV
- watched the news online
- read an article in the paper
- read a review of a product, movie, or music album
- read or watched an interview

I watched the news on TV last night. I saw a report about...
It isn’t always NEWS.

You worked hard on your report for school. You read articles online. You even watched online videos. You thought you did well, but you got the report back from your teacher, and she said that you had to do it again. What did you do wrong? Well, when you were doing your research, you believed everything that was written on the Internet!

A lot of information on the Internet isn’t true. Anyone can post information online. A lot of news looks real, but contains false information. Sometimes, an article is entirely false. Fake photographs have even been posted with some news stories. Because of this common problem, many websites have been developed to give people true information.

Snopes.com gives people information about urban legends, myths, and other false stories. Many people have used the website to find out whether a story is true or false. For example, there have been a lot of stories online that said that Bill Gates was giving people free laptops. However, Snopes.com reported this wasn’t true.

Factcheck.org gives true information about what leaders in the United States say and do. It tells readers when stories aren’t true. People who work at Factcheck.org believe that reporters should be honest all of the time and that the news should always be true.

Do you want true information about a person or event in history? WhoWhatWhen gives information about famous people and events from 1000 AD to today. You can even create a timeline of events based on a famous person’s life. Do you want to know if the television was invented during Gandhi’s lifetime? WhoWhatWhen can tell you!

Be careful when you write reports and use the Internet for research. Check your facts on websites like these and other sites that you know have true information!

Reading: An article about checking facts

1. Look at the title and the pictures. Why do you think the boy might have to write his report again?

2. Read and listen to the article. What should students do before they write a report?

3. Read the article again. Answer the questions.
   1. Why is there a lot of false information on the Internet?

   2. Which fact-checking website would you use to find out if something the current US president said were true?

   3. Which website could you use to find out if it were possible for Elvis Presley to use a computer?

   4. Which website tells whether an urban legend is true or false?

4. YOUR TURN Work with a partner. What false stories have you read or heard about?

   I read that you can charge your smartphone with an onion, but it isn’t true.
Grammar: Past tense review

5. Complete the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple past</th>
<th>Past continuous</th>
<th>Present perfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use simple past statements to talk about past events and activities.</td>
<td>Use the past continuous to talk about activities that were in progress in the past. To form the past continuous use was/were + present participle (-ing form).</td>
<td>Use the present perfect to talk about experiences that happened at an indefinite time in the past. To form the present perfect, use has/have + the past participle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>Irregular</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did you believe? I ________ everything on the Internet.</td>
<td>What ________ she write? She ________ a report for school. She ________ write a blog post.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Complete the conversations with the correct form of the verbs in the questions. ✓ = yes, ✗ = no.

1. A: What were you watching last night?
   B: I ________ the news. I ________ (✓) a movie.

2. A: Who has seen my keys?
   B: Peter ________ them. He ________ (✓) them today, though.

3. A: Where did Jackie go?
   B: She ________ to the store. She ________ (✓) to the market.

4. A: What were Tom and Jill posting online last night?
   B: They ________ a video. They ________ (✓) photos.

7. Write sentences. Use the form in parentheses.

1. the TV show / recorded / in April (past passive)
   The TV show ________ in April.

2. the papers / not deliver (present perfect passive)
   The papers ________.

3. the report / file / in the main office (past passive)
   The report ________ in the main office.

4. the letters / open (present perfect passive)
   The letters ________.

5. the name of the reporter / not give (past passive)
   The name of the reporter ________.

Speaking: A newsworthy event

8. **Your Turn** Work with a partner. Talk about a time you did or saw something special on vacation.

I went to a music festival last summer. It was in . . .
What Life WAS LIKE

Listening: Cell phones were huge!

1. Have you ever talked to your parents about what technology was like when they were young? How was it different from today?

2. Listen to Brandon talk to his mom about technology in the past. Check (✓) the things his mom DIDN’T have in high school.

