

New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice



Then and now

New Internationalist Easier English

Ready Intermediate Lesson

Today's lesson:

- Speaking
- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Reading



Order the phrases to make a sentence:

- has
- to a village
- the changes
- an English man
- gone
- back
- to see
- in Burkina Faso
- since 1985
- every 10 years

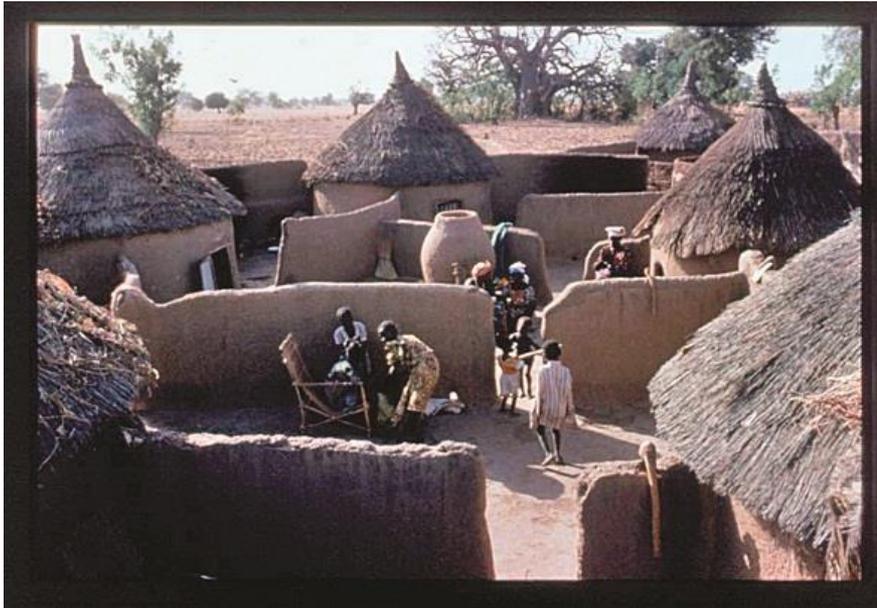


What changes do you think he has
seen in:

- Housing
- Water
- Education
- Health
- Food and farming
- Technology
- Women

For example: housing

1985



2016



Vocabulary – match:

1. straw
2. corrugated iron
3. thatched roof
4. rectangular
5. brick
6. pump
7. water table
8. well

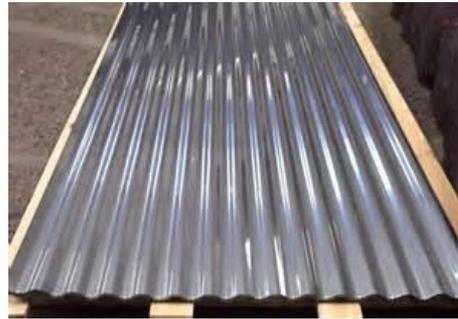
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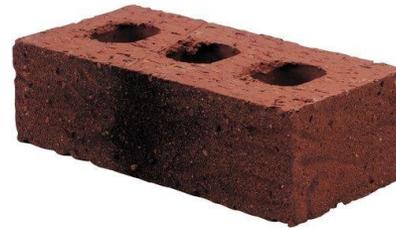
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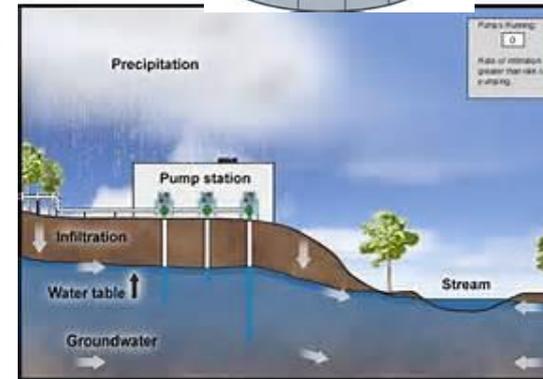
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e



f



g



h



Find 3 changes in housing 1985 to 2016:

Houses now look very different. The photo from 1985 shows a concession (the local French term for a family compound) – traditional round houses with earth walls (colonialists called them ‘mud huts’) and ‘thatched’ roofs. Western people thought they looked pretty.

They still have the circular huts, but now they usually use them to store things or for animals or children. People who have some money now live in a rectangular house made of bricks (from baked earth) with a corrugated iron roof. This roof makes it hotter, but lasts a lot longer and protects from the rain more in the rainy season. And they don’t have straw to make the thatched roofs now.

