

Used to/Be used to/ Get used to/Would

◆ We use **used to + infinitive** to refer to past habits or states. In such cases, **used to** can be replaced by the past simple with no difference in meaning.
e.g. They **used to travel/travelled** a lot when they were younger. (They don't any more).

◆ We use the past simple, and not **used to**, in the following cases:

a) to refer to an action which happened at a definite time in the past.

e.g. I **drove** to work yesterday. (NOT: ~~I used to drive to work yesterday.~~)

b) to say how many times an action happened at a definite time in the past.

e.g. I **went** to the cinema four times last month.
(NOT: ~~I used to go to the cinema four times last month.~~)

◆ We use **would/used to** for repeated actions or routines in the past.

e.g. We **would/used to** eat out on Sundays.

We do not use **would** with state verbs.

- e.g. a) They **used to live** in London.
(NOT: ~~They would live in London.~~ ~ state)
b) I **used to have** a pet dog.
(NOT: ~~I would have a pet dog.~~)

◆ **Be used to + noun/pronoun/-ing form** = be accustomed to, be in the habit of

- e.g. a) They **are used to the cold**. (present)
b) I **don't mind walking**. I'm **used to it**. (present)
c) She **wasn't used to living** in the country. (past)

◆ **Get used to + noun/pronoun/-ing form** = become accustomed to

- e.g. a) I **am getting used to the weather**. (present)
b) He **didn't like using** the computer at first, but he **got used to it**. (past)
c) She **will soon get used to wearing** contact lenses. (future)

14

Choose the correct answer.

- 1 'Sharon looks different now, doesn't she?'
'Yes. She ... **B** ... to have long dark hair, didn't she?'
A is used B used C would

- 2 'I have never driven an automatic car before.'
'You will soon to it.'
A get used B be used C used

- 3 'How is Sarah?'
'She's fine. She to life in the countryside.'
A got used B used C is getting used

- 4 'Have you always worked as a nurse?'
'No. I a childminder.'
A was used to being B used to be
C am used to being

- 5 'Do you remember when we were little?'
'Yes. Dad always read us a bedtime story.'
A was used to B would C got used to

- 6 'Aren't you tired?'
'No. I to walking long distances.'
A am used B got used C used

- 7 'Jane had trouble with her job at first.'
'Yes. She to working on her own.'
A used B got used C wasn't used

- 8 'Did you find your degree course difficult?'
'Yes, but I soon to it.'
A used B got used C was used

- 9 'Do you remember Uncle Danny?'
'Yes. He always bring us presents.'
A would B was used C used

- 10 'Have you ever lived in a flat before?'
'No, but I will to it.'
A be used B get used C used

- 11 'Why are you so tired?'
'Because I to getting up early in the morning.'
A am used B used C am not used

- 12 'Do you know that man?'
'Yes. He to work for me.'
A was used B used C is used

15

Mary had to move to Italy for her job. At first, she found living in a foreign country quite difficult, but she is slowly getting used to it. Use the prompts below to talk about how she is getting along, as in the example.

S1: She *wasn't used to living by the sea, but she is used to it now.*

S2: She *still hasn't got used to living on her own.*

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| • live by the sea | ✓ | • use a new currency | ✓ |
| • live on her own | ✗ | • new customs | ✓ |
| • be away from her family and friends | ✗ | • drive on the other side of the road | ✗ |
| • speak Italian | ✓ | • hot weather | ✓ |