   ☐ a smartphone  ☐ a phone in her room  ☐ a computer  ☐ a color TV

3. Listen again. Are the sentences true or false? Write T (true), F (false), or NI (no information).

   1. Brandon and his mom often watch old movies. _____
   2. Brandon’s mom’s best friend had a cell phone. _____
   3. Brandon’s mom has a smartphone now. _____
   4. Brandon’s mom had a computer in college. _____
   5. Brandon’s mom did research at the library. _____
   6. Brandon’s mom watched the news by herself. _____

Vocabulary: Time expressions

4. Underline the event that happened first. If the events happened at the same time, underline them both.

   1. I bought a new phone after I lost my old one.
   2. As I was watching a movie, my brother was playing a video game.
   3. I called Rick as soon as I found out the game was canceled.
   4. Before my dad left for work, he read the paper.
   5. By the time I got to the party, my friends were gone.
   6. Every time I had difficult homework, I asked my sister for help.
   7. I’ve watched video clips since my friend started posting them.
   8. I studied at the library until it was dark.
   9. When I got to the café, I sent Julia a text.
   10. Whenever I get together with my best friend, I feel happy.
   11. I read some reviews while I was online.

5. YOUR TURN Complete the sentences with a time expression from Exercise 4 and your own information.

   1. I’ve had a smartphone since I was 12.
   2. ______________ something exciting happens, I call ______________.
   3. ______________ I turn 20, I ______________.
   4. ______________ I see my best friend, we ______________.
   5. I do research online ______________.
Grammar: Review of used to + infinitive and would

6. Complete the chart.

Use used to or would for things that happened repeatedly in the past but don't happen now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where did she use to do research?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>She used to do it at the library. She didn't use to have a computer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did you use to go to the library?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I did. No, I didn't.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When would you watch the news?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I used to watch it at 6:00. I wouldn't watch it online.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use used to, not would, for situations that happened in the past.

I used to live in Los Angeles. (NOT: I would live in Los Angeles.)

7. Complete the sentences with would when possible. When not possible, use used to.

My cousin 1 used to live (live) on a farm when he was a boy. As soon as he got up, he 2 used to (feed) the animals. He 3 used to (not have) a computer or a smartphone when he was young. Every time he wanted to use a computer, he 4 used to (go) to the library. I 5 used to (not talk) to my cousin very much, but I 6 used to (visit) him in the country sometimes. We 7 used to (not play) inside – we were always outside. My sister and I 8 used to (help) him with the animals. He 9 used to (come) to our house in the city, too. He 10 used to (love) playing my video games. When we got older, we 11 used to (not see) each other very much. I moved to the country, and my cousin moved to the city! Now, we both live in the city and see each other whenever we can. Where 12 used to (you / live) when you were young?

8. Rewrite the sentences. Change used to to would. If it’s not possible, write X.

1. I used to swim every summer. I would swim every summer.
2. Ellen used to be on a soccer team. Ellen used to be on a soccer team.
3. Jack and Terry used to play video games for hours. Jack and Terry would play video games for hours.
4. I didn’t use to have a phone in my room. I didn’t use to have a phone in my room.
5. We didn’t use to sleep late on the weekends. We didn’t use to sleep late on the weekends.
6. Did you use to walk to school every day? Did you use to walk to school every day?
7. Where did Sara use to live? Where did Sara used to live?
8. When did they use to go on vacation? When did they use to go on vacation?

Speaking: My life in the past

9. YOUR TURN Work with a partner. Talk about your life 10 years ago.

How does it compare to now? Use the ideas in the box and your own ideas.

how you got to school what technology you used/had
activities you did at school what you did on the weekends

I used to walk to school every day because I lived close to the school. But then we moved, so now I take the bus.

I used public transportation when I was a kid. I would take the subway, and I take it now, too.
Conversation: Interests change.

1. **REAL TALK** Watch or listen to the teenagers talk about their parents’ music and fashion in the past. Number the topics in the order you hear them.

   - liked Michael Jackson
   - liked punk music
   - used to wear dresses with bows
   - didn’t like anything popular
   - liked the Beatles
   - liked pop music
   - probably liked disco
   - used to have pink hair

2. **YOUR TURN** What music and fashion were your parents into when they were growing up? Tell your partner.