In 1995 Mariama wanted a new house like this. I paid her money to interpret for me, and she decided to save it for a house. Every wife has a different house for her and her children to sleep in. That house was built, but the rain destroyed it in 2008.

She now has a much bigger, decorated house – bigger than her husband’s. She lives in it with her daughter and her daughter-in-law. Many people did not have money to get better houses. The house usually shows how much money a family has. Inside the houses there is usually no decoration and very little furniture.

Find 4 changes in water – 1985 – 2016:

One of the main messages of our 1985 film was that women had to work much too hard – a lot of this was getting water. Women had to carry the water for drinking, washing and cooking a long way from one of the few good wells. This took hours every day.

But in 2002, they got the offer of a water pump (from a joint programme between the Burkinabè government and a German NGO). But each family had to give \$270 – a lot of money – and also pay for its maintenance. Many families did not have enough money for this. But some did. So there were enough in the village for poorer families to use too.

Now people are worried that the water table is sinking so low that the pumps will soon not get water in the dry season. They need new, expensive super pumps to go deeper. They have only three so far.

They now carry water in many different ways eg. plastic containers, on bicycles or donkey carts, not on their head.

Order the words to make true sentences:

1)

live
to
thatched
roofs
They
used
with
in
houses

2)

used
heads
They
to
water
on
carry
their

3)

didn't
water
They
to
pumps
have
use

Focus on the grammar: discuss

They used to live in houses with thatched roofs.

They used to carry water on their heads.

They didn't use to have water pumps.

- a) Are these sentences about the past, present or future?**
- b) Are they about actions that happened more than once?**
- c) What part of the verb comes after 'used to'?**
- d) How do you make the negative?**

Grammar practice:

In pairs, write more 'used to' sentences about:

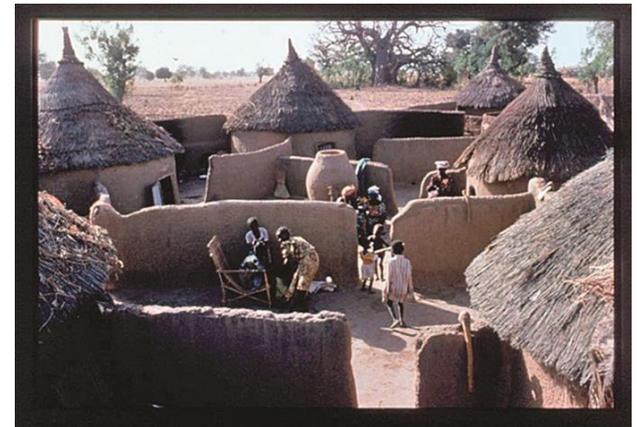
1/ corrugated iron roofs

2/ straw to make roofs

3/ circular homes

4/ women – hard work

5/ worry – water table



In pairs, make more 'used to' sentences about food, health and education:

Then



Now



Now read this and write 10 more 'used to' sentences, positive and negative, about education, health and food:

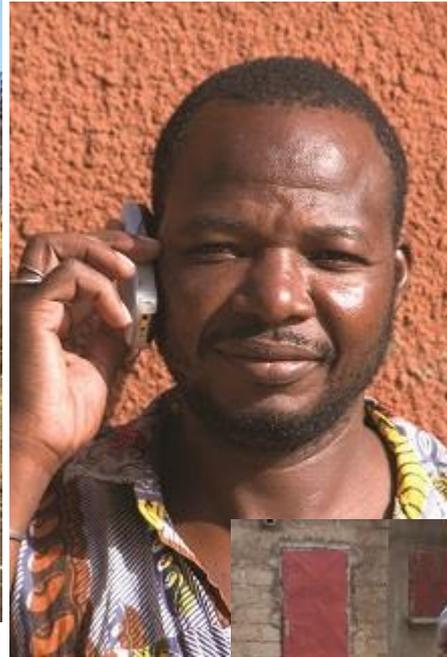
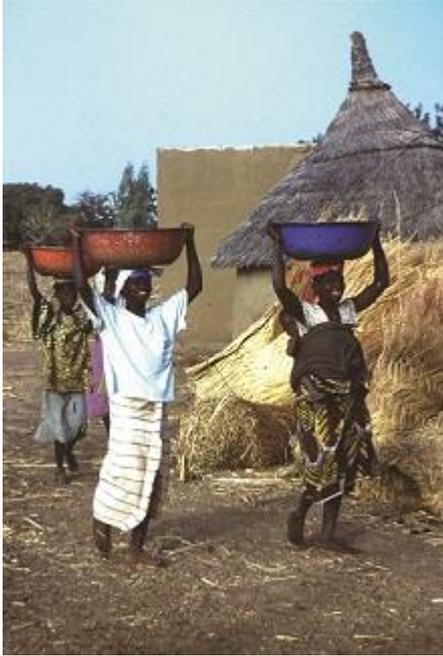
Education: There was no school in Sabtenga in 1985 – only a few children went to school and they had to walk about four kilometres to Garango. In 1995 there was a primary school. It only had three classrooms and only had space for a new group of seven-year-olds every two years. So at least 50 children a year had no education. In 2005 there were three more classrooms: Burkina Faso got money from the HIPC Programme for health and education. This village is far from the capital, so this was real evidence that the money was coming to the right places, not going to corrupt government ministers. There were new primary schools in the villages around so there was not so much pressure on the school in Sabtenga. There is now also a secondary school in the village. It started with one year group, and took in a third year last September. They are planning a new set of three classrooms.

