

Discussion:

- 1) Have you ever moved to a new area? How was it?
- 2) If you could live in any city or town in the world, where would it be?
- 3) You're about to read a story about a man who moved from a small town in Wales to London. How do you think London might have changed him?

Old Habits

Barry pushed past another tourist, knocking her elbow as he went. She should know better than to wait until right in front of the barriers to look for her train ticket. *This is London, lady. Time is money.* Ahead of him, his friend Arthur, was already through the barriers and heading down the tunnel. He hurried after him and caught up with him just as a train pulled up to the platform. They both jumped on and took their preferred place, standing next to the train windows.

Barry saw the lady he'd pushed past moments before reach the platform just as the train pulled away and a tiny part of him had been happy. Sitting down nearby was a young man in his early-twenties, about two decades younger than Barry. He was laughing at some joke his friend had made.

Suddenly Barry saw himself at that age, when he'd first come to London. He'd been different then, more easy-going and carefree. He wouldn't have pushed a poor tourist out of the way then...what had he become?

He turned to Arthur. "Do you ever think you've been in London too long?"

Arthur shrugged and nodded but said nothing.

"I mean, I didn't use to rush around the city, pushing past tourists and slow people. I used to be one of them. I'd get up every morning full of energy and go outside to explore London. I remember I used to make a point of looking up and taking in the architecture. I used to sit in the parks and just relax for a while."

"Yeh, well, I used to have hair and a six-pack."

Barry looked at his old friend with his beer belly and balding head and couldn't stop himself from laughing out loud.

Vocabulary focus:

- 1) Noun: the gates that you go through to get to a train platform –
- 2) Verb: moving in a particular direction –
- 3) Adjective: easy to speak to / quite relaxed –
- 4) Phrasal verb: seeing + experiencing + enjoying what's around you –
- 5) Compound noun: a fit / toned stomach –
- 6) Compound noun: a large stomach –
- 7) Adjective: becoming bald –
- 8) Verb: moved your shoulders to show you don't know –
- 9) Verb: moved your head up and down to say yes –

Textploitation

Barry London: Old Habits

Vocabulary focus 2:

- What do you think “poor” means in the following context: “a poor tourist”?
- How old do you think the young man next to Barry is?
- What is the function of the word “mean” in this sentence: “I mean, I didn’t use to rush around the city...”

Discussion:

- 1) Do you think this would happen to you if you lived in a big city?
- 2) What kind of person do you think Barry is?

Language focus:

“Yeh, well, I used to have hair and a six-pack.”

- Does Arthur have a six-pack now?
- When did he have it?
- Is he describing a past action or a state?

Form:

- Used to + _____ = describing past states which are no longer true.

“I used to sit in the parks”

- Does he sit in parks these days?
- Is he describing a past action or state?
- Did it happen once only?

Form:

- Used to + _____ = describing repeated past actions which no longer occur.

“I didn’t use to rush around the city...”

- Why is “use” spelt without a ‘d’ in this example?
- Does he rush around the city these days?

Form:

- Didn’t _____ to + verb = actions / states which didn’t happen in the past but do now.

Language focus 2:

“I’d get up every morning full of energy and go outside to explore London”

- What does “d” represent in the above sentence?
- How is it used? Is it describing a similar situation to the examples above or is it different?
- Why do you think it comes immediately after a “used to” sentence?

English tip:

Very often we use “used to” for general statements and “would” follows it up with supporting details.

Pronunciation:

Listen to the recording and decide how the highlighted words are pronounced:

- **I didn’t use to** rush around the city
- **I used to sit** in the parks
- **I’d get up** every morning.
- **I used to** make a point of...