

be/get used to ... (I'm used to ...)

A Study this example situation:



Lisa is American, but she lives in Britain. When she first drove a car in Britain, driving on the left was a problem for her because:

She **wasn't used to it**.

She **wasn't used to driving** on the left. (because Americans drive on the right)

But after some time, driving on the left became easier. She **got used to driving** on the left.

Now it's no problem for Lisa: She **is used to driving** on the left.

B I'm used to something = it is not new or strange for me

You can say:

be get	used to	something or doing something
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- ☐ Paul lives alone. He has lived alone for a long time, so it is not strange for him. He's **used to it**. He **is used to living** alone.
- ☐ I bought some new shoes. They felt a little strange at first because I **wasn't used to them**.
- ☐ Our new apartment is on a busy street. I expect we'll **get used to the noise**, but at the moment it's very disturbing.
- ☐ Helen has a new job. She has to get up much earlier now than before – at 6.30. She finds this difficult because she **isn't used to getting** up so early.
- ☐ Katherine's husband is often away from home. She doesn't mind this. She's **used to him being** away.

C We say 'be/get used to **doing** something' (not I'm used to do).

- ☐ Lisa is used **to driving** on the left. (not is used to drive)
- ☐ I'm used **to living** alone. (not I'm used to live)

When we say 'I am used to ...', **to** is a preposition:

- ☐ We're not used **to**
 - the noise.
 - it.
 - living here. (not live here)

Compare **to** + infinitive (**to do**, **to live** etc.):

- ☐ We don't want **to live** here.

D Compare I am used to doing and I used to do:

I **am used to (doing)** something = it isn't strange or new for me:

- ☐ I'm used **to the weather** here.
- ☐ I'm used **to driving** on the left because I've lived in Britain a long time.

I **used to do** something = I did it regularly in the past but no longer do it. We use this only for the past (I **used** ...), not for the present. See Unit 18.

- ☐ I **used to drive** to work every day, but these days I usually go by bike.
- ☐ We **used to live** just outside the town, but now we live near the centre.

Exercises

61.1 Complete the sentences using **used to** + a suitable verb.

- I'm not lonely. I don't need other people. I'm used to being on my own.
- I don't feel good. I stayed up until 3 am. I'm not to bed so late.
- Tomorrow I start a new job. I'll have to get with new people.
- My feet hurt. I can't go any further. I'm not so far.
- I like this part of town. I've been here a long time, so I'm here.

61.2 Read about Sarah and Jack. Complete the sentences using **used to**.

- Sarah is a nurse. A year ago she started working nights. At first it was hard for her.
Sarah wasn't used to working nights. It took her a few months to it.
Now, after a year, it's normal for her. She nights.
- Jack has to drive two hours to work every morning. Many years ago, when he first had to do this, it was hard for him and he didn't like it.
When Jack started working in this job, he driving two hours to work every morning, but after some time he it. Now it's no problem for him. He two hours every morning.

61.3 What do you say in these situations? Use **I'm (not) used to ...**.

- You live alone. You don't mind this. You have always lived alone.
FRIEND: Do you get lonely sometimes?
YOU: No, I'm used to living alone.
- You sleep on the floor. It's OK for you. You have always slept on the floor.
FRIEND: Wouldn't you prefer to sleep in a bed?
YOU: No, I
- You have to work long hours in your job. This is not a problem. You have always done this.
FRIEND: You have to work long hours in your job, don't you?
YOU: Yes, but I don't mind that. I
- You've just moved from a village to a big city. It's busy and you don't like the crowds of people.
FRIEND: How do you like living here now?
YOU: It's different from living in a village. I

61.4 Read the situations and complete the sentences using **get/got used to**.

- Some friends of yours have just moved into an apartment on a busy street. It is very noisy.
They'll have to get used to the noise.
- The children got a new teacher. She was different from the teacher before her, but this wasn't a problem for the children. They soon
- Kate moved from a big house to a much smaller one. She found it strange at first. She had to in a much smaller house.
- Anna has lived in Britain for ten years. She didn't like the weather when she first came, and she still doesn't like it. She can't
- Lee got a new job, but his new salary was much less. So he had less money.
He had to

61.5 Complete the sentences using only one word each time.

- Lisa had to get used to driving on the left.
- Daniel used to a lot of coffee. Now he prefers tea.
- I feel very full after that meal. I'm not used to so much.
- I wouldn't like to share a room. I'm used to my own room.
- I used to a car, but I sold it a few months ago.
- When we were children, we used to swimming very often.
- There used to a school here, but it was knocked down a few years ago.
- I'm the boss here! I'm not used to told what to do.