USED TO DO VS. BE/GET USED TO DOING



1 Presentation

be/get used to ...

We use the structure **be used to something / be used to doing something** when we say that something is normal for us, not strange or new:

I get up early every morning to go to work. It isn't something new or strange for me. I **am used to getting** up early.

"How can you live in this building? There is so much noise" "It's not a problem. I **am used to** it."

Ann **wasn't used to** the hot weather in Greece. She is from Finland.

John is from England. He **is used to driving** on the left.

We use the structure **get used to something / get used to doing** something when we say that something *becomes* normal for us.

After living in Greece for a year, Ann **got used to** the hot weather.

Robert had always lived with his parents. Then he went to college and started to live alone. It was strange at first, but he **got used to it** in the end.

Sandra's new boss was very demanding at first, but she **got used to** him.

used to do

We say **I used to do something** when we talk about something we did regularly in the past, but do not do it now. In the negative we say **I didn't use to do something**:

I **used to live** in a large city, but now I live by the seaside. I **didn't use to go** swimming everyday.

Do not confuse this structure with **be used to doing something**.

Dialogue

A: What do you think of our cold weather? **Are** you **used to it** yet?

B: Yes, I **got used to it** very quickly. I **used to live** in Canada, you know.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Be/get used to

Complete the sentences below with *be used to* or *get used to* in a suitable tense.

1. When James moved to Sweden, it took him a few years to _____ the cold weather.
2. They live in a small village. They _____ noise and pollution.
3. I come from a big city, so when I moved to the countryside, I just couldn't _____ the slow pace of life.
4. Harry is a construction worker. He _____ physical work.
5. Jacob's wife _____ his difficult character. They've lived together for almost 20 years.
6. Living with a roommate was a bit strange at first. But after a while, I _____ it.
7. How was your year in London? _____ you _____ the rain in the end?

Study the situations below and create a sentence using *be/get used to + -ing*

1. When James spoke in public for the first time, he was very nervous.
   James .....
2. Paul doesn't feel tired after working 12 hours a day. He does it every day.
   Paul .....
3. After a few months, Allie became able to live alone without feeling lonely.
   After a few months, Allie .....
4. It has become much easier for Miguel to cook for more than one person.
   Miguel .....
5. When Kate started her new job, she had to get up very early. This was difficult for her.
   When Kate started her new job, she .....
6. Sam will work under stress in his new job. This will become normal for him.
   Sam .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Now answer the following questions about you:

1. Is there anything in your work or life that you are used to (which might be strange or difficult for other people)?
2. Think of a big change in your life. What did you get used to after a while? Was there anything you couldn't get used to?
3. Think of an exotic country. Imagine that you are going to move there very soon. What would you need to get used to?

3 Used to do

Complete the sentences with *use(d) to* + a suitable verb:

1. I _____ a lot of chocolate, but I gave it up a year ago.
2. When I was a child, I _____ with my sister's toys all the time.
3. Janet hardly ever goes out these days. She _____ so much time at home.
4. I _____ to work by train. Now I have my own car.
5. _____ a lot of textbooks when you were a student?
6. There _____ a theater next to the hotel. Now it's a department store.
7. How come you speak French so well? _____ in France?
8. Alan _____ German very well. I think he must be out of practice.

Discuss:

- Talk about what you **used to** or **didn't use to do** when you were younger and how your lifestyle is different now.
- What is something that you **didn't use to like** but now you do?
- What is something that took you a long time to **get used to**?
- What **are you** still **not used to**?
- What is something that you **used to do** that you wish you still did?
- What was your country like when you were a child? Do you think the past was better than the present? Why or why not?
- What were some of the benefits of living in the past?
- Talk about your country's past, how was the past different from the present:

Food

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Weddings
Clothing
School
Work
Recreation (free time activities)
Communication

Look at Martin 15 years ago when he won the lottery compared to today. Write about how his lifestyle has changed using *used to / didn't use to* and the *simple present* or *infinitive*. Use the verbs below.

afford	be	borrow	count	date	have	lend
make	need	smoke	~~drink~~	think	travel	





1. He used to drink cognac every day, but now he only drinks tea.
2. He ..... a lot of money, but now he ..... very poor.
3. He ..... so poor, but now he must ..... every penny.
4. He ..... cigars every day, but now he cannot ..... such luxuries.
5. He ..... about work, but now he ..... a job.
6. He ..... all around the world, but he ..... much these days.
7. He ..... a lot of women, but nowadays he ..... many friends.
8. He ..... a lot of money to his friends, but now he ..... money from them.

LIVEWORKSHEETS