

Let's rewind

Have you ever wondered what life was like in the past, when you were not even born? Was it full of dread and sadness? Was it completely opposite? Maybe it was full of happiness and joy. Were people different from today? Well, let me take you back to the past. Let's rewind.

Do your parents ever get on your nerves, always talking about "the old times"? And do they totally bore you to death?

Well they were getting on my nerves, too. But that was before I decided to research the "old times" they talked about. Turns out the "past times" were not even as half as bad.

For example, a topic that I find particularly captivating: music! Spotify and YouTube didn't exist back then. The only source where you could listen to music was the radio or the MTV channel. And if you found some band or artist you liked, you had to go to another country to buy the CDs! If you lived in Rijeka, you would probably look for them in Trieste, and even then, there was a chance you couldn't find the CDs. If you liked alternative rock music in particular, you wouldn't hear much about it on the local radio or find it in the newspapers. If you were lucky, you could find the copies at the kiosks, but they would order only five copies for the whole city. If you bought a cassette or a record, and it didn't have the lyrics written on the wrapping, you had to figure out the lyrics on your own. Unlike now, when you just google the title of the song and it immediately lets you see the lyrics.

I think I talked enough about music so let's move to a more boring topic. That topic is school. We always complain that learning is hard and that it drains our energy. Well they had it much worse. To find a book from which you could study, because you couldn't just search for it on the net, you had to go to the local library or a library at your university and search for the book that fits your needs the best. You had to have lots of encyclopedias, because that was the only way you could read about various themes. Back then, you had to search for the words in a dictionary. They had it harder than we do now.

Then let's move to one of our last topics. Telephone calls and messages. There were no mobile phones so you could only make a call using the landline phone.

The international calls were also more expensive than the domestic ones. If you moved to a different country or went to study abroad, you couldn't call anyone because it was too expensive. Instead, you could send your loved ones letters. Receiving the letters took ages. If there's anything good about it - it's that you couldn't get judged for not having the new iPhone 17.

Which connects us to another theme - transportation. The train tickets weren't available online so you had to go to buy them before the train departure at the train station. When travelling, you had to have a physical map of the road or know your way around because you could easily get lost without GPS.

And last but not least, we have common living. You could only get money from the ATM before Saturday noon because otherwise you couldn't pick the money up. On the other side - restaurants and pizzerias didn't have deliveries until late 90's, devastating really.

In the end, our parents didn't have a perfect life. But it wasn't completely awful either. They were outside more and played in nature. Now we just sit around and look at our screens. Not even looking outside to admire nature, to enjoy the sunny days with rays of sunshine gleaming on our smiling profiles, and the drops of rain falling like waterfalls over our faces. Or even the strong wind ruining the hairstyle you spent hours making because you saw it on some influencer. We grew up too quickly. And that's where we went wrong.

But after all, life was good in the past, and life is good now if we look at the bright side of life. After all we try, we try to live the best possible life. With electronics or without them.