Health: In 1985 there was no real health centre – it was an empty building with no medicines and no staff. In 1995, it was a working health centre – it did not have enough staff, but it was busy and was improving the quality of life in the village. In 2005 there was a separate maternity unit, from debt relief money. But people still had to pay, so many women had their babies at home. Some women died having babies.

In 2016 the clinic was about the same, but had more staff. The staff had a lot more work because healthcare is now free for pregnant women and children under five. This happened in June, because of an election promise of the new president, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. The money for this is coming from more tax on alcohol, tobacco and mobile phones.

Food: Most people in the village live by growing basic crops to eat - the traditional crops were millet. They made flour from the millet and then made porridge called *tô* to eat. This was the same in 2005. Then, most of the farmers only used animal dung as a fertilizer. But about seven years ago agronomists came to talk about how good it would be to use chemical fertilizer. Some people felt they had enough manure from animals. But when they saw the better results by the farmers who used fertilizer, they changed to chemicals and this is much more common now. At about the same time, most people started growing maize, not millet. This is less work. They still make flour from the maize and then *tô*, but people usually pay others to do this at the village mill now.

In pairs, ask questions about the past eg.
‘Did the women use to ride motorbikes?’



Questions with 'used to ...':

1/ Did women use to ride motorbikes?

2/ Did they use to use that horse and cart?

Complete these questions:

3/ village a TV mast?

4/ everyone mobile phones?

5/ women equal to men?

6/ women on the floor at village meetings?

And do you think any of these things are still true now?

Read to check your answers and write 3 more 'used to' sentences:

Technology: In 2005 I was surprised to see a few mobile phones in the village. People love mobiles all across Africa so they are almost as common in the village now as in the West. People use them only for texting and speaking not as computers, but they are very important to people who have family working in other countries. If they didn't have phones, they wouldn't be able to contact them.

There is now even a phone mast in the middle of the village, near the health centre. But the most important change in 2016 was that electricity had come to some parts of the village. There are masts with power lines and TV aerials in a few of the compounds. There are not enough electricity meters for many houses. But now, families with electricity can keep food cool and their children can read or do homework in the evenings.

Women: I would like to say there was better progress in the political situation of women – but the end of FGM is a big improvement, and because of the new water pumps, they have less work. In 1985 Mariama was on the local Committee for the Defence of the Revolution. Two places were only for women because of an agreement started by Thomas Sankara. Just before his death, he said: 'Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. I never want to see or go to a society where half the people have to stay silent.' But this agreement ended after the assassination of Sankara. Now there are only 12 women in the national parliament – this is only nine per cent.

There are women's groups in the village, but these are not to challenge the control of men, but to give practical support to get some money from food or small businesses. I have been to many village meetings where the men sit on chairs and women sit on the ground. Women now have more bicycles and sometimes motorbikes, like Salamatu Darga, who is taking part in the anti-malaria campaign. But men still control this society. Even the strongest women have to follow what their husband wants. And many men still take a second wife without even asking the first wife.

Speaking: role play

A – radio interviewer.

Interview B and ask about village life in Burkina Faso 30 years ago and now.

Ask at least 4 questions with 'used to'

B – someone from this village in Burkina Faso.

The radio interviewer will ask you about your village life in the past and now.

Use 'used to' in positive and negative at least 4 times.

Homework:

Read more about the changes in Burkina Faso:

https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Issue_499

In Easier English.

After you read each article, click on the link at the bottom to read the original, more difficult article – our reading and vocabulary will improve a lot!

