

## used to, be used to, get used to

## used to / didn't use to + infinitive

- 1 I **used to sleep** for eight hours every night, but now I only sleep for six. (3 43))  
I didn't recognize him. He **didn't use to have** a beard.
- 2 When I lived in France as a child we **used to have** croissants for breakfast. We **would buy** them every morning from the local baker.



- 1 We use *used to* / *didn't use to* + infinitive to talk about past habits or repeated actions or situations / states which have changed.  
• *used to* doesn't exist in the present tense. For present habits, use *usually* + the present simple, e.g. *I usually walk to work.* NOT *I use to walk to work.*
- 2 We can also use *would* to refer to repeated actions in the past. However, we don't use *would* for non-action verbs (e.g. *be*, *have*, *know*, *like*, etc.). NOT *I didn't recognize him. He wouldn't have a beard.*

## be used to / get used to + gerund

- 1 I'm **not used to sleeping** with a duvet. I've always slept with blankets. (3 44))  
Carlos has lived in London for years. He's **used to driving** on the left.
- 2 A I can't **get used to working** at night. I feel tired all the time.  
B Don't worry, you'll soon **get used to it**.

- 1 Use *be used to* + gerund to talk about a new situation which is **now** familiar or less strange.
- 2 Use *get used to* + gerund to talk about a new situation which is **becoming** familiar or less strange.

The difference between *be used to* and *get used to* is exactly the same as the difference between *be* and *get* + adjective.

- a Right (✓) or wrong (✗)? Correct the mistakes in the **highlighted** phrases.

I can't get used to getting up so early. ✓

She isn't used to have a big dinner in the evening. ✗  
*isn't used to having*

- 1 When we were children we used to playing football in the road.
- 2 When we visited our British friends in London we couldn't get used to drink tea with breakfast.
- 3 Have you got used to live in the country or do you still miss the city?
- 4 I'm really sleepy. I'm not used to staying up so late. I'm usually in bed by midnight.
- 5 There used to be a cinema in our village, but it closed down three years ago.
- 6 Paul is used to having very long hair when he was younger.
- 7 A I don't think I could work at night.  
B It's not so bad. I'm use to it now.
- 8 Did you use to wear a uniform to school?
- 9 It's taking me a long time to be used to living on my own.
- 10 When I had exams at university I used to stay up all night revising.

- b Complete with *used to*, *be used to*, or *get used to* (positive or negative) and the verb in brackets.

My boyfriend is Spanish, so he *isn't used to driving* on the left. (drive)

- 1 When Nathan started his first job he couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ at 6 a.m. (get up)
- 2 I didn't recognize you! You \_\_\_\_\_ long hair, didn't you? (have)
- 3 Isabelle \_\_\_\_\_ a flat when she was at university, but now she has a house of her own. (rent)
- 4 When we were children we \_\_\_\_\_ all day playing football in the park. (spend)
- 5 Jasmine has been a nurse all her life, so she \_\_\_\_\_ nights. (work)
- 6 I've never worn glasses before, but now I'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ them. (wear)
- 7 Amelia is an only child. She \_\_\_\_\_ her things. (share)
- 8 Although I've lived in Spain for years, I've never \_\_\_\_\_ dinner at 9 or 10 o'clock at night. (have)
- 9 I \_\_\_\_\_ spinach, but now I love it. (like)
- 10 If you want to lose weight, then you'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ less. (eat)