

YOUR STUDENTS

WILL

FOCUS ON
GRAMMAR

For the Teacher

WITH THIS FUN,
FREE ACTIVITY!

From our **LONGMAN GRAMMAR Brochure** (0-13-152311-2)

Classroom Tips & Strategies

TIP # 2: TEACH GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

The most meaningful and memorable grammar lessons are those in which learners see how the new grammar is used by native speakers in realistic situations and contexts. When choosing a context, you should always make sure that it shows what the new grammar item means and how it is used. Written contexts such as a text or dialogue work best.

Remember also that a good context is one that the students find interesting.

Lastly, a good context is one that provides the new grammar item more than once, so that it becomes a model for the students to make their own sentences.

UNIT
4

USED TO

from *Focus on Grammar*, Second Edition Intermediate Teacher's Manual p. 15-16

GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT (page 30)

See the General Suggestions for Grammar in Context on page 2.

Before You Read, page 30: First ask the class, *Who is wearing jeans today?* Look around the room and identify the students wearing jeans or some article of clothing made of denim. Ask students the two questions in this section. Discuss students' responses as a class. If any questions remain unanswered by the end of the unit, have students conduct their own research on jeans using the Internet.

CULTURE NOTE: In 1848, gold was discovered in California. In the 1850s, thousands of people moved there to dig for gold and find their fortunes. This period of U.S. history is called the California Gold Rush.

Reading, page 30: After students have completed the reading, ask the following questions:

Why did Levi Strauss make pants out of tent material? (miners used to get holes in their pants, and tent material was stronger)

What is the traditional fabric used in jeans? (denim)

When did jeans become popular for everyone to wear? (in the 1950s)

Focus on Grammar: Write the headings *Then* and *Now* on the board. Elicit an example of the highlighted form from the reading and write it under the *Then* heading. Write its contrasting idea in the *Now* heading. For example:

Then

*Gold miners used to get holes in their pants.
The fabric used to come from Genoa, Italy.*

Jeans didn't use to be so popular.

Now

*Now, workers have strong fabric for their pants.
These days, it comes from many places around
the world.*

Today they are popular.

Point out that *used to* contrasts a past habit or situation with a present one.

Ask the following questions:

Does the form used to change when the pronouns change? (no)

Do you keep the /d/ in used to in questions and negative statements? (no)

Point out that the *used* in the sentence *He used tent material to make extra-strong pants* means *employed* or *utilized*. It is a regular verb. It ends with a /zd/ sound (ju:zd) compared to the /st/ of the *used to* (ju:st).



UNIT

4

USED TO

FREE ACTIVITY!

From *Focus on Grammar*, Second Edition
Intermediate Student Book page 30



GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

BEFORE YOU READ Why are jeans so popular throughout the world? What questions can you ask about jeans?

Read this FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) about blue jeans.

FAQ ABOUT JEANS

- ◉ *Where are blue jeans from, anyway?*
Gold miners in the California Gold Rush **used to get** a lot of holes in their pants. In the 1850s, Levi Strauss, a recent immigrant from Germany, solved their problem. He used tent material to make extra-strong pants. In this way, the 24-year-old businessman also made his fortune.
- ◉ *Why do we call them "jeans" and not "strausses"?*
"Jeans" was the name of the strong cotton fabric Strauss used. The material **used to come** mainly from Genoa, Italy. The French called it "gênes" after that city. Today the fabric is called denim, and the pants are called jeans.
- ◉ *Jeans **didn't use to be** so popular. What happened?*
Jeans **used to be** just work clothes. Then they began to appear on movie stars. James Dean, a 1950s movie actor, **used to wear** jeans. So did Marlon Brando. You know the rest.
- ◉ *Did they **use to come in** so many colors and fabrics?*
No. Blue **used to be** the only color, and denim the only fabric. But not anymore. Today you can buy jeans in many colors and materials. (But they still have to have five pockets or they're not really jeans!)



James Dean