3. Listen to Liz and Ivan talk about music. Complete the conversation.

   **Liz:** I like your hair, Ivan.
   **Ivan:** Thanks. I’m __________ the punk look right now. The music, too.
   **Liz:** What bands do you listen to?
   **Ivan:** Well, I’m __________ the punk bands today. My mom used to listen to punk music, so I listen to all the bands she liked in the 1970s.
   **Liz:** That’s cool.
   **Ivan:** What kind of music do you like?
   **Liz:** Well, last year I was __________ pop music, but this year I’m __________ it. I listen to a lot of rap these days.
   **Ivan:** I see. It’s funny how interests change. Last year, I didn’t know what punk music was, and now I’m __________ it!
   **Liz:** So what did you listen to last year?
   **Ivan:** Rap music! Sorry, Liz, but now I __________ it!
   **Liz:** That’s OK.

4. Practice the conversation with a partner.

5. **YOUR TURN** Work with a partner. Talk about your interests in the past and today. Use the situations in the chart or your own ideas.

   - music: last year and this year
   - fashion: five years ago and this year
   - sports/games: eight years ago and now

   **I’m really into rock music.**
   **What bands do you listen to?**

   Last year, I really liked this local band, Volcanic Fire. But this year, I’m all about rock bands from the ’80s like Joan Jett and the Blackhearts.
I went to Comic-Con International in San Diego by myself last Saturday. It’s an event for people who are crazy about comic books. As soon as I got there, I went to a discussion group. Five comic book writers were talking about their comics. As I was leaving the room, I met one of the writers. It was an amazing experience because I myself hope to be a comic book writer someday! After that, I met a friend, and we bought comic books for ourselves. Some people who go to Comic-Con dress up as their favorite characters. I used to dress up as Rocket Raccoon, but this year, I went as Spider-Man. Comic-Con International is an amazing event. The best thing about it is meeting new people with similar interests. Next year, Comic-Con International is in July. There are also Comic-Con events all over the world.
Culture: An organization for prom fashions

1. Look at the photos and the title of the article. What do you think Cinderella’s Closet is?

2. Read and listen to the article. Why did Stephanie and Katie start Cinderella’s Closet?

3. Read the article again. Check (✓) the things that teenagers do for Cinderella’s Closet.

   - They sell dresses and tuxedos to students.
   - They lend dresses and tuxedos to students.
   - They volunteer and help other teens look for dresses.
   - They donate money to the organization.
   - They design clothes for the fashion show.
   - They model at the fashion show.
   - They work in fashion and voted at the fashion show.

4. **Your Turn** Work with a partner. What special dances or other events do you have at your school? What do teens wear or do for the events?

DID YOU KNOW...?
For some proms, students decorate their high school gyms for the dance. Other proms are at fancy hotels.
UNIT 1 REVIEW

Vocabulary

1. Circle the correct answers.
   1. As soon as I got home, I watched **the news** / the article on TV.
   2. After I wrote a report / a reporter for class, I emailed it to my teacher.
   3. I want to be a headline / a reporter for the school **paper** / review next year.
   4. My brother only reads the **headlines** / paper, but I like to read the entire article / blogger.
   5. Before I buy something online, I always read the interview / reviews.
   6. My aunt is a report / a blogger, and she does interviews / news with community members and then writes posts about them on her website.

Grammar

2. Rewrite the sentences. Use the tense in parentheses.
   1. I worked a lot yesterday. (past continuous) **I was working a lot yesterday.**
   2. Tara didn’t pass her test. (present perfect) **I have written the report in three languages.**
   3. Ricky works for a TV station. (simple past) **I have written the report in three languages.**
   4. I am crazy about animal videos.
   5. He has a comic book collection, but he sold it a few years ago.
   6. A: Do you like punk music? B: **I’m not crazy about it.**

Useful language

3. Complete the sentences with **would** when possible. When not possible, use **used to**.
   1. When I was younger, I **would watch** (watch) videos online. I **used to** (look) at them all day long. I **used to** (be) crazy about animal videos.
   2. My cousin **lives** (live) in San Diego, but now he’s in Denver. In San Diego, he **went** (go) to Comic-Con every year. He **had** (have) a comic book collection, but he sold it a few years ago.
   3. **You** (be) a reporter for your school paper? **You** (write) articles about important issues?

PROGRESS CHECK: Now I can . . .

☐ talk about my news-watching habits.
☐ express interest and disinterest.
☐ talk about experiences in the past.
☐ write about an event.
☐ talk about habits in the past.
☐ talk about a